

Activity 4



FINDING THE HOMESTEAD

STUDY QUESTION:

What did a settler see that was so important and appealing when they got to their homestead?

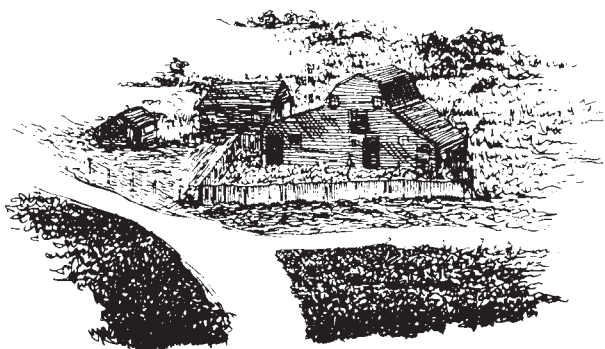
THE ACTIVITY:

Students role play choosing a homestead.

CURRICULUM FIT:

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Topic B - Alberta: Its People in History.
- Major factors that influenced settlement included transportation and natural resources.



MAJOR CONCEPTS

- Development, growth, change, resourcefulness, lifestyle.

LESSON CONCEPT

- The development of Alberta was the combination of human desire for change, political readiness and demand. Settlers provided the human resources to implement the Government of Canada's plans for development of the West.

AGRICULTURE CONCEPTS:

Importance of Soil and Water
Diversity of the Industry

PURPOSE:

- To improve planning skills.
- To experience some aspects of the early Alberta settlement.
- To develop decision-making skills.
- To share experiences and feelings with the settlers who chose to move onto the homesteads in Alberta.

MATERIALS REQUIRED:

Art supplies, clay, sticks.
Miscellaneous supplies which may be collected as required. (Example: moss.)

TIME REQUIRED:

1 - 4 class periods.

BACKGROUND - For the Teacher

Review the resources in Activity 3 to assist with this lesson.

PROCEDURE

Part 1

Introduction

1. Discuss the maps in this lesson that show the early Alberta settlement patterns.
2. Look at the ecoregion map supplied.
3. Look at the pictures provided of early towns in Alberta. Discuss some of the common features. What can the children see?
 - a) dirt streets
 - b) small buildings
 - c) some typical businesses.
4. If the class has done Activity 3, have them keep the same groups for this lesson. If they have not done Activity 3, divide the class into groups of 4 to 6.

Part 2

Orientation

5. Teachers may want to help the groups decide where they would be arriving based on the settlement map and the time each group/family chooses to emigrate.
6. Groups should then make a note of the general ecoregion they have chosen so that they can better describe their farm.
7. Have each group do the "Where Am I?" worksheet.

Part 3

Selecting

8. Have students imagine that they will now find their homestead. Discuss the procedure of obtaining land in Alberta. They have to find the land they want, then file at the Land Office for title, pay \$10.00 and agree to live on the land 6 months of the year and make improvements such as fencing and cultivation.
9. Have each group do "The Homestead" worksheet.

Part 5

Conclusion

10. Share the information on the worksheets with the class.
11. Prepare a large map of Alberta and show where the class pioneer families have settled.

FOR DISCUSSION

1. How do you suppose shopping for a homestead in 1900 compares with shopping for a home in the 1990s?
2. What would be some of the most important features settlers would be looking for in their new homesteads?
3. Do you think you would have liked to be the children of a pioneer family?

RELATED ACTIVITY

1. Plan a typical pioneer social function for your pioneer families such as a box social or community dance.

Dawn Called

*Dawn called! And out across the plain
I heard the prairies move again;
I smelled the sage when dawn uncurled
Her leaves, for incense to the world;
I heard a meadow-lark get up
And pour its song in day's new cup.*

*I saw the horses, dim and still
Against the shadow of a hill,
Stand up and shake the sleep away,
And snort their challenge to the day;
The roosters called across the plain
Their thanks that light had come again.*

*I saw Dawn walk with gracious feet,
Upon the billows of the wheat;
I touched her garments as she passed
Into a farmer's house at last,
And laughed to hear him softly stir
Against the lily hands of her.*

*I saw blue smoke upon the air,
I heard a woman singing there,
Close by the door and saw her stand
And breathe the fragrance of the land;
And heard her laughter, clear and sweet,
Echoing out across the wheat.*

*Dawn called! The prairies answered her;
I saw the grasses wake and stir;
I heard the breathing of the air;
Felt Life abundant everywhere;
Saw the glad Earth, where shadows run
Drawing her substance from the sun.*

*Beside Still Waters
- Edna Jaques*

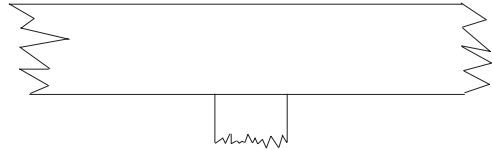


Where Am I?

Worksheet

1. The train stops. You gather up your belongings and step off the train on the station platform.

The sign tells you that you are in what town?



2. How many people get off with you?

3. Where will you stay until you find your homestead and collect your supplies? A hotel, boarding house, tent?

4. What are some of the businesses in this town?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

5. Describe or draw what the town looks like.

6. What are the roads like?

7. Are there many people looking for homesteads?

8. Are the people friendly and helpful?

Worksheet

The Homestead



1. According to the time you arrived in Alberta, locate the possible areas for your homestead on the Settlement Areas map.
2. Now look at the Ecoregions of Alberta map and decide what type of land you expect to find in that area.
 - parkland
 - prairie
 - boreal forest
3. Imagine that you have gone out to look at the land available and have chosen a homestead.

Briefly describe the land. Describe the types of hills, trees, water, grasses and other features that you might find.

land _____

hills _____

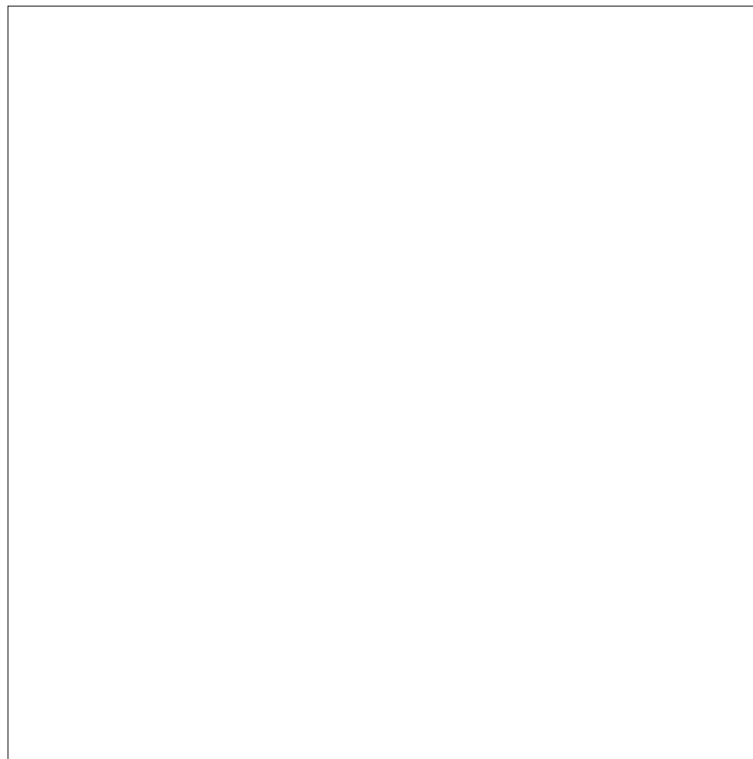
trees _____

water _____

grasses _____

other features _____

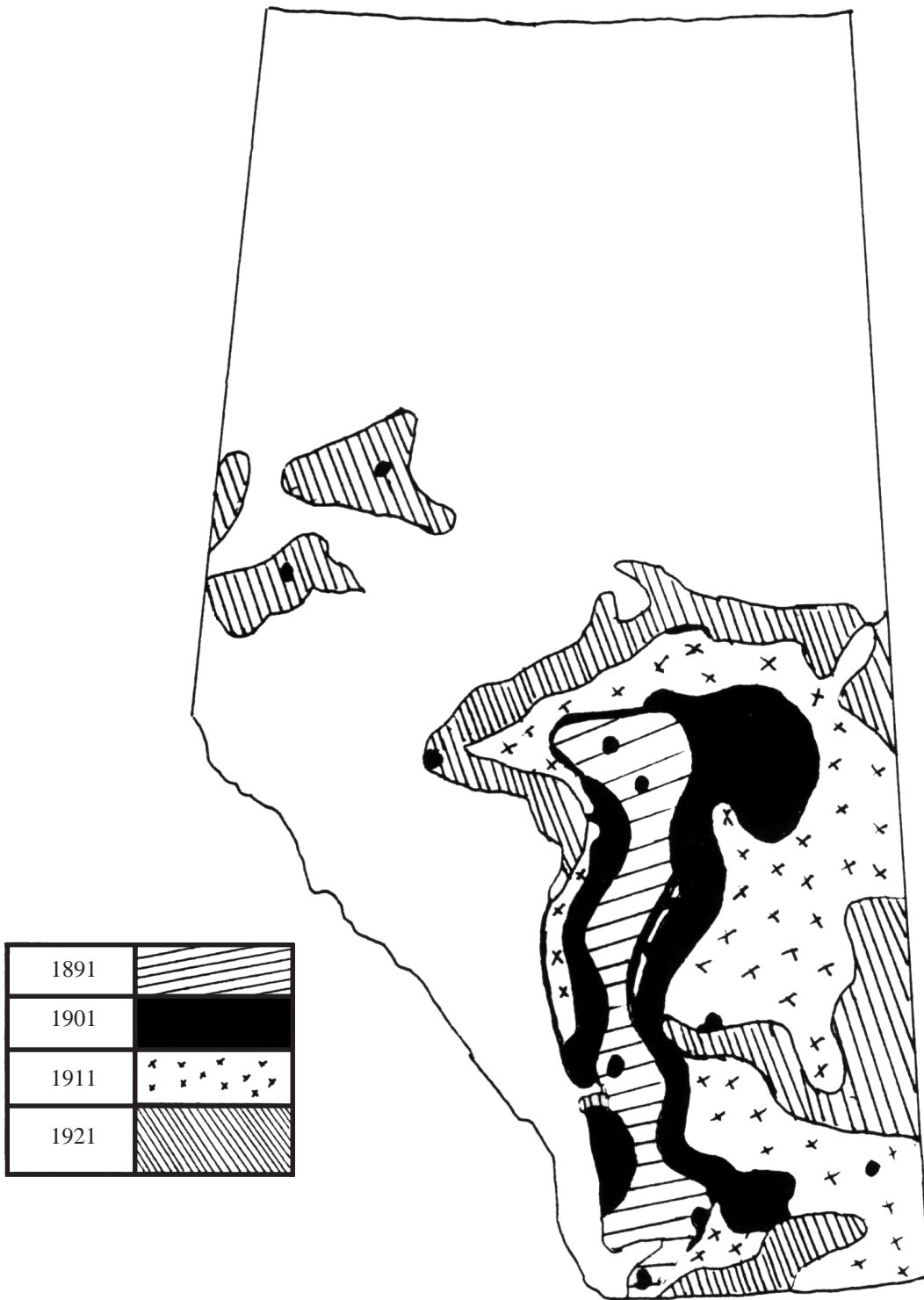
Draw a general map of the physical features of your quarter section in the square below:



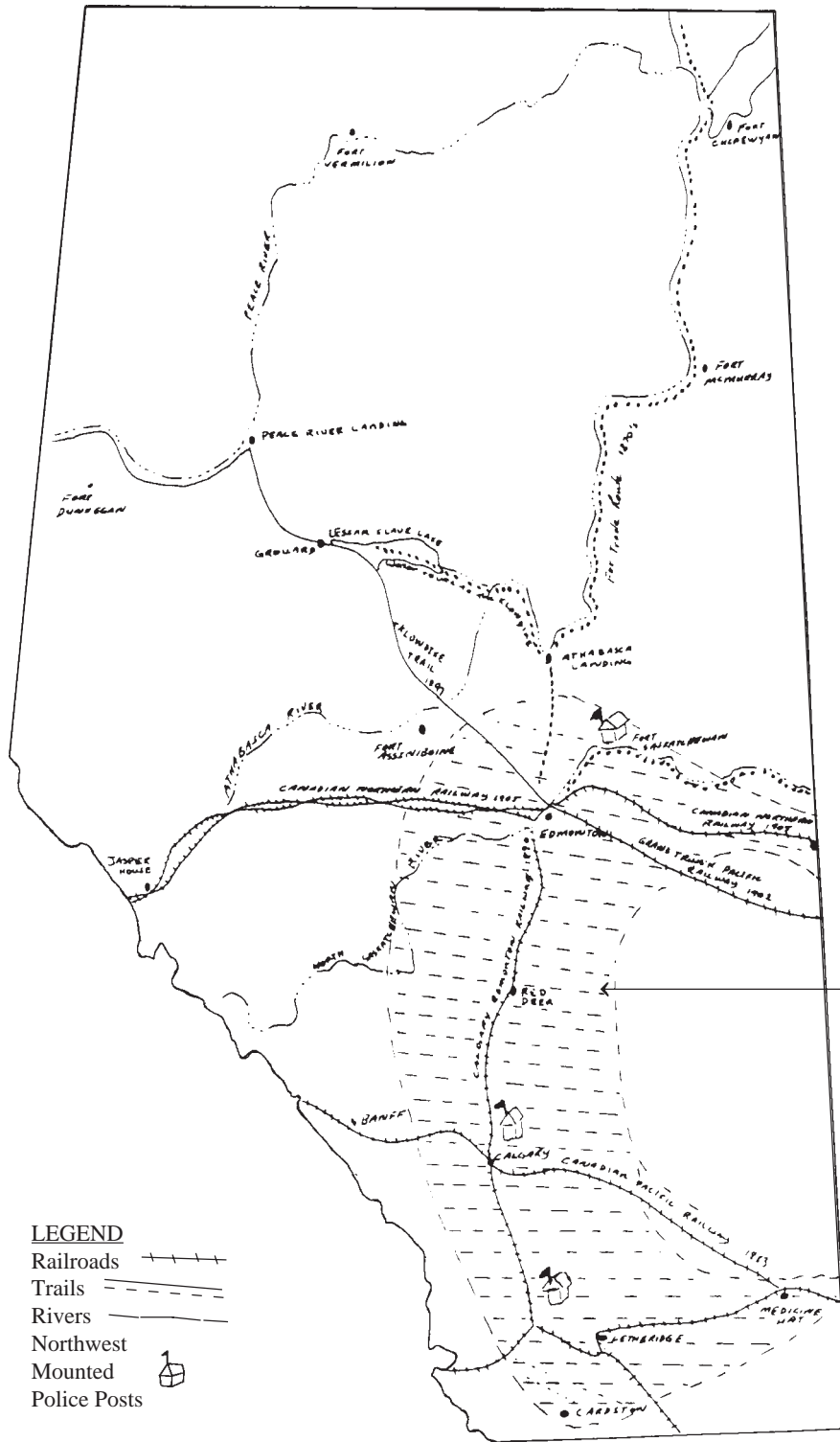
Ecoregions of Alberta Map



Settlement Areas Map



Early Development in Alberta Map



Settlement crescent
1906 - The bulk of
homestead settlement
was contained in this
shaded area.

Settlers Travelled to Alberta



Red River Cart, Pony and Indian B1043.



Ox train on the outskirts of Edmonton returning from a trip to Calgary.
1891 - 1904 E. Brown Collection, B710.

Provincial Archives of Alberta.



Farm house near Calgary, 1883 - E. Brown Collection, B119.

Provincial Archives of Alberta.

This homesteader built a frame and log home.

Waiting to file on homesteads near Grouard, Alberta, 1912 - A10185.
Provincial Archives of Alberta.



Town Businesses Provided Some Supplies



(Above) Walker and Reid Store, Lamont, Alberta 1907 A11163.

(Below) Lethbridge looking South. 1884 - E. Brown Collection B2436.
Provincial Archives of Alberta.

