



IT'S YOUR HISTORY!

This activity sheet offers you a way to explore the exhibitions located on Level 1 of the Museum.



Your journey begins at the foot of the escalator, in the Grand Hall.

The Grand Hall houses a magnificent collection of totem poles. Traditionally, these would serve as a family emblem, to commemorate a special event, to define a territory or to honour an ancestor.

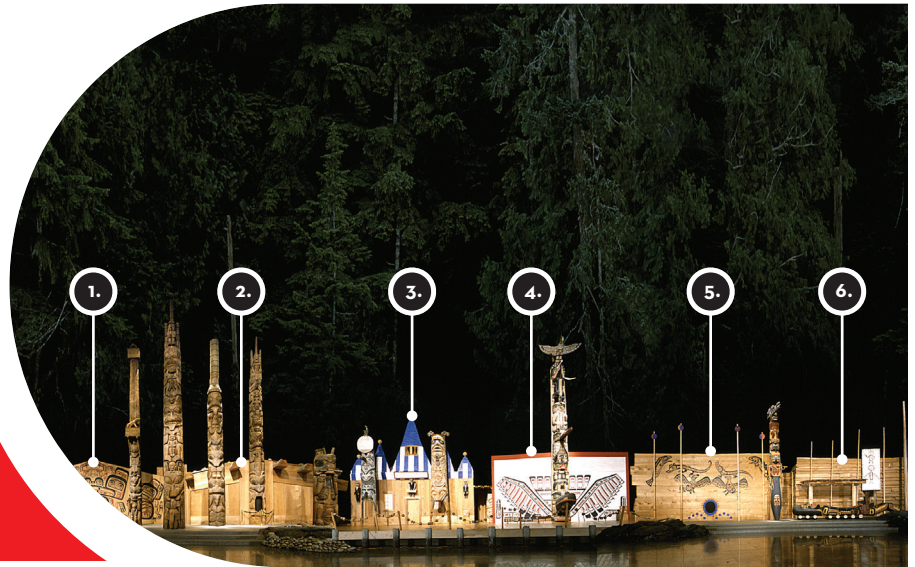


1.

The totem pole shown here comes from the Nuxalk village of Bella Coola. Where did it stand before being placed on display at the Museum?



Look at the houses facing the wall of windows.



The houses of the Grand Hall were re-created by relying on old photographs and oral histories describing the houses built in some coastal villages between 100 and 150 years ago.

2.

Can you identify the following details on the houses? Connect the details to the house to which they belong.

A



B



C



D





Head to the house on the far left, which is the North Coast home (Tsimshian). Behind it, you will see the entrance to the exhibition From Time Immemorial - Tsimshian Prehistory.



This exhibition includes the reconstruction of an archaeological dig near Prince Rupert, British Columbia, along with some of the archaeologists' work.



At the entrance to this exhibition, there is a case with two stone masks. To the left of this case, near the archaeological dig, you will find the answer to the next question.



3. On the stone walls around the excavation site, there are some engraved drawings. What do we call these kinds of images?



Hint: Take a look at the cards attached to the fence around the excavation site.



Exit the exhibition and head towards the windows on the other side of the staircase. Look up at the work of art painted in the dome, 27 metres above your head.



The work Morning Star, created by Dene Suline artist Alex Janvier, tells the story of 500 years of contact between First Peoples and Europeans in North America. To learn more about the history of this work, download the mobile application.



4. How did the ancestors of Alex Janvier use the morning star?



Head over to the entrance of the First Peoples Hall by following the large hanging posters of Aboriginal peoples.

The First Peoples Hall showcases the history, diversity, creativity, resourcefulness and determination of Canada's First Nations, Métis and Inuit. In the first area of the exhibition, on your right, you will see objects associated with people who have made remarkable contributions to society.



5. Look for a canoe made by a master canoe-builder from the Gatineau Valley. This Algonquin elder was a spiritual leader revered in Canada and around the world. What was this man's name?

What title did he receive?



After studying the objects in this area, turn left just behind the row of trees.

6.

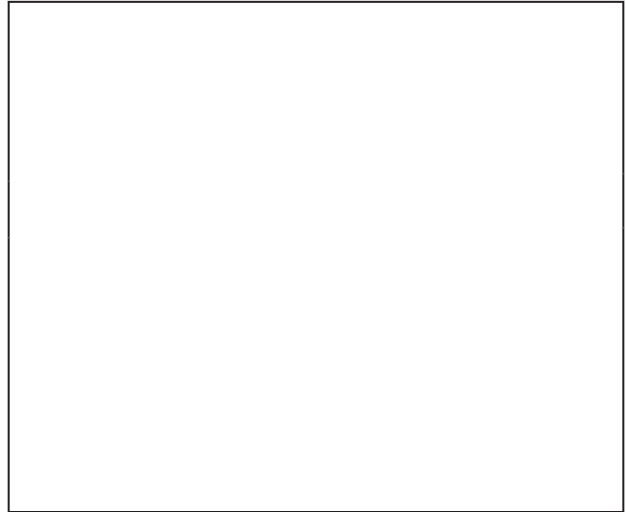
You will see a large, colourful painting. What is the name of the Anishnaabe artist who painted this work, called *A Separate Reality*?



Now, keeping to the left, go to the area called "An Ancient Bond with the Land."

In this area, you will discover how each Indigenous society developed a complex economy based on natural resources and trade goods.

Is there a person, creature, or symbol in this painting that you like? Try to draw it here:



First, turn your attention to the "Arctic Whalers" area, located on your right.



7.

Despite the cold climate, the Inuit learned to live in the Arctic, which they called Nunassiaq, "the beautiful land." These skilled hunters knew how to make warm clothes and build efficient homes.

What did the first Inuit people use to make the warm houses in which they lived during the cold season?



Hint: You can see a reproduction of one of these houses.



Turn around and explore the "Maritime Peoples" area.

8.

The Indigenous peoples of Atlantic Canada have always structured their lives around seasonal resources that come from the land, rivers, lakes and the sea. To move around in winter, First Peoples of the Maritimes developed various means of transportation, including snowshoes and toboggans. What does the word "toboggan" mean in Mi'kmaq?



Continue on to the "Communal Hunters" area on your left.

9. For thousands of years, Indigenous peoples of the Plains and the Subarctic lived mainly from communal hunts of large herd animals. The First Peoples of the Plains hunted buffalo. What animal did the First Peoples of the Subarctic hunt, and still hunt today?



Hint:
Look at the map.



A few metres further, on your right, is the “People of the Longhouse” area.



Hint:
They were known as “the Three Sisters.”

10.

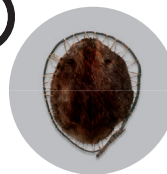
Women played a central role in the economy of the Iroquois, sowing, cultivating and harvesting the crops. What were the three main crops grown by the Iroquois?



Now cross the “Trade Fairs” area. Turn right, then left, and walk to the entrance of a room painted white and filled with objects.

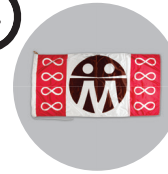
In this area of the exhibition, find the objects below and answer the questions related to them.

11.



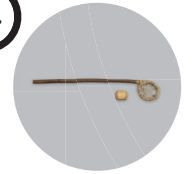
To what animal did this fur belong?

12.



Which people’s flag is this?

13.



What sport – invented by First Nations – used this equipment?

For about 1,000 years, Aboriginal peoples and Europeans came into contact at various times and in different regions of the continent. These contacts are commemorated through objects, stone inscriptions, community storytelling and travellers’ journals.



At the exit of the First Peoples Hall, turn left, then right, and enter The Canadian Stamp Collection.



This exhibition traces the postal history of Canada. It contains more than 3,000 stamps, as well as objects related to printing and producing stamps.

14.

TRUE or FALSE

In 1851, on the first Canadian postage stamp, Sir Sandford Fleming drew a caribou.	
During the Second World War (1939–1945), no new stamps were issued in Canada.	
In 1956, Canada Post issued its first stamp featuring hockey, Canada’s national sport.	
In 1997, Canada Post issued a stamp featuring a vampire.	
In 2010, Canada Post issued a stamp with a value of \$10.	