CANADIAN BLACK HISTORY MONTH PASSAGES

4 Passages · 20 Questions · Key



GRADES 3-5

VIOLA DESMOND · JOSIAH HENSON · ROSE FORTUNE · MATHIEU DA COSTA

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This is a fillable PDF

- Open it in a PDF reader (Adobe Acrobat Reader, Preview, or your browser), click into a line, type, and Save As.
- The name and date on every student page, the answer lines, the tally boxes, the tracker and every notes area are type-in fields. You can also print any page and write by hand.
- Highlighting is done on paper: print the passage page and highlight or underline, or type the sentence number on the line.
- It works offline: no account or subscription needed.

Print at 100 percent

Turn off fit to page and shrink to fit so the passages stay big enough to read. Pages print in color or in black and white.

Student work

A filled-in tracker carries a student's name. Keep it in the data folder, and use a first name only on any page that leaves your hands.

Need help?

If a field will not behave or a page will not print the way you expect, use Ask a Question on the product page first. Every question is read, and a fix ships as a free update.

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PREVIEW

Passages at a Glance

4 passages about four historical Canadians: 2 shorter and 2 longer, each with questions that stay close to the text.

All four passages

#	Passage	Level	Lines	Words	Pages
1	Mathieu Da Costa	Shorter passage	8	79	6, 7
2	Rose Fortune	Shorter passage	8	78	8, 9
3	Josiah Henson	Longer passage	11	116	10, 11
4	Viola Desmond	Longer passage	11	126	12, 13

"Lines" is the number of numbered sentences and "Words" the number of words, for a reading-rate check if you want one.

A routine that fits twenty minutes

- Teach the six words on the Word Match page.
- Read the passage aloud together, then once alone.
- Highlight the proof sentence for the prompt on the passage page.
- Turn the page and answer the five questions. Go back to the text for any answer.
- Check with the key. Color a box on the tracker.

Say it this way

- "Put your finger on the sentence that tells you."
- "What number is that sentence? Say it, then write it."
- "Read the question again. Which choice matches the text?"

About these passages

- Black History Month is marked in Canada every February. These four people can be read at any time of year.
- Every fact is well published and easy to check; sources are on the last page. The passages do not rank anyone.

Ways to adjust a page

- Read the passage aloud first, then let the child read it.
- Let the child say an answer while you write it.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Match each word to its meaning. Write the letter.

Word Match

1	interpreter		A a small new community where people come to live
2	wharf		B a person who helps people who speak different languages understand each other
3	escaped		C an upper level of seats in a theatre
4	settlement		D an official act that cancels a punishment
5	balcony		E a place beside the water where ships stop to load and unload
6	pardon		F got away and became free

+ Pick one word. Use it in a sentence.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Answer the questions. Look back in the passage.

1 Mathieu Da Costa

● Shorter passage

1. What job did Mathieu Da Costa have?

- ○ a. farmer
- ○ b. interpreter
- ○ c. teacher

2. When did Mathieu Da Costa live? Write the answer.

_____

_____

3. What does an interpreter help people do?

- ○ a. build ships
- ○ b. grow food
- ○ c. understand each other

4. Who did Da Costa work with? Write the answer.

_____

_____

5. Why are historians still learning about him?

- ○ a. Very few records remain.
- ○ b. He never met anyone.
- ○ c. He lived last year.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Shed

My name _____ Date _____

Answer the questions. Look back in the passage.

2 Rose Fortune

● Shorter passage

1. Where did Rose Fortune's family move to?

○ a. Annapolis Royal ○ b. Halifax ○ c. Toronto

2. In what year was Rose Fortune born? Write the answer.

_____

_____

3. What did Rose carry in a wheelbarrow?

○ a. fish ○ b. bags and trunks ○ c. firewood

4. Where did Rose start her business? Write the answer.

_____

_____

5. Some people call Rose one of the first women what in Canada?

○ a. doctors ○ b. pilots ○ c. police officers

PREVIEW

Preview · Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Answer the questions. Look back in the passage.

3 Josiah Henson

■ Longer passage

1. Where was Josiah Henson born?

○ a. Ontario ○ b. Maryland ○ c. Nova Scotia

2. In what year did Henson escape to Upper Canada? Write the answer.

_____

_____

3. What is Upper Canada called today?

○ a. Ontario ○ b. Quebec ○ c. Manitoba

4. What was the school at the Dawn Settlement called? Write the answer.

_____

_____

5. What did Henson write in 1849?

○ a. a song ○ b. a map ○ c. a book about his life

PREVIEW

Preview · Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Answer the questions. Look back in the passage.

4 Viola Desmond

■ Longer passage

1. In what city was Viola Desmond born?

○ a. Toronto ○ b. Montreal ○ c. Halifax

2. What happened to her car in 1946? Write the answer.

_____

_____

3. What did she go to see while she waited for repairs?

○ a. a play ○ b. a movie ○ c. a parade

4. What did the government of Nova Scotia give her in 2010? Write the answer.

_____

_____

5. What was put on a new ten-dollar bill in 2018?

○ a. a picture of Viola Desmond ○ b. a map of Halifax ○ c. a movie theatre

PREVIEW

My name _____ Date _____

Put the events in order. Write 1 for the earliest.

Timeline Sort

Event	What happened	Order 1 to 8
A	Nova Scotia gave Viola Desmond a free pardon.	
B	Josiah Henson helped start the Dawn Settlement.	
C	Rose Fortune was born in Virginia.	
D	Viola Desmond's picture was put on a new Canadian ten-dollar bill.	
E	Mathieu Da Costa worked with French explorers.	
F	Viola Desmond was arrested after she refused to move at a theatre.	
G	Josiah Henson escaped to Upper Canada with his family.	
H	Viola Desmond was born in Halifax.	

+ Pick one event. Tell how you know when it happened.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Write about it. Use one fact you read.

Pick one person. What is one thing you learned about them?

Draw it here

PREVIEW

Answer Key: Passages 3-4

Accept any answer that says the same thing, spoken or written. "Proof sentence" is the number of the sentence on the passage page that holds the answer.

Passage 3: Josiah Henson (pages 10-11)

Q	Kind	Answer	Proof sentence
1	Multiple choice	b. Maryland	1
2	Short answer	1830	3
3	Multiple choice	a. Ontario	3
4	Short answer	The British American Institute	8
5	Multiple choice	c. a book about his life	9
+	Highlight	In 1841, he helped start the Dawn Settlement.	6

Passage 4: Viola Desmond (pages 12-13)

Q	Kind	Answer	Proof sentence
1	Multiple choice	c. Halifax	1
2	Short answer	It broke down.	3
3	Multiple choice	b. a movie	4
4	Short answer	A free pardon	10
5	Multiple choice	a. a picture of Viola Desmond	11
+	Highlight	The theatre had a rule that Black people could sit only in the balcony.	5

PREVIEW

Reading Tracker

Write the date, then 1 for each question answered right (0 if not yet), then the total of 5. Write 1 under "Proof found" if the child highlighted the right sentence. A blank row means not tried yet, never wrong. The empty rows are for reading a passage again.

Student _____ Teacher _____ School year _____

Passage	Date	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Of 5	Proof found	Notes
1 Mathieu Da Costa									
2 Rose Fortune									
3 Josiah Henson									
4 Viola Desmond									

PREVIEW

What I notice

_____

_____

_____

_____

Next step

_____

_____

_____

_____

Owen's Tracker (Invented Student)

Owen R. is an invented student; nothing on this page describes a real child. The blank tracker is on page 21.

Passage	Date	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Of 5	Proof found	Notes
1 Mathieu Da Costa	2/9	1	1	1	0	1	4	1	–
2 Rose Fortune	2/10	1	0	1	1	0	3	1	Read it aloud first
3 Josiah Henson	2/11	1	1	1	0	1	4	0	–
4 Viola Desmond	2/12	0	1	1	1	0	3	1	–
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
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PREVIEW

How to read it

Owen R. has done **4 of 4** passages. Points are the 1s in a row: **14 of 20** possible, or **70.0 percent**. Owen found the proof sentence on **3 of 4** passages. Every number is a sum of the table.

The family note this tracker would produce

"This week Owen read 4 passages about historical Canadians and answered 14 of 20 questions right. At home, please read the family page together and ask where in the text the answer is."

Reading at Home

Send this page home with a child, or hand it to a family at a conference.

Student _____ Week of _____

How to help at home, in three steps

- Read the text below together, pointing to each word.
- Let your child read it again alone. Help with a word by saying the sounds slowly, then the word.
- Ask the questions out loud. If the answer is not clear, find the sentence together. Stop while it is still going well.

A text to practice: the first six sentences of Mathieu Da Costa

Mathieu Da Costa lived in the early 1600s. He was an interpreter. An interpreter helps people who speak different languages understand each other. Da Costa worked with French explorers in the land that is now Canada. Historians think he helped them talk with Indigenous peoples. He is one of the first Black people known by name in Canada's history.

Try saying

- "What was Mathieu Da Costa's job? Put your finger on the sentence that tells you."
- "What does an interpreter do? Where does it say that?"
- "Which person would you like to learn more about? Find the sentence that made you curious."

Note from the teacher

Note from home

PREVIEW

Binder Cover and Spine

The cover and spine label for the folder that holds the student's passages.

CANADIAN BLACK HISTORY MONTH READING PASSAGES

4 passages and questions

- Mathieu Da Costa
- Rose Fortune
- Josiah Henson
- Viola Desmond

Student name _____

Teacher _____

School year _____

Canadian Black History Month Passages

PREVIEW

Print the cover on card stock or paper and slide it into the binder front; fold the spine label around the edge.