

# Wrapping Up

What better way to wrap up our exploration than with an official Alberta song!

## Alberta

*Composed by Mary Kieftenbeld*

Flatlands, rollin' plains  
Clear blue skies, prairie rains;  
A tapestry of colours in the fall.  
Snow-covered mountain tops,  
Wheat fields, canola crops;  
Alberta has it all.

### Chorus

Alberta is calling me.  
Home sweet home, it's where I'm proud to be.  
Alberta is calling me.  
Livin' right I'm feelin' free.



First Nations built the land  
Fur trade, way back then.  
We've come a long way since that.  
Agriculture, lumberjacks,  
Oil derricks, natural gas;  
There is no turnin' back.

Culture diverse as it can be.  
This is the land of opportunity.  
Welcoming friends, night and day.  
That's the way I pray Alberta stays.



# Alberta: People, Places, and Possibilities



I wonder what the words to some of Mary's other songs are. I could check in a music store, or I could write to her on her Web site.

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In her song, composer Mary Kieftenbeld tells a story of Alberta.

Mary has a story, too. It is part of Alberta's story. She was born and raised in Calahoo, northwest of Edmonton. When she was only six years old, she sang in her church choir. When she was ten, she picked up the guitar and has been singing and playing ever since. Mary now lives on a farm in Alberta near Rivière Qui Barre with her husband, Ed, and their four children.

In many of her songs, Mary sings about her life and the things that are important to her. Her songs tell young people that life is full of possibilities and that we can all make a difference in the world. She says it doesn't have to be something big, and you don't have to be perfect to do it! Even small actions can count for a lot.

## Is This Like Being a Good Citizen?

Mary Kieftenbeld is making a difference by bringing a positive message to people through her music. She's doing something to help make people's lives better. That's part of being a good citizen.



Mary Kieftenbeld

## How Can You Make a Difference?

Citizenship also includes showing respect for

- people's cultural heritage
- the rights, opinions, and points of view of others
- the diverse cultures and languages in Alberta
- Alberta's history and historic sites
- our environment

It's all part of making a difference. It's all part of citizenship.

## How Does Good Citizenship Add to Quality of Life?

Treating people fairly makes them feel happy and like they belong. It makes them feel comfortable with who they are.

If we take care of our environment, we will have the things we need that affect our health and shelter—like fresh water, clean air, and healthy forests. Caring for the land will also help Alberta continue to be a land of opportunity. All this contributes to quality of life now and in the future.



How can I make a difference? Maybe I can get some ideas by thinking about what people in our school have done to make it a nice place to be.

### **Skill Smart**

In Chapter 10, you read about students making a difference by caring for and respecting the environment. Design a poster or a display to encourage respect for one of the other points in the list above.

Why do you think planting trees is an example of good citizenship?



# Alberta's Story

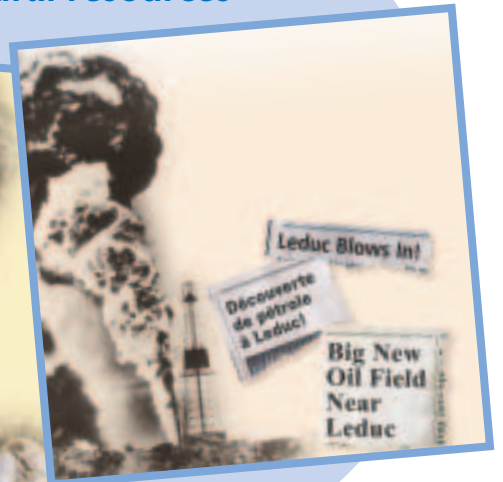
In Getting Started, we said that the story of Alberta is really not just one story—but many. Mary Kieftenbeld's story is one of them. Your story is one of them, too. In this book, you have explored many stories about how Alberta came to be what it is now.

Here are some of the stories you've explored.

## How the land was formed



## Alberta's fossil heritage and natural resources



## How the people who were here first, and others who came later, make Alberta a place of diverse cultures



How Alberta became a province and what that meant to people who lived here



Preserving our land and resources for the future



Alberta's celebrations and challenges



Stories like these make Alberta unique. They show how we can build on the past and the present to help create the future. We can be proud to be part of Alberta!

**Skill Smart**

Create a citizenship poster. Use words and illustrations to encourage people to make a difference to the health, safety, happiness, or future of others.



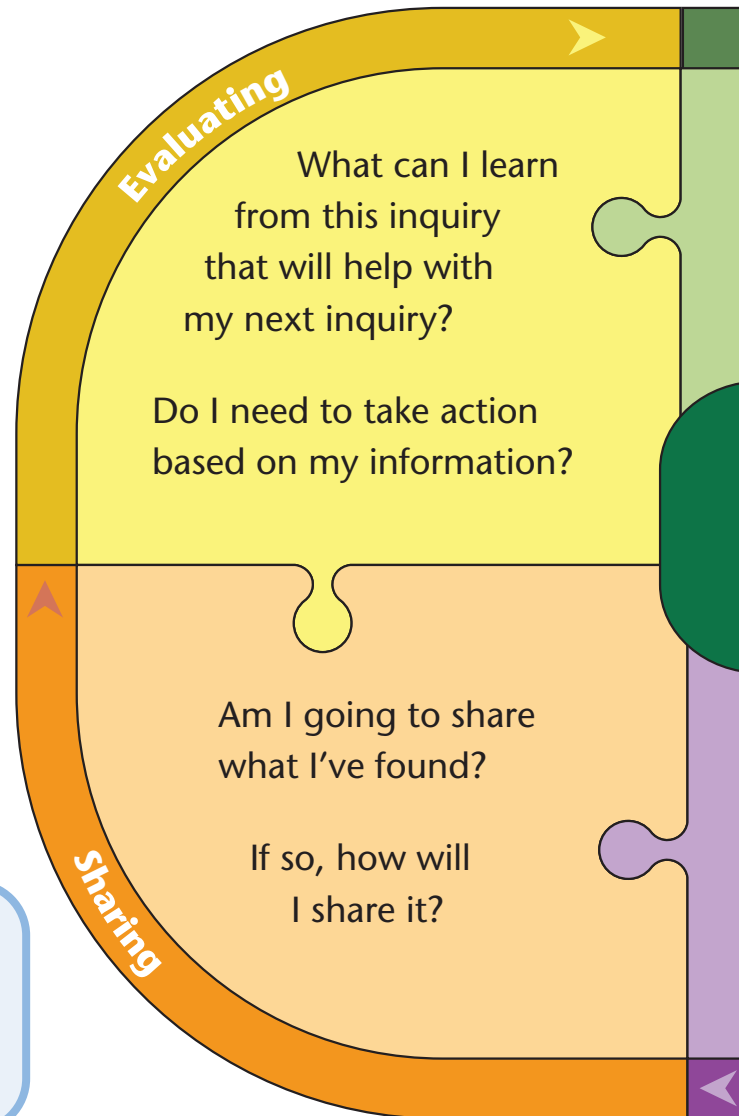
## Inquiring Minds

Throughout your exploration of Alberta, you have asked questions and searched for information. You have used the inquiry process introduced in Getting Started.

Before, I used to do a project and then that was it! Now I spend time on the Evaluating step and think about what I've learned. I even think about how I did things and what I might change for my next project.



I've always liked to do reports and add photos, drawings, and charts. But now in the Sharing step, I do other things, too. I like to create slide shows, dioramas, posters, and songs. It's more fun now!



### Thinking It Through

Reflect on how you have used the inquiry process over the year.

- What did you find difficult at first?
- In which of the six steps have you improved the most? Explain.
- What changes will you make in your next inquiry?

I used to just think about what my topic was and then go and search for information. I didn't really have a Planning step. Now I write down some questions. Then I think about how to follow the inquiry steps to get the answers.



**Planning**

What questions do I need to ask?

**Retrieving**

How will I find the information?

**Reflecting**  
*Thinking About Your Inquiry*

How will I record my information?  
Is my information accurate and reliable?  
Do I need to ask other questions?

How will I organize my information?

**Processing**

**Creating**

I didn't know it was important to find information in more than one place. In the Retrieving step, I learned to use all kinds of sources—the Internet, books, and ideas from other people. Now I can get better information and check to see if it's correct.



At first, in the Processing step, I wrote out too much information. Then I started to use jot notes, but I didn't write them in any special order. Now I use headings, a web, or a fishbone organizer.





# Set Your Skills in Motion

## Create a Personal Story

Your story is part of Alberta's story because you are part of Alberta. Think about the places, people, and events that are important to your story. Think about what your story might be like in the future. What might you want to do? How will you make a difference in the world? Choose a way to tell your story. You might want to use words or pictures with captions. Perhaps you could use a timeline or a flow chart.



## Write an Alberta Song or Poem

Think about what Alberta means to you. Jot down your ideas. Review them, and then add other ideas. Choose descriptive words and arrange them in an order that seems natural. Put these ideas together to create a song or poem. Your poem doesn't have to rhyme, but you can write in rhyme if you want to. When you're ready, make a final copy to share with others.

## Make an Alberta Zine

A zine is a small do-it-yourself magazine produced by one or two people. People create zines to share ideas on a topic.

- Choose a topic from one of your Alberta inquiries. Gather ideas from activities you have done, or write about a new topic.
- For your zine, you'll need a cover with the name of the zine and a contents page. Include articles such as stories, reports, viewpoints, interviews, and poems.
- You'll also need illustrations such as drawings, charts or diagrams, photos, clip art, or pictures cut from magazines.



# Look What You Have Learned!

This year, three main inquiry questions have been guiding your exploration of Alberta.

- How do the land and its natural resources affect quality of life for people in Alberta?
- How do stories, history, and culture give people in Alberta a sense of identity and belonging?
- How do people and events help to change Alberta over time?

It's time to find out how much you have learned.

With a small group, brainstorm points to give general answers to each of these questions. You don't need to give specific examples.

- Record each point on a large sticky note and place the notes on a table, on the floor, or on the chalkboard.
- Reorganize your sticky notes into groupings that make sense.
- Then make a web or chart to display your points. Save it for the activity on page 298.

## Take Time to Reflect

Now that your exploration of Alberta is coming to a close, think about what you learned.

- Which inquiry question could you answer most easily?
- Which question did you find the most difficult to understand? Why?
- What really helped you in discovering answers to these questions?
- What do you think will help you in other inquiries?



Choose something from this chapter to save for your Alberta Treasure Chest.

# Putting It All Together!

## ? Inquiring Minds

Look back at the web or chart you saved from the activity on page 297. Choose one inquiry question. As a group, recall stories that can be used as examples to explain the points listed on your web or chart.

Create a mural with captions, a slide show presentation, or a report with drawings or photos to answer the inquiry question.



Prepare for an Alberta Treasure Day. This is a celebration day! You can show other classes or invited guests what you have learned in your exploration of Alberta.

**Plan** your celebration. Check with your teacher to see what might be possible.

**Retrieve**, or collect, samples showing what you have done this year.

**Process**, or think about, what to display. Make it something that helps tell the story of Alberta—something you are proud of.

**Create** a display by organizing your items. Get together with others in your class to see if you want to combine displays.

**Share** your Alberta Treasures on a bulletin board, table, shelf, or desk. You may want to plan an oral presentation to explain some items.

**Evaluate** how well you organized and set up your display. Does it represent important things you learned about Alberta's story? Did people learn more about Alberta? What would you do differently next time?

