



CANADIAN  
ARTISTS

# Research

## CANADA'S SEARCH FOR IDENTITY



grades 6 - 8  
Bundle



Education

# Canada's Search for Identity

<b>1. SKILL DEVELOPMENT</b> - Language Arts, Social Studies	<b>PAGE</b>
• Media Literacy - Viewing a Video	2 - 3
• Research Process - Planning	4 - 7
<b>2. PRESENTING RESEARCH - Creating an Artifact</b> - Visual Arts, Language Arts	
• Simple Bound Book	9 - 11
• Modeling Clay Scene	12
• Tunnel Book	13 - 16
• Mixed Media Landscape	17 - 18

## Learning Standards

**Learning Standards** describe what students should know, be able to do, and understand by the end of each grade. Learning standards frame the important competencies/expectations and big ideas for each grade. Lessons in this bundle address the following standards:

### VISUAL ARTS

- Apply the creative process to produce works of art using the elements, principles and techniques of visual arts to communicate feelings, ideas, and understandings.
- Use the critical analysis process to describe, interpret and respond to works of art.

### LANGUAGE ARTS

- Listen to understand and respond appropriately.
- Use speaking skills and strategies appropriately to communicate.
- Read and demonstrate an understanding of texts.
- Write for an intended purpose.

### SOCIAL STUDIES

- Gather, record, evaluate and synthesize information from a range of primary and secondary sources and a range of media.
- Develop a sense of personal identity.

# Media Literacy

Use a video to introduce the **GROUP OF SEVEN** to your students. Encourage students to view the video with a critical eye and demonstrate how to take notes from it.

1. Preview the videos **The Group of Seven** (Art Gallery of Ontario) and **The Group of Seven - Northern Shore** (National Gallery of Canada), or some other introductory video. The **Group of Seven - Northern Shore** is a longer video and contains an in-depth presentation of the times and the impact of the Group of Seven. It is a great introduction.

- Have students view the video.
- Ask students to use the 'Ask Yourself' question sheet as they watch the video.
- Discuss the documentary and questions that arise from it.

## Looking At Art

View the paintings.

**Group of Seven - The Canadian Encyclopedia**

**The Group of Seven - McMichael Canadian Collection**

As students view and respond to paintings have them use **SEEK™** to help organize their thinking and build their observational skills.

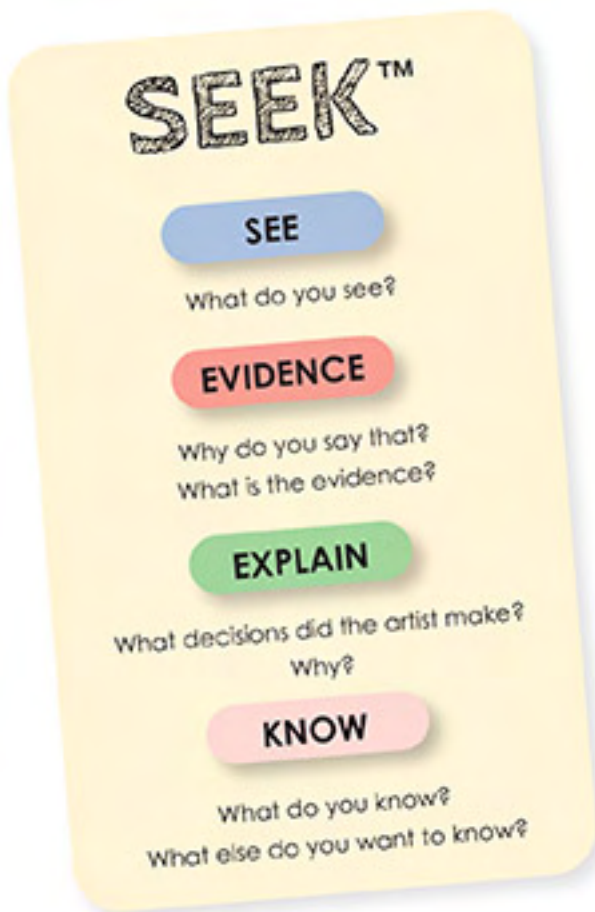
Guide them to support their ideas with evidence they see in the artwork.

**SEE** – Look closely at the image for about a minute. What do you see?

**EVIDENCE** – What do you see that makes you say that?

**EXPLAIN** – What choices did the artist make? How did those choices help communicate the message?

**KNOW** – What do you know about the artist's intent? What else do you want to know?



# Ask yourself...

1. Who created the video – a person, group, organization, company?

---

---

2. Why did they make this video – to entertain, inform, persuade?

---

---

3. Who is it for?

---

---

---

4. What techniques do they use to grab and keep your attention?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

5. Whose values and points of view are represented in the message?

---

---

---

6. Whose values and points of view are missing?

---

---

---

7. What questions do you have?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# RESEARCH – A good researcher is able to locate, evaluate, organize, and communicate information.



## WHAT CAN YOU FIND OUT?

Their experiences in World War I left Canadians feeling that they had ‘grown up’. They began to see themselves as Canadians, not colonials. There was a growing sense of nationalism and pride in things that felt distinctively Canadian.

A group of men had been exploring Canada’s north and painting together. They felt especially connected to the land. They loved to be in the rugged Canadian wilderness, camping out and ‘roughing it’. To them, Canada’s wilderness was the essence of what it meant to be Canadian – strong and free. Their art was very controversial at the beginning, but they didn’t let that stop them. They understood that with the controversy came attention. They were happy that people were talking about art – CANADIAN art. The Group of Seven was the first internationally recognized Canadian art movement. They are some of Canada’s most famous artists.

## YOUR JOB . . .

Use a variety of sources to find out about one of the influencer artists in Canada in the 1920s . This includes the members of The Group of Seven as well as Tom Thomson and Emily Carr. Choose one artist to highlight.

Ask the **WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHY, WHEN** and **HOW** questions about him/her.

Organize, interpret and present your findings in an engaging way. As part of your presentation include an artifact you have created that supports your understanding of the artist’s ideas.

# Ask yourself...

1

## CLARIFY

- What exactly do I have to do?

2

## IDENTIFY

- What questions do I have?
- Where will I find the answers to my questions?

3

## LOCATE

- How will I track down the sources I need?

4

## EVALUATE

- How will I know if the information is relevant?

5

## ORGANIZE

- How will I put all the information together to create an effective artwork?

6

## CITE

- How will I make sure I cite my sources properly?



1

CLARIFY

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

2

IDENTIFY

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

3

LOCATE

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

4

EVALUATE

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

5

ORGANIZE

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

6

CITE

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

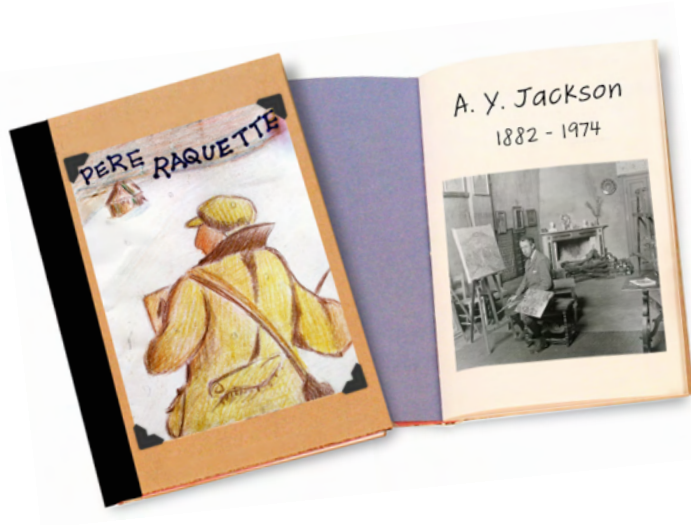
---

---



# Presenting Your Research

An artifact that you have created must be part of your presentation. Check out these possible ideas.



Just Follow the  
Steps...

# SIMPLE BOUND BOOK

## You will need:

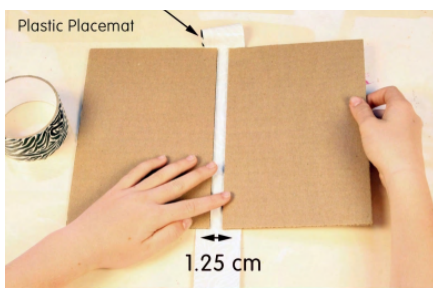
- Crayola Washable Glue Stick
- Crayola Construction Paper
  - 22.9 cm x 30.5 cm (9" x 12") - 2 pieces
- Waxed Dental Floss
- Duct Tape
- Crayola Marker & Watercolour Paper
  - 22.9 cm x 30.5 cm (9" x 12") - 6 pieces
- Sharp Sewing Needle
- Large Paper Clips - 4
- Corrugated Cardboard - 2 pieces
  - 15 cm x 22.9 cm (6" x 9")

1



1. Work on a plastic placemat or smooth table.
2. Cut a piece of duct tape twice the length of the cardboard.
3. Roll one end of the tape under itself and stick it to the plastic placemat.
4. Visualize a vertical line running from top to bottom in the middle of the tape.
5. Place the 2 pieces of corrugated cardboard on top of the tape so that they are beside each other on either side of the centre line, and with a space about 1.25 cm between them.

2



1. Tape the cardboard pieces together so that the tape wraps around both sides of the cardboard.

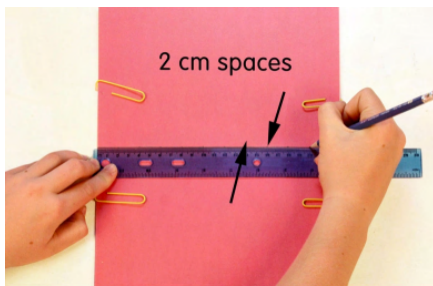
3



1. Press the tape together along the centre.
2. This will be the spine of the book.

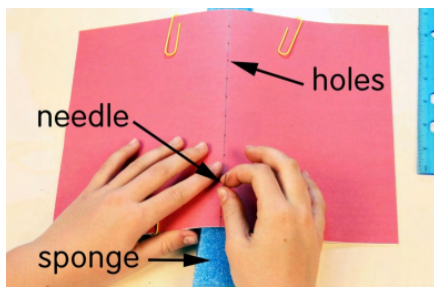
# SIMPLE BOUND BOOK

4



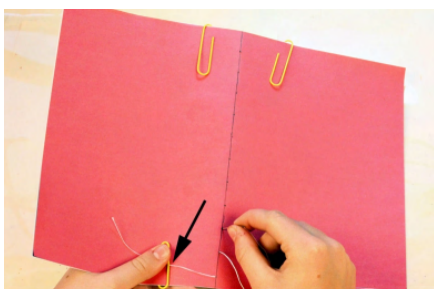
1. Stack the white paper onto the 2 sheets of coloured construction paper (these will be the endpapers).
2. Fold the pile of papers in half short end to short end.
3. Open the papers and paper clip the pile together.
4. Place the clips on either side of the fold, top and bottom.
5. Place the pile of papers on the desk with the construction paper facing up.
6. Draw a line along the fold.
7. Use a ruler to mark off 2 cm spaces along the line.
8. Be sure you are working on the construction paper side.
9. Be sure these marks are exactly on the line.

5



1. Place the pile of papers on top of a piece of thick sponge.
2. Use a sharp darning needle to poke holes through the paper at the 2 cm marks.

6



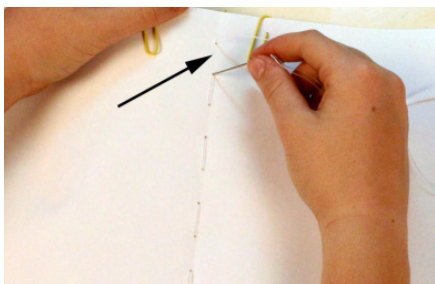
1. Thread your needle with a piece of waxed dental floss about twice as long as the width of the pages.
2. Push the needle through the bottom hole on the construction paper side.
3. Hook the end of the dental floss under the paper clip.
4. Sew a running stitch in and out of the holes until you reach the last hole at the top of the paper.



# SIMPLE BOUND BOOK

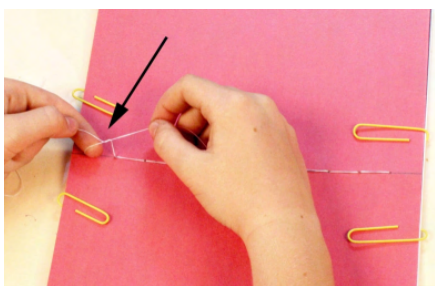
---

7



1. Flip the papers over.
2. Sew a running stitch in and out of the holes until you reach the bottom.
3. Stop sewing when the last stitch at the bottom is on the coloured construction side of the papers.

8



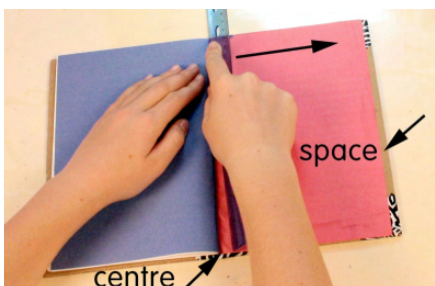
1. Tie the 2 ends of the dental floss together.
2. Press the ends along the sewn line and towards the centre of the pages.

9



1. Place the papers on your desk with the construction paper facing up.
2. The stitching line is the centre of the paper and the line of symmetry.
3. Completely cover one half of the construction paper with glue.
4. Make sure you do not leave any dry spots.

10



1. Place the pages on the inside of the corrugated cardboard.
2. Make sure the fold is on the centre of the taped spine.
3. Carefully flatten the endpaper using a ruler to smooth away any bubbles.
4. Start at the centre of the book and work your way out to the edges.
5. There will be a space at the side of the book where the coloured paper does not cover the cardboard.
6. Repeat this process on the other side of the pages.

# MODELING CLAY SCENE

## You will need:

- Crayola Modeling Clay
- Canvas Board
  - 12.7 cm x 17.7 cm (5" x 7")
- Toothpicks and Bamboo Skewers
- Various Modeling Tools (optional)

1



1. View the **Barbara Reid** video to learn some modeling clay picture making techniques.
2. Refer to your source image.
3. Outline the main part of your scene on the canvas board.
4. Pay careful attention to the division of space and overall composition.

2



1. Use modeling clay to recreate the painting.
2. Blend colours to match the colours in the painting.
3. Press thin layers of modeling clay onto the canvas board.
4. Pay close attention to the way one colour meets another.
  - crisp, hard edges
  - blurred, soft edges

3



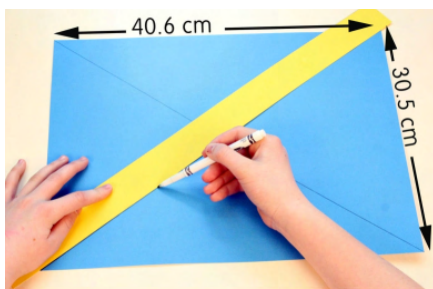
1. View your work from a distance to see it with fresh eyes.
2. Compare it with your source image and make any changes you might need.
3. Decide how you will display it as part of your presentation.

# TUNNEL BOOK

## You will need:

- Crayola Washable No-Run School Glue
- Crayola Oil Pastels
- Crayola Scissors
- Rulers
- Pencils
- Bristol Board
  - 58 cm x 76.2 cm (20" x 30")

1



1. Measure and cut out a piece of Bristol board 30.5 cm x 40.6 cm.
2. Draw an X from one corner to the other.

2



1. Fold all 4 sides of the Bristol board into the centre of the X.
2. Make sure the outer edge of the Bristol board lines up with the centre of the X.
3. Make sure you fold all 4 sides into the X.

3

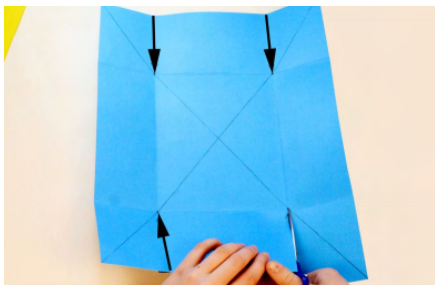


1. Unfold the Bristol board.
2. Place it in the portrait (vertical) position.
3. Mark a dot and small, vertical arrow at the intersection of each of the folds in the 4 corners.
4. Make sure the arrows are facing each other.



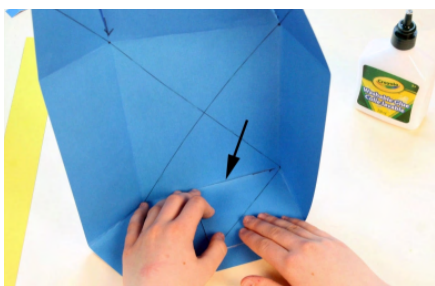
# TUNNEL BOOK

4



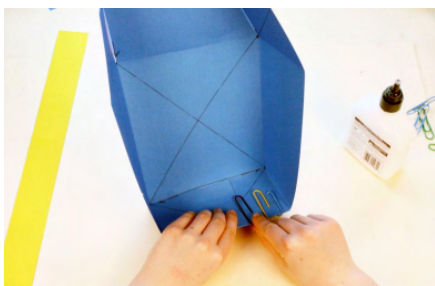
1. Cut along each crease in the direction of the arrow and stop at each dot.
2. There should be 4 cuts.

5



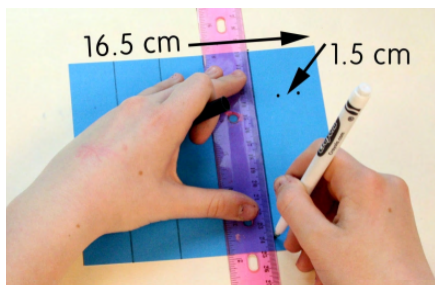
1. Put lots of Washable glue all over the back of one of the corner rectangles.
2. Fold the side of the Bristol board up so it is at right angles to the middle of the Bristol board.
3. Tuck the corner rectangle in so the bottom is lined up with the fold of the middle rectangle.
4. Glue the corner rectangle to the middle rectangle.
5. Repeat with the other corner rectangle to make the end of the box.

6



1. Fold the top edge over.
2. Place large paper clips along the flaps to hold the paper in place until the glue dries.
3. Repeat these steps for the other end of the box.

7



1. Measure and cut out 2 pieces of Bristol board 15 cm x 16.5 cm.
2. Place one piece on the desk with the 16.5 cm side at the top.
3. Measure 1.5 cm intervals from one side to the other, parallel and close to the bottom of the Bristol board.
4. Measure matching 1.5 cm intervals along the top of the Bristol board.
5. Draw a straight line to connect every other dot.

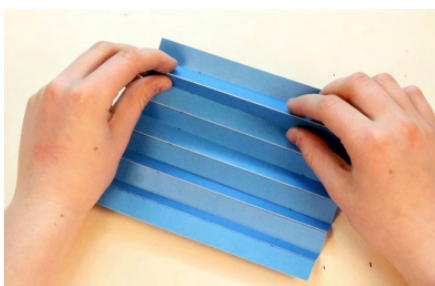
# TUNNEL BOOK

8



1. Repeat step 7 on the back of the paper.
2. This time start with the opposite dot and draw a straight line to connect every other dot.
3. On each side use the tip of a scissors to lightly score along the lines.
4. Repeat this process with the other piece of Bristol board.

9



1. Accordion fold the Bristol board on the scored lines.

10



1. Use a marker to draw an outline around the foreground of the painting.
2. Use oil pastels to draw this section of the painting on a 15 cm x 19 cm piece of cardstock paper.
3. Cut out the foreground, and repeat this process for each section of the painting – middle ground, background and sky.
4. Make sure you colour each section all the way down to the bottom of your paper.

11



1. Glue the accordion papers into each side of the box.
2. Glue the sky portion of your painting to the back of the box.
3. Glue the background section to the accordion fold at the back.
4. Glue the rest of the layers into the box, attaching them to a fold on the side.

# TUNNEL BOOK

12



1. Measure and cut 2 pieces of Bristol board 15 cm x 27.7 cm.
2. Place 1 piece on the desk with the 27.7 cm side at the top.
3. Measure and draw a line 7.5 cm in from the short side.
4. Score and fold along this line.
5. Repeat this process for the other piece of Bristol board.
6. These will be the covers.

3



1. Glue information about the artist and the painting on the covers.
2. Glue the covers to the outside of the box.

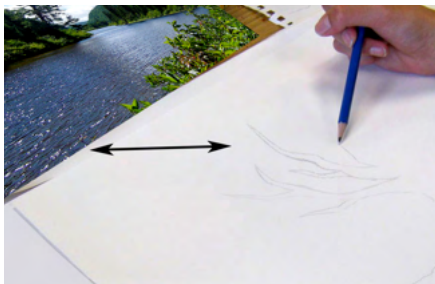
# MIXED MEDIA LANDSCAPE

Demonstrate your understanding of the characteristics of the works of the Group of Seven by creating a landscape inspired by their work. Explain your process and how your painting is like a Group of Seven painting.

## You will need:

- Crayola Watercolour Paints
- Crayola Coloured Pencils
- Crayola Paint Brushes
- Crayola Washable No-Run Glue
- Crayola Marker & Watercolour Paper  
- 22.9 cm x 30.5 cm (9" x 12")
- Water Containers
- Paper Towels

1



1. Select several photos to work with.
2. Practise drawing the images in your sketchbook or on paper.
3. Choose one sketch to use for your painting.

2



1. Use your chosen sketch as a guide.
2. Draw the trees, hills and bushes with Crayola No-Run glue.
3. Allow the glue to dry overnight.

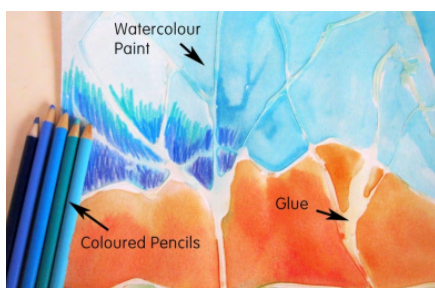
# MIXED MEDIA LANDSCAPE

## CHECK OUT THESE RESOURCES

Group of Seven - The Canadian Encyclopedia

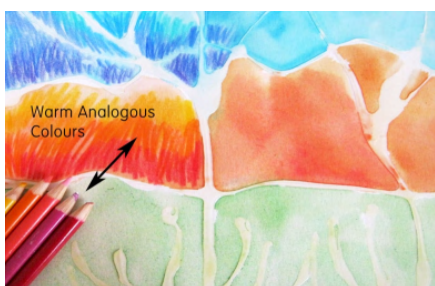
The Group of Seven - McMichael Canadian Collection

3



1. Use warm and cool colours of watercolour paint to fill in the land and sky.
2. Use complementary colours, for example, blue and orange.
3. Once the paint is dry, use coloured pencils to add detail to the landscape.
4. Choose a variety of each colour, for example, light, medium and dark blues.

4



1. Mix at least three analogous colours in each section to achieve rich textures.

5



1. Use contrast and bold strokes of colour to add emphasis.
2. View your work from a distance to see it with fresh eyes.
  - How is it like a Group of Seven painting?
  - Where do you see warm and cool colours?
  - How does the use of coloured pencils contribute to the effectiveness of the work?
  - What do you like best about this work? Why?