

# Life in Upper Canada in the 1830s Simulation

## Social Studies 10

Name:

Date:

This activity is designed to help you understand what life was like in Canada in the early 1800s. You will receive a card that describes your role as a new settler in Upper Canada. You must follow the directions given and try to live the life of this individual. You will describe your experiences in a variety of formats.

All Settlers must Perform the Following Duties within 2 Years of the Date of Ticket:

1. Clear and fence 4 hectares for at least one of your lots
2. Clear one half of the road in front of your chosen lot
3. Build a dwelling house, 4 metres by 6 metres

### PART I: THE SETTLEMENT PROCESS

#### **Section A: The Story so Far (10 marks)**

Read the Role Card you have been given very carefully. Write about your experiences during your journey to Upper Canada in a diary format. Look for clues about where you've come from and who has come with you. As well, use information from the *Newcomers* video and the *Horizons* textbook (pg. 23-25).

- What is your name, country of origin, and religion?
- Describe your family members.
- What was your life like before you came to Upper Canada? Be sure to describe your wealth and your skills/education.
- What caused you to leave your home and come to settle in Upper Canada?
- How did you get to Upper Canada? What experiences did you have on your journey?
- What hopes and dreams do you have for your new life in this new land?
- How well equipped do you feel to meet the challenges ahead?

#### **Section B: Your Land (10 marks)**

- 1) Examine the map of the settlement, and locate your lot (if you have more than one, select your favourite). Study the layout of the land using the map's legend.
- 2) Draw a detailed map of what you think your land would look like. Imagine walking across the land for the first time and examine the terrain, vegetation, wildlife, and water. Use symbols and colour to indicate the following features:
  - a) topography (flat or hilly)
  - b) types of trees (*Horizons* pg. 17)
  - c) wildlife
  - d) water including swamps
- 3) Think about the future and indicate with symbols where you plan to locate the following:
  - a) road (look at settlement map)
  - b) houses
  - c) crops
  - d) well
  - e) outhouse
  - f) fencing
- 4) Include a title (your lot number), scale, north arrow, and legend.
- 5) On the back of your map, write a short paragraph explaining whether or not your lot will be good for farming. Be sure to include reasons for your opinion. As well, explain how you plan to obtain water for drinking, and if you have a river or lake on your lot, how you plan to use it (*Booklet: Water Section*).

You may now start making and posting notices to trade items or services with other settlers. These will be shared on the community bulletin board. You are required to make 2-3 of these during the simulation, of which one needs to be handed in for marking (5 marks). Keep a record of your trading transactions (e.g. who you traded with and for what). You will be handing this in at the end of the simulation (5 marks).

### **Section C: Record of Your First Two Years (20 marks)**

Using your information package as a guide, create an interview for the first two years describing your life as a settler in Upper Canada. You may use a print, audio, or visual form for the interview.

#### **1) Clearing the land (Booklet: *Clearing the Land, Pioneer Family Chores, and Horizons*, pg. 17)**

- How much land did you clear in the first two years? How much work was it? (labour and time intensive)
- How did you cut down trees to clear a plot of land?
- How did you solve the problem of the stumps left behind?
- Who helped you in clearing the land (children, hired help, neighbours, etc.)
- How did you use the logs that you obtained from falling the trees?

#### **2) Planting crops and Raising Farm Animals (Booklet: *Pioneer Farming, Pioneer Family Chores, Corn, and Crop Rotation*)**

- Who ploughed the land and how?
- What were the crops that you planted and harvested? Who was involved in this?
- What farm animals did you obtain and what were they used for?
- What was the importance of corn and who taught you about this?
- What do you do to prevent your soil from becoming depleted and how did you gain this knowledge?

#### **3) Living on the homestead (Booklet: *Pioneer Food, Pioneer Family Chores, & Industries and Services*)**

- What types of food did you eat throughout the year?
- What were some of the chores that different members of your family were involved in?
- How did you "pay" for the goods and services you needed and used?
- What ways were there for making money (farming, services, etc.)?

#### **4) Survival through the winter months (Booklet: *Preserving Meat, Clothing, and Snowshoes and Other Help for the Winter*)**

- How did you preserve meat and who taught you how to do this?
- What did you wear to live in the cold climate and where did you obtain these clothes from?
- How did you get around in the snow and who taught you about this?

#### **5) Personal/family illness (Booklet: *First Nations Medicine and Doctor*)**

- How did the First Nations help if you or a family member became sick?
- When you saw a doctor, how did you "pay" for medical services?
- Who did you see if you had a toothache?

On your homestead map, create a floor plan for both your first cabin and your second house. Indicate the following for both (Booklet: *Your First Cabin and Later Houses*):

- Size
- Materials used including windows
- Layout (rooms)
- Indicate what you did with your first cabin after you moved into your second house

**Section D: The Following Five Years (10 marks)**

In a letter home, describe what your life was like for the following five years.

1) *New lots (Horizons pg. 20-22)*

- Were you able to purchase more land?
  - If yes, what lot(s) did you purchase? How much did they cost? Was this a positive experience?
  - If no, what were the difficulties in purchasing more land?
  - How did the Crown and Clergy reserves or land speculators affect your ability to purchase land?

2) *Roads (Horizons pg. 21)*

- Did you experience any difficulties in building your road and connecting it to others in order to travel to and from town (Crown and Clergy reserves)?
- Did the decisions of the town council assist you in building and maintaining your roads and traveling to and from town?

3) *Town (Booklet: Industries and Services and Horizons pg. 21)*

- What was the name and location of your town?
- What industries, business and services were established in your town?
- How did these affect your life?
- Were you pleased with the way that the town council was chosen?
- Did they make decisions that pleased you? Why or why not?
- Do you think that the town council represented the interests of all settlers?

**PART II: POSITIVE/NEGATIVE CHART (10 marks)**

You have lived in Upper Canada for years, and have experienced both great triumphs and frustrating difficulties. Create a positive/negative chart listing the accomplishments and positive aspects of your experience, as well as the difficulties and challenges of settling in Upper Canada. In a summary statement, list some complaints and grievances you have about land, road development, and government in your area.

**CRITERIA FOR SIMULATION:**

1. Accurate, complete, and detailed information that addresses all of the points to be considered.
2. Creative and rich descriptions.
3. Attractive and neat presentation.
4. Active participation in class discussions.

# A Township in Upper Canada

