

## April Calendar

Many groups have special days in April.

### **Baisaikhi**

Baisaikhi is a Sikh holiday. It is the anniversary of an important date in the Sikh religion. Sikhs often have a parade for Baisaikhi.

### **Passover**

Passover is a Jewish holiday. It lasts for eight days. During Passover, families have a special meal called a seder. They tell the story of how the Jews escaped from Egypt 3000 years ago.



### **Easter**

On this day, Christians celebrate their belief that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. Many churches have services for Easter. Children celebrate Easter with chocolate bunnies and coloured eggs.



## Background Information

Do you celebrate any special holidays in April? What are they? Do you know of any other religious holidays that are in the month of April? It can be interesting to learn about other religions and their holidays.

### Questions

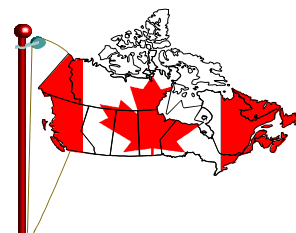
1. What is Baisaikhi?
2. What is a Sikh?
3. Use the word anniversary in a sentence.
4. What is the important date that Baisaikhi represents? (You may have to look this up in an encyclopedia)
5. How long does Passover last?
6. What is the Passover meal called?
7. When did the Jews escape from Egypt?
8. Why do you think the Jews wanted to escape?
9. What do Christians celebrate on Easter?
10. Why do you think children celebrate Easter with chocolate covered bunnies and coloured eggs?

## Census Day

There is a census in Canada every few years. The government counts the people who live in Canada. The information from the census helps governments plan for schools, hospitals, roads, and many other services. Businesses and community groups also use the information from the census. When a census is taken, a census worker will come to your home. The worker will give you a census form. You can ask for a form in your language. The law says you must fill out the form. The information on your form is confidential (secret). Then you mail the form in the yellow census envelope. You do not need a stamp.

## Background Information

Census Day is a day the government uses to count the people in Canada. Talk about what you know about how the census is taken and what it is used for.



### Questions

1. What does the word census mean?
2. How often is there a census in Canada?
3. How does the government use the information it collects?
4. Who else can use census information?
5. Which government do you think takes a census?
6. What can you ask for from the census worker?
7. Why do you have to fill out the form?
8. Use the word confidential in a sentence.
9. Why do you think you don't need a stamp for a census envelope?
10. What do you think you must do if you're not home when a census worker comes to your door?

## Canada's Two Dollar Coin

Canada has a two dollar coin. One side of the coin shows a polar bear. Queen Elizabeth the Second is on the other side.

The coin has two colours. The outside ring is a silver colour. The inside ring is a yellowish-gold colour.

Canada's one dollar coin has a loon on it. People call the coin a "loonie". What will people call the new two dollar coin?



### Background Information

Have you used the new two dollar coin? Talk about what it looks like; what pictures are on it. Then talk about why we have this coin.

#### Questions

1. What is on one side of the coin?
2. What is on the other side?
3. Describe a polar bear.
4. Why do you think the coin has two colours?
5. What is a loon?
6. What's another word for coin?
7. What do we call the two dollar coin?
8. Why do you think the government is slowly changing our paper money to coins?

## See Your Dentist

See your dentist once or twice a year. Your dentist will check your teeth and gums. You might need x-rays or a filling. See your dentist right away if you have problems with your teeth or gums. For example:

1. An old filling is coming out.
2. You have a loose tooth.
3. Your gums are bleeding.
4. Your teeth or gums hurt.

The dentist might tell you to see a hygienist. She works in the dentist's office. She cleans teeth. She will show you how to brush and floss.



## Background Information

Talk about what happens when you go to see a dentist. Also talk about why you go to see the dentist regularly and why you might have to see him or her right away.

### Questions

1. How often should you see your dentist?
2. Why should you get your teeth checked regularly?
3. What is an x-ray?
4. What do your gums do?
5. What are four reasons you should see the dentist right away?
6. Why do you think an old filling might come out?
7. Why do you think the dentist doesn't do the hygienist's job?
8. What is floss?

**Other Activities:** Describe a visit to the dentist's office for a filling. Write a description about what the office looks like and what your dentist looks like. Then describe what happens step by step when you get a filling. Finally, write about what you feel when the dentist: freezes your mouth, uses the drill, etc.

## Gretzky is the Greatest

Wayne Gretzky broke a hockey record on October 15, 1989. He scored an important goal in a game against the Edmonton Oilers. The goal gave him 642 goals and 1,210 assists during his 11 years with the National Hockey League.



Gordie Howe set the record Gretzky broke. His record was 1,850 points. Howe played hockey from 1946 to 1980.

Gordie Howe was at the game between the Edmonton Oilers and the Los Angeles Kings. He said, "There's no end to Gretzky's brilliance."

## Background Information

Hockey is considered Canada's sport. Even if you don't follow it yourself, you probably know someone who is crazy about hockey. Talk about the game. Where is it played, how many teams are there? What is the NHL? Then talk about Wayne Gretzky. Talk about why he plays the game so well and maybe where he grew up.

### Questions

1. What record did Gretzky break?
2. Who held the record before Gretzky?
3. How many years had Gretzky played in the NHL?
4. How do you think Howe felt when Gretzky broke his record?
5. When did Howe play from?
6. What is an assist?
7. What is the opposite of important?
8. What does NHL stand for?
9. Use brilliance in a sentence.
10. Is Gretzky still playing hockey?

## February is Heart Month

**B**e good to your heart.

Don't smoke.

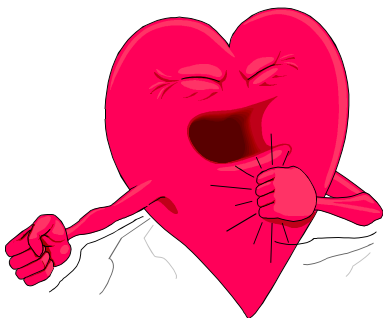
Exercise.

Use less salt.

Don't eat food that has a lot of fat.

Try to stay at a healthy weight.

Have a doctor check your blood pressure.



## Background Information

Do you remember when Heart Month started? Talk about this if you do. If you don't, talk about what you can think of doing to keep your heart healthy.

### Questions

1. What month is Heart Month?
2. Why do you think we need a Heart Month?
3. Why do you think people smoke?
4. What should people do to their diet to help their hearts?
5. What is a healthy weight?
6. What kind of food has a lot of fat?
7. Why do you think living at a healthy weight will help your heart?
8. What does blood pressure tell you?

## Get to Know Your Library

**P**ublic libraries have something for everyone. They have books for adults and books for children. They have books in English and books in other languages. They also have books for beginning adult readers.

Libraries have more than just books. Most libraries have magazines, tapes, records, compact discs and videos. If you have a library card, you can borrow these for free.

Libraries also have newspapers, dictionaries, maps, and encyclopaedias. You can read these at the library.

You need a library card to borrow books or other things from the library. Library cards are free.

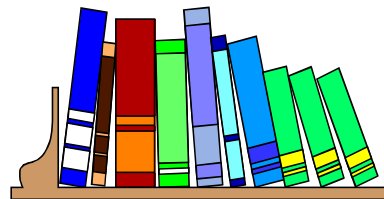
## Background Information

Do you use the public library? If you do, talk about what you can find there besides books. Now talk about what kind of books you might find at the library. How do you borrow these things? How can you use your library's services?



### Questions

1. Why is the library called public?
2. What kind of books might a library have?
3. Why do you think libraries have books in other languages?
4. What other kinds of things could a library have?
5. What does the word borrow mean?
6. Do you have to pay to borrow things from the library?
7. What do libraries have that you can read at the library?
8. Why do you think you can't take these things home?
9. What do you use an encyclopaedia for?
10. Where might you get a library card?



## Mandela free at last.

**N**elson Mandela spent 27 years in a South African jail. Now he is free.

Most people in South Africa are black. But only white people can vote. Laws force black and white people to live apart.

Mandela didn't agree with these laws. He fought for the rights of black people. The government said he was dangerous, and put him in jail.



## Background Information

Talk about what you know about Apartheid. What do you think about keeping people separate. If you don't know about Apartheid, you or your tutor can get some information from the library.



### Questions

1. How many years did Mandela spend in jail?
2. Where was the jail?
3. Why do you think he was imprisoned?
4. What does the word Apartheid mean?
5. What is a law?
6. What did Mandela fight for?
7. Was the government made up of white people or black?
8. Is Apartheid still going on in South Africa?



## Protect Children from Poisons

Every year, thousands of children swallow poison. Here are some things you can do to protect your children from poisons.

1. Lock up all medicines.
2. Put special locks on cupboards that have poison inside them.
3. Keep house plants away from small children. Some plants are poisonous.
4. Keep purses away from children. Sometimes women carry medicine in their purses.
5. Teach your children about poisons and poison symbols.

## Background Information

There are poisons all around us. From household cleaners to insect and rodent killers, we have many things in our houses that can kill small children. Besides these things, what else do you have in your house that are dangerous for small children?

### Questions

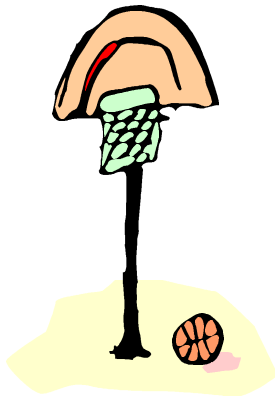
1. How many children swallow poison every year?
2. What is another word for swallow?
3. How can you keep children away from medicines?
4. What can you put on cupboards that have poison in them?
5. Can house plants hurt a small child?
6. Why should purses be kept from children?
7. Why do you think women may keep medicine in a purse?
8. What is another word for purse?
9. What is a symbol?
10. What is the sign for poison?



## Reading With Grizzlies

**B**lue Edwards is a basketball player. He plays for the Vancouver Grizzlies. Blue is also part of the Grizzlies' new literacy program. Players in the program visit schools. They read to young children. They talk to older students about the importance of learning to read and write.

Blue thinks the program is a good idea. He says schools can do a lot to help children learn to read. But he says it is important for parents to help also.



## Background Information

Many of today's movie and sports stars are involved in charity work. Talk about people in the spotlight that you know of who are active in a charity. Talk about why you think people who make a lot of money and are famous choose to help others.

### Questions

1. Who does Blue Edwards play for?
2. What 3 things does Blue do as part of a literacy program?
3. What is literacy?
4. Why do you think it's important to have literacy skills?
5. Use the word idea in a sentence.
6. Does Blue think the schools help kids learn to read?
7. Why do you think it's important for parents to help?
8. Why do you think Blue is involved with this program?

## Help Your Children Learn to Read

**S**tart reading to your children when they are babies. Read to them every day.

Collect children's books. You can buy them at used book stores or garage sales. When your children start to read by themselves, listen to them read out loud. Don't worry about their mistakes.

Go to the library with your children. Let them choose some of the books.

Continue to read to your children every day. Try short newspaper articles, comics, and sports scores. Have fun reading together!



## Background Information

Did your parents read to you when you were child? Do you read to your children? Talk about how you think children learn to read and why parents should read to them.

### Questions

1. When should you start reading to children?
2. Where can you get children's books?
3. What does collect mean?
4. What should you do when children start to read by themselves?
5. What's another word for worry?
6. Where should you take your children for books?
7. How often should you read to a child?
8. Why do you think reading newspaper articles is important?
9. What is a comic?
10. How do you think reading sports scores will help a child learn to read?

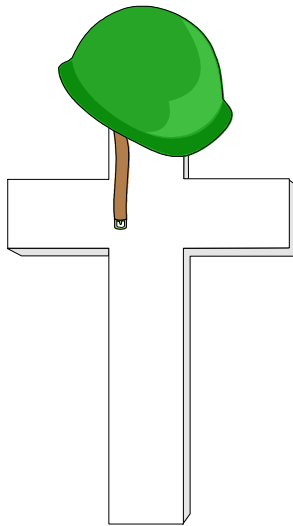
## Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day is November 11.

On this day, people remember the soldiers who died in wars. More than 100,000 Canadian soldiers died in the first and second world wars.

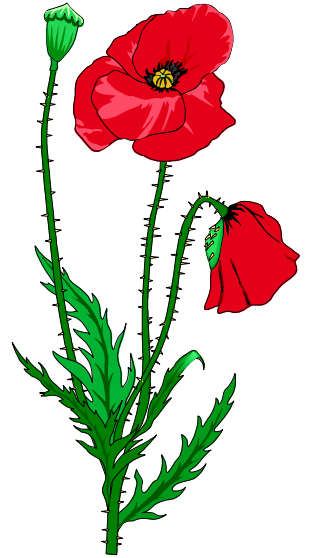
The symbol of Remembrance Day is the poppy. Red poppies grow on the graves of soldiers buried in Flanders Field in Belgium. There are thousands of Canadian soldiers buried there.

Many Canadians wear a poppy on Remembrance day. Some people lay wreaths at war memorials.



## Background Information

Do you know anyone who fought in a war? If not, what do you think it was like to fight in a war? Why do you think we need a day to remember people who fought in the wars? Talk about what you think the world might be like if we lost World War I or II.



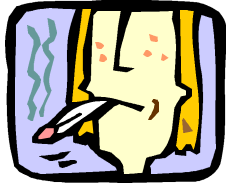
## Questions

1. When is Remembrance Day?
2. Why do you think we remember those people who fought in the wars?
3. How many Canadian soldiers died?
4. What is a symbol?
5. What is the symbol of Remembrance Day?
6. Where is Belgium?
7. How many soldiers are buried there?
8. What is a wreath?
9. Why do you think we should or shouldn't continue to have Remembrance Day?
10. Where is the war memorial where you live?

## Canadian Smokers Start Young

Fewer and fewer Canadians are smoking. In 1966, 43% of Canadians smoked. In 1986, 28% smoked.

But Canadian kids are starting to smoke at a younger age.



Twenty years ago Canadians started to smoke at an average age of 16. Today they are starting at 14 or younger.

Angela Fraser is 16 years old. She started smoking six years ago. She says she and her brother started "because we thought it was cool".

Angela's mother used to smoke, but she quit. "She is always hassling me to quit," says the teenager. Angela wants to quit, but she says it's hard. "If more people around me didn't smoke, it would be easier," she says.

Why do young people start smoking? Health and Welfare Canada says pressure from friends and cigarette advertising are two reasons.

## Background Information

Do you smoke? Do you know someone who does? What is it like to smoke? Is it easy to quit? Talk about why you think people smoke. Also talk about what the government has done to make it harder to smoke.

### Questions

1. In 1966, what percentage of people smoked?
2. Why do you think so many people smoked?
3. At what age do kids start smoking today?
4. What is another way to say quit?
5. How old was Angela when she started smoking?
6. What is hassling?
7. Why do you think it's hard to quit?
8. Why does Angela say it's hard to quit?
9. What is the term for pressure from friends?
10. Do you agree with Health and Welfare Canada? Why or why not?



**Other Activities:** if you smoke, write a paragraph about why you smoke. If you don't, write a paragraph about why you don't like smoking. Also, write a paragraph answering why you agree or disagree with this statement, "Smoking should be banned from all public places, including restaurants and bars."

## Canada's Second Man in Space

Steve MacLean is an astronaut. In October 1989 he flew on a United States space shuttle. He will be the second Canadian in space. The first was Marc Garneau.



The shuttle will be 250 kilometers above the earth.

Was MacLean nervous? "The first two minutes are the most dangerous," he says. In 1986 the shuttle Challenger exploded 75 seconds after lift-off. The explosion killed all seven people.

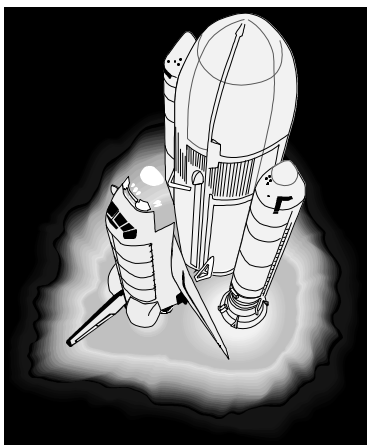
Maclean trained for his flight for six years. He was in space for eight days.

## Background Information

Talk about what you know about the space program. When did the first man land on the moon? What was his name? What is going on in space travel today?

## Questions

1. Who was the first Canadian in space?
2. How high will the shuttle be?
3. What is a shuttle?
4. Why do you think the first two minutes of the flight are the most dangerous?
5. What does lift-off mean?
6. What happened to the shuttle Challenger?
7. How long did Maclean train for his flight?
8. How long was he in space?
9. Why do you think it took so long to train him?
10. What kinds of things do you think Maclean learned?



## Problems with Teeth and Gums

**A**dult teeth are important. They must last a lifetime.

### Problems

Many adults have problems with their teeth and gums. For example, they have cavities or gum disease.



### Cavities

A cavity is a hole in a tooth. It starts small. You often cannot see or feel it. But a cavity gets bigger and bigger. Your tooth might be a greyish colour. It might hurt.

### Gum Disease

Many adults have gum disease. Here are some signs of gum disease:

1. Your gums are red and puffy.
2. Your gums bleed when you brush your teeth or when you sleep.

Gum disease can be very serious. Your teeth might become loose. The dentist might have to pull your teeth. You might need dentures (false teeth).

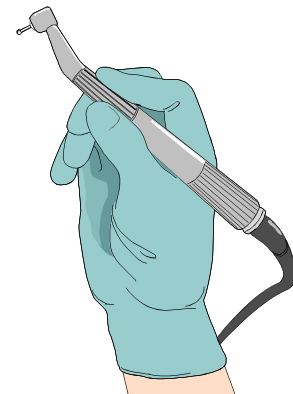


## Background Information

How much time do you spend each day cleaning your teeth? What kind of problems can you get if you don't clean your teeth? Talk about the signs of gum disease.

### Questions

1. Why do you think teeth are important?
2. What is a cavity?
3. Why do you think people get cavities?
4. Why might a cavity hurt?
5. What are the signs of gum disease?
6. What is the opposite of puffy?
7. What can happen to your teeth?
8. Use the word serious in a sentence.
9. What happens if a dentist has to pull your teeth?
10. Do you think it would be better to take care of your teeth or get false teeth? Why?



## How to Take Care of Your Teeth and Gums

Brush your teeth twice a day. Use a toothpaste with fluoride.



### How to Brush

Brush carefully for 2 or 3 minutes. Use a soft toothbrush. A hard toothbrush will hurt your gums. First brush the top of your teeth. Brush back and forth. Then brush the front and back of your teeth. Brush gently.

Start with two or three teeth. Hold the toothbrush against the teeth at the gum line. Move the brush in little circles at the gum line. Then brush another two or three teeth. Remember to brush behind your teeth. Move the toothbrush up and down. Brush at the gum line too.

Use floss to clean between your teeth. Choose a floss that is right for your teeth.

### How to Floss

Floss once a day. Use about 45 centimetres (18 inches) of floss. Wind the ends of the floss around your middle fingers. Hold the floss with your middle fingers and thumbs.

Slide the floss between two teeth. Then move the floss up and down the side of each tooth a few times. The floss should go below the gum line. But be gentle.

Ask your dentist or hygienist how to

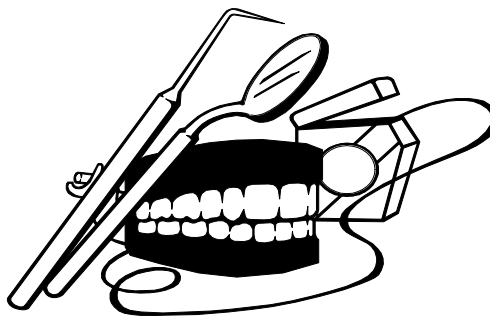
brush and floss.

## Background Information

Talk about how you take care of your teeth. Describe how you brush and floss your teeth. What kind of toothpaste do you use?

### Questions

1. What does fluoride do?
2. How long should you brush your teeth?
3. Why would you use a soft toothbrush?
4. What two words make up the word toothbrush?
5. How many teeth should you start with?
6. How should you move the brush at the gum line?
7. What kind of floss would be right for your teeth?
8. How often should you floss?
9. Why do you think flossing helps your teeth?
10. What's another word for wind as it's used in the story?





## Notes on Teeth

### *Cavities*

A cavity is a hole in a tooth. It starts small, but it gets bigger and bigger. Your dentist will check for cavities. If your child has a cavity, the dentist will put a filling in the tooth.

### *Sweet Snacks*

Sweet, sticky snacks can cause cavities.



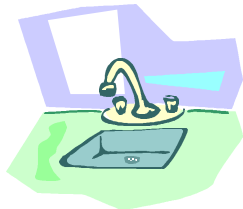
If you serve sweet foods, serve them as part of a meal. Then brush your children's teeth after the meal.

### *Dental Hygienist*

A dental hygienist works in the dentist office. She cleans teeth. She also puts fluoride on teeth. Fluoride helps to make children's teeth strong.

### *Fluoride*

The water in some communities has fluoride in it. Ask your dentist if the water in your community has fluoride. If it doesn't, the dentist can tell you about giving your child fluoride.



## Background Information

Talk about what you know about problems that you can have with teeth and how to care for your teeth. Also talk about who you have to see to care for your teeth (dental hygienist, dentist)

### *Questions*

1. What is a cavity?
2. What do you think a filling does?
3. Why do you think sweet, sticky snacks cause cavities?
4. What else do you know causes cavities?
5. Why should you serve sweets with a meal?
6. What does hygienist mean?
7. What does a dental hygienist do?
8. Why does she put fluoride on teeth?
9. Do you think every community should have fluoride in its drinking **water**? **Why or why not?**



## What to do with a Baby Tooth?

The Tooth Fairy is a popular tradition in Canada and the United States. When children lose a baby tooth, they put it under their pillow. During the night, the Tooth Fairy takes the tooth and puts money under the pillow.

What are the traditions in other countries? Here is what some of our readers told us.

### *Hong Kong*

Children dig a hole in the ground and put their tooth in it. They hope the baby tooth will grow into a permanent tooth.

### *India*

First, children roll their baby tooth in cotton. They then throw the tooth up into the sun and say, "Sun, sun, take this old tooth and give me a nice, new tooth".

### *Thailand*

Children tie a string around their baby tooth. If it is an upper tooth, they throw it up in the air. If it is a lower tooth, they throw it down.

### *Guatemala*

Children throw their baby teeth on the roof. They believe a

mouse comes at night and takes away the teeth.

## Background Information

When you were a child, did you believe in the tooth fairy? Do your children? Talk about what you know about the tooth fairy tradition. Do you know what people from other countries do with their teeth?

## Questions

1. What is a tradition?
2. Why do children lose their baby teeth?
3. Why do you think the Tooth Fairy leaves money?
4. What do children do in Hong Kong when they lose a tooth?
5. What is a permanent tooth?
6. What do children in India say when they throw their tooth up into the sun?
7. What do children in Thailand do that is almost the same as what the children in India do?
8. Why do children from Guatemala throw their teeth on the roof?
9. Why do you think they might want a mouse to take away their teeth?
10. Do you think any of these traditions really work?



## Family Builds Earthship

**B**ernie and Diane Wylie and their four children live in Nanaimo. The family is building an earthship. It is a house made out of old car and truck tires. The Wylies will use about 700 tires to build the house. They will pack each tire with 159 kilograms (350 pounds) of dirt. Then, they will stack the tires like bricks to form walls. They will use aluminum cans to fill the spaces between the tires. The inside walls will have a coat of plaster to make them smooth.



The first earthship was built in New Mexico in the nineteen eighties. These houses are becoming popular in the United States and Canada.

Bernie Wylie says the house will cost about \$20,000 to build. The family hopes to move into their earthship this fall.

### Did you Know?

Old tires are a big problem for the environment. In North America, about 250 million tires are thrown into garbage dumps each year.

In 1989, a garbage dump near Toronto caught fire. The dump

had 14 million old tires. It took firefighters 17 days to put out the fire.

### Background Information

Today, protecting the environment is very important. Talk about what you do (or should do) to help the environment. You could include recycling, not using aerosol cans, using organic soap, etc.

### Questions

1. What is the Wylie family building?
2. Where are they from?
3. How many tires will they use to build their house?
4. What is another word for dirt?
5. Why do you think the Wylies want to build a house out of tires and aluminum cans?
6. What do you think the earthship will look like?
7. Where was the first earthship built?
8. Use the word popular in a sentence.
9. What is the environment?
10. Why do you think we need to protect the environment?



## Wife Abuse

Wife abuse is common in many countries in the world. Abused women and their husbands can be young or old, rich or poor. They can have many years of school or just a few. They can come from big cities or small towns.

### *Wife Abuse in Canada*

Many men in Canada abuse their wives. In a recent study, 29 per cent of women in Canada said that their husbands or boyfriends abused them.

### *Wife Abuse is Against the Law*

Wife abuse is always wrong. And some kinds of wife abuse are against the law in Canada. The police, the government, and community groups are working together to help abused women. There are different kinds of abuse.

### *Physical Abuse*

A man might:

Punch his wife.

Slap her.

Pull her hair.

Kick her.

Break her arm, finger or other bones.

### *Psychological abuse.*

A man might:

Threaten his wife.

Break her things.

Call her names.

Say she is having sex with other men.

Not let her go out alone or see her family and friends.

### *Economic Abuse.*

A man might:

Give his wife very little money for food, clothing, and other things.

Take her pay cheque.

Not let her work outside the home.

*Sexual Abuse.*

A man might:

Force his wife to have sex with him.

Make her do sexual things she does not like.

## Background Information

Abuse happens to people everyday. Women, children and people with disabilities are the most likely victims of abuse. Talk about what you know about abuse and why women stay with their abusers. If you feel comfortable with the subject, talk about any abuse you have suffered.



## Questions

1. What is another word for wife abuse?
2. What percentage of women in Canada say their husbands or boyfriends abused them?
3. Why do you think all forms of abuse are not against the law?
4. What three groups are working together to help abused women?
5. What are the different kinds of abuse?
6. What is another word for punch?
7. How is psychological abuse different from physical abuse?
8. Do you think a person can go to jail for psychological abuse? Why or why not?
9. What does economic mean?
10. Why do you think people abuse their loved ones?

## Alexander Graham Bell

Alexander Bell was a teacher and an inventor. Alexander Graham Bell was born in Scotland in 1847. Bell and his parents moved to Canada in 1870. They lived near Brantford, Ontario. In 1871, Alexander Graham Bell went to Boston to teach deaf students. Bell fell in love with one of his students. Her name was Mabel Hubbard. The couple got married in 1877.

Alexander Graham Bell was also a scientist. He was interested in speech and sound. He invented the telephone when he was 29 years old.

Bell worked on the first telephone in Ontario and in Boston. He hired a machinist to help him. His name was Thomas Watson. On March 10, 1876, Bell and Watson were testing the telephone. Bell was in one room. Watson was in another room. Bell had an accident. He spilled acid on his clothes. He yelled, "Mister Watson. Come here. I want you". Watson heard Bell over the telephone. It was the first telephone call.

Bell moved to Washington DC in 1879. He became a citizen of the United States in 1882. The Bells bought land in Nova Scotia in 1886. They spent summers there. Bell did many experiments in Nova Scotia. For example:

1. He helped to build some of the first airplanes in Canada.
2. He invented a machine to

3. help people breathe. He helped to build boats that could travel on top of water.

Alexander Graham Bell died in 1922 in Nova Scotia. There is a national historic site near his summer home. Many people visit the site every year.



### Background Information

Alexander Graham Bell invented something that most of us could not live without today. Talk about what you know about his invention and what you might know about his life.

### Questions

1. Where was Alexander Graham Bell born?
2. When did he and his parents move to Canada?
3. Where did Bell teach?
4. Why do you think he taught at that school?
5. What is a scientist?
6. What was he interested in?
7. How old was he when he invented the telephone?
8. What does the word hire mean?
9. What happened during the first telephone call?
10. What is acid?
11. Why do you think Bell became a citizen of the USA?
12. What else did Bell invent?

## Discrimination

### by Brian Cruikshank

Geraldine Letendre uses a wheelchair, is a member of the Royal Canadian Legion, and enjoys dancing when at the Legion, usually two or three times a week. She also belongs to a wheelchair square dance group.



In 1983 the Legion made a rule which said that people in wheelchairs could not dance at the Legion. They did this because of an incident in which a person in a wheelchair bumped into another person. Because of this policy Ms. Letendre is prevented from dancing at the Legion because she is in a wheelchair. People who do not use wheelchairs can still dance at the legion.

Ms. Letendre said that she was being treated differently because she was in a wheelchair. When a person who is in a wheelchair is treated differently, it may be discrimination.

Ms. Letendre complained that she was being discriminated against because she was not able to enjoy a service that the Legion offered to all its members. The reason for the discrimination was her disability.

British Columbia, like all other provinces, has a Human Rights act which makes it illegal to

discriminate against a person with a physical disability. A person cannot be refused a service simply because they have a physical disability. It is discrimination to do so.

Ms. Letendre complained to the B.C. Human Rights Council. The Human Rights Council investigated the complaint. The Council decided that the Legion did discriminate against Ms. Letendre. The Council ordered the Legion stop discriminating and to let Ms. Letendre dance on their dance floor. The Council could also order the Legion to pay her \$2,000.

### Discrimination

We often hear people talk about being discriminated against, and probably we have thought that we were being discriminated against when someone does something to us that we don't like.

However, the highest court in the country, the Supreme Court of Canada, has recently told Canadians what discrimination means. The court said that whenever someone treats another person differently because of the colour of their skin, the country they come from, their age, their religion, their sex, or their disability, that treatment will be discrimination if the result is harm to that person.

Section 15 of Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms applies to all Canadians and makes it illegal to discriminate on the grounds of race, national or ethnic origin, colour, sex, age, or mental or physical disability.

Every province in Canada also has a Human Rights Act that makes it illegal to discriminate. Why do we have two laws that make discrimination illegal? Because Canada has eleven governments, one federal government, and ten provincial governments, different laws will apply to different governments. If an organization or company only operates in one province, then the Human Rights Act of that province will apply to them. If an organization or company operates in more than one province or in all the provinces, then the Charter of Rights and Freedoms will apply to them. That is why it is necessary to have two laws against discrimination in Canada.

### Background Information

Have you ever had to deal with discrimination? Talk about what happened to you. Why do you think people discriminate? What do you think should be done about it? Also talk about the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. If you don't know what's in it, do a little research at the library or ask your tutor to find some information.



### Questions

1. What does Geraldine enjoy doing?
2. What rule did the Legion make in 1983?
3. Why did they make this rule?
4. Do you think it was fair? Why or why not?
5. When does discrimination happen?
6. What is the Human Rights Act?
7. Do you think the act is good or bad and why?
8. What did Geraldine win from the Legion?
9. Do you think she felt welcome at the Legion after this happened? Why?
10. What does the Supreme Court say that discrimination means?

**Other Activities:** Write about a place you know to be inaccessible. Describe the place and why it is not accessible. Then write how you think it could be made accessible.