



PROJECT TOPICS AND IDEAS

Below is a list of different subject areas and possible topic ideas for research. Understanding that the scope of any chosen topic or subject area can be varied and extensive and easily modified to one's own region and culture group, an attempt has been made to suggest possible topics relevant to the history of British Columbia. Examining one's own family and background to tell the story behind one's own cultural heritage is encouraged.

The possibilities are endless!

Category	Possible related topics
<p>Aboriginal Culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> History and settlement Traditional housing Hunting and fishing Games, arts and crafts Types of housing Education Language Stories and Legends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 46 Aboriginal Groups live in BC. Investigate the culture of the particular group in your area. • Interview an Elder and examine how things have changed/stayed the same. • Compare traditional homes with modern homes and investigate settlement patterns over time. • Create a model display of the different traditional houses of Aboriginal Groups, comparing the differences between those used by groups living in the interior to those living at the coast. • Recreate games and crafts and analyze the importance of traditions handed down through generations. • Examine traditional and modern hunting and fishing techniques. • Research the importance of Whale Washing Houses in the Nuu-chah-nulth culture. • Collect and compile an anthology of favourite legends and stories.
<p>Artists and Intellectuals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artists Authors Musicians Dance companies Scientist and inventors Teachers and education Television and movies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine the life and contribution of Mary Ellen Smith. • Choose a favourite author, artist, musician, scientist, politician, etc and research their route to fame and the legacies left behind. • Is there someone in your own life who has made an impact on your community or on your own way of thinking? Explain. • Analyze the contributions made by Ginger Goodwin and his connection to BC. • Examine the role Amor de Cosmos played in the history of BC. • Outline the history of broadcasting in Canada and the link to broadcasting systems in your area.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emma Albani was the first Canadian Opera singer to become famous around the world. Are there others? • Canada has had her share of Nobel Prize Winners. Explore the contribution to the world these Nobel Prize winners made and in what field they are best known for. • Explore the contributions of Daryl Duke to television and the film industry. • Examine the contributions of people like Emily Carr, Ethel Wilson, Denise Chong, Tom Wayman and others to the literary world in BC.
<p>Canada and the World Relationships with other countries Peacekeeping Role in WW I Role in WW II Contributions to the world The Canadian Armed Forces International treaties</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze the impact of World War I on the population growth of BC. • Examine the role of the Canadian Pacific Railway and shipping. • Analyze the cause and consequence of conscription and Ginger Goodwin’s death? • Examine the historical significance of the Gumboot Navy. • Examine the moral dimension of internment camps. • Interview a descendant of an interned person and present the issue from their perspective and the impact to their family. • Create a geographical display of the various internment camps in BC and compare the impact of the camps to that particular community, then and now. • Compare the experiences of the Doukhobor people to those of the Japanese people during WWII. Was the government right in stepping in? Draw some conclusions of the moral dimensions of the actions taken by people in that time period. Would the same things be able to happen today? • Interview someone involved with Greenpeace or with the David Suzuki Foundation and examine the role these two groups have on environmental sustainability in our province and Canada. • Examine the Role of the Canadian Armed Forces in Afghanistan and the Middle East. • Interview a family member of a Canadian soldier in service and present their perspectives. • The first army unit in BC, the Victoria Pioneer Rifles, was formed in 1860. Explore the contributions of other regiments such as Duke of Connaught’s Own Rifles, BC Dragoons, Royal Westminster, Canadian Scottish and Rocky Mountain Rangers.
<p>Catastrophes Fires Floods Landslides</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research the impact of the fire in Barkerville in 1868. • Research the impact of the fire in Vancouver in 1886. • Research the impact of the fire in New Westminster in 1898.

<p>Epidemics Forest Fires</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine the impact of the Fraser River floods of 1894, 1948, 1972. • Examine the impact of the Tsunami that struck the West Coast in 1964. • Examine the effect of a jökulhlaups at the Kicking Horse Pass in 1978. • What causes landslides and is there evidence that there is a landslide threat in the area in which you live? • Chart the results of influenza epidemics in BC.
<p>Celebrations Family Traditions Canada Day May Day BC Day Religious Holidays Cultural Traditions Major Sport Events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List and determine the historical significance of the cultural celebrations in your area. • Examine the origins of the traditions your family observes. • Create a time line of the community celebrations that occur in your community. What are their origins? • Is there a sport event that happens at a certain time each year? Why? Correlate the findings of similar events with others in the province. • Many months have a theme – Black History Month, Women’s History Month ... how are these celebrated in your community?
<p>Cultural Diversity Settlement of ethnic groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey the multiculturalism organization in your area to determine the various ethnic groups living in your area. Chart the growth over time of each group and determine what factors have contributed to this growth. • Using Statistics Canada information, compare the settlement pattern of a certain ethnic group in BC and an eastern province or simply in the different regions of BC
<p>Communication Radio – CBC Telephone – BC Tel – Telus Mail – Canada Post Newspapers Television – CBC Growth of the news media Electronic communication</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the factors that have contributed to continuity and change of a communication system you particularly like. • Compare the means of communication during a ten year span in the 1900s to a ten year span in the 2000s. • Look at the development of newspapers and the role they played throughout the province. What is the historical development of the newspaper in your community? • What ever happened to “The Beachcombers”?
<p>Early Settlers Fur Trade Exploration of Canada The Hudson’s Bay Company Patterns of settlement The Gold Rush Pioneer Families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the significance and role the Aboriginal peoples played in the fur trade. Work with the Aboriginal Education Coordinator/Principal in your community to determine the best approach to take. • Discover the importance of “Grease Trails” and their contribution to the fur trade in our province. • Explore how the fur trade contributed to the

<p>Forts</p>	<p>development of British Columbia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct a 3-D map of BC and plot the numerous forts that developed during the Fur Brigade Trail era. • Construct a replica of a Fort and present the historical significance of each building. • Discover the role and historical significance the <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ North West Fur Company, ▪ the Voyageurs, ▪ the Métis played in the settlement of Canada. • The Gold Rush was an enormous event for British Columbia. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plot the distances that gold seekers travelled to take part ▪ Examine the infrastructure needed within a community to accommodate the influx of people ▪ Explore the hardships faced by the participants ... write a play or keep a diary from the perspective of a prospector living in Barkerville, an Overlander destined for the goldfields, etc. ▪ Examine how the gold rush changed the primary, secondary and tertiary industry in BC during this time • Choose a pioneer family in your community and present their contribution over time. Perhaps interview a descendant from such a pioneer family? • Examine the street names within your community and determine their origins and the possible link to a pioneer family.
<p>Education Trends Curriculum Schools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit the Archives at your local museum. What school was first built in your area? How does going to school then compare to going to school now? • Compare the subjects taught in school in the 1800s with the subjects taught in school in the 2000s. What has changed, what has stayed the same? • Discover how your school got its name. • Shirley Sterling, a First Nation’s writer, wrote a book called <i>My Name is Seepeetza</i> about her experiences in residential schools. Compare her educational experiences with yours.
<p>Environment Endangered animals National/Provincial Parks Natural Resources Pollution Anti-Pollution Legislature</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discover and chart animals native to BC and their importance to the fur trade. • Examine the laws created to protect animal populations in the past 100 years. • Research and determine the historical significance of the various Provincial Parks in BC. • List the various natural minerals found in BC and their significance to the international economic market.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On a time line, chart the developments of the problems that exist with pollution and the efforts to combat it. • Water is rapidly becoming our most valued resource. Present the nature of this phenomenon and suggest ways to prevent in BC what has happened in some of the states in the US.
<p>Fads in History Sayings and Slang Fashion and Clothing Music Toys</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare how clothes have changed and yet have stayed the same. What has contributed to the change? • Create a time line showing the forces that have contributed to the change in music styles. • Compare the changes in toys and toy manufacturing over time. • The jolly jumper was invented in the early 1950's by a stay-at-home Mom in BC. Find out more about applying the concept of continuity and change.
<p>Firsts in Your Community Settler/homestead Church Hospital Law enforcement agency School Store Baby born Railroad/paved road Air transportation (access to) Electricity Newspaper</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As communities grow, the need for commodities and development arise. Take a close look at your community and find the origin of a particular commodity like the first restaurant or the first dance studio or the first photographic studio. • Obtain a photograph of main street in your community in the early 1800 and a photograph of main street in your community in 2010. What has changed and what has stayed the same? Are the changes for the better or for worse? Explain. • Explore the changes that occurred with the coming of electricity to your community.
<p>Food Agriculture Food processing/preservation Cooking practices Gadgets or inventions Ethnic origin of dishes Where food comes from</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a geographical map of BC that demonstrates the agricultural activity that occurs in the various regions of the province. • Make a list of your favourite foods, survey their packaging; trace the origin, processing and distribution routes. • Survey your class on cooking practises in their homes. How are they similar, how are they different? Determine the factors influencing these practises. • Chart, through drawings or symbols, the changes one would see in a kitchen and the cooking facilities available in the home over time ... say, every fifty years.
<p>Geography and Climate Weather extremes Landscape changes Influence on settlement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chart and compare the average temperature in your community for each day for a year. Compare the data collected for two separate years, fifty years apart. Compare and analyze the data. • Using a map of BC, plot the population patterns of each community. Analyze and suggest possible

	reasons as to your findings.
Government Famous politicians Political parties Confederation Municipal Governances City Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look into the historical significance of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation. • Explore the connection between Premier W.A.C. Bennett and BC Hydro. • On a time line, chart the Premiers of BC since 1871; tell a bit about them and what transpired in BC during their time in office. • Analyze the rise and decline of the Social Credit Party. • Interview your MLA (Member of the Legislature) and your MP (Member of Parliament). Compare the two roles. • Trace the various parties elected in your area over a period of fifty years. Examine the pattern you find and the factors that you think may have contributed to your findings. • Examine the changes that occurred after British Columbia joined Confederation in 1871. Were there advantages to remaining a colony? • Interview your Mayor, have a look at City Hall and how the Municipal Government operates.
Housing Architecture Home furnishings Historic buildings Street names Type of buildings Marketing swings Building materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit the archives to determine some of the oldest homes in your community. Tell the story of a particular one that you like and outline its history of who has lived in it over the last 100 years. • Examine the architecture of a home built in the early 1900s and one that has recently been built. What has changed, what has stayed the same? • Street names have often been named after important people in the community. Choose ten street names in your community that you would like to know more about and find out how they got to be named. • Compare the trend in living accommodations over the years. How and when did “condos” and “town houses” appear? • Fort Steele, Barkerville, Fort Langley are a few of the important historical sites in our province. Present a case for or against the need to preserve historical sites.
Immigration Patterns of immigration Official immigration policies Multiculturalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between 1881 and 1921, the population of British Columbia increased by over ten times. Analyze and explain where people came from and why and where they settled. • Using data obtained from Statistics Canada, chart immigration patterns over the last 100 years. Analyze possible explanations for the results you find. • Working with the multicultural Society in your community, find out how many different ethnic groups are represented in your city or town.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the moral dimensions behind the action taken against Indian immigrants aboard the ship <i>Komagata Maru</i> in 1914. • Research the official immigration policies that exist before an immigrant can come to Canada. • Research the steps one takes to become a Canadian Citizen if you are not born in Canada. • Analyze the historical significance of the “head tax” and present your findings from a multiple perspective of the agencies involved. Determine the moral implications of such actions and the consequences that are created. Do you agree with the actions of government taken in 2006? • After English, more people in BC speak Chinese than any other language. How can this be? • February is known as Black History month. Explain.
<p>Industry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forestry Fishing Farming/ranching Stores and banking Early transportation Growth of industry Technological changes Knowledge industry Service industry Tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish, timber and minerals were three of the province’s richest resources. They became the foundation of British Columbia’s wealth. Explain. • Examine the impact BC Hydro has had on British Columbia’s growth and development. • Mining in the Kootenays did not have much to do with gold. Analyze the Kootenay mining boom in the early 1900s. • Find evidence of “boy miners” in the mining industry of BC. Would that be allowed today? • Analyze the historical significance of the Canadian Pacific Railway to BC? • Examine the role the Chinese Workers played in the building of the Railway. • Write a journal for a month as if you were a Chinese Worker on the railway. • By the 1920s, more than fifty canneries were operating along the coast of British Columbia. Examine the factors that contributed to the changes that have occurred over the last 90 years. • Examine how Labour Unions came to be in British Columbia. • Examine the controversy regarding fish farms. • Explore the impact of the BC Power Commission to BC. • Since the 1950s, the knowledge industry and the service industry have impacted the economic growth of British Columbia. Explain.
<p>Personal Memories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self and family history Narrative histories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did your family come to live where you are living? • Create a family tree and see how many generations you can trace your origins to. • Grandparents have excellent stories of their growing up years. Make a collection of their favourite stories and see if you can match them with stories in your life to date.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey family members and let them tell you the story behind their name. Does the name they were given have any significance within the family?
<p>Recreation</p> <p>Sports Dances Parks Toys/games Entertainment/theatres</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do we know Nancy Green? Do we know Nancy Green? Should we know Nancy Green? Explain. • Discover what Bill Parnell, John Landy and Roger Bannister were known for and how they are linked to BC. How do their records compare with those being achieved today? • Explain the historical significance of 2010 in British Columbia. • The evolution of toys over time is fascinating. Create a graphic time line to demonstrate how toys have changed over the years. • Each community has a green space or park set aside for their citizens. Explore the historical significance of the one in your community. • Examine the changes over time with the concept of Olympic Games. Today we have the Summer Olympics, the Winter Olympics, the Paralympic Games and the Youth Olympic Games. • Trivial Pursuit anyone? Find out more. • In 1994, Parliament declared lacrosse and hockey as Canada’s national sports. Find out more. • From 1914 to 1941 the Asahi was one of the best baseball teams in Vancouver. Examine the historical significance of this team.
<p>Social structures</p> <p>Families Community values Historical figures Famous pioneers Influential women Children’s work Family trees Different customs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare the structure of your family with that of a classmate; especially if your classmate is of a different ethnic origin than you. Examine the parallels and differences within the two families. • Our pioneers organized “work bees” to help each other. Determine how that custom came to be and whether it is in use today. • Examine the historical significance of Rosemary Brown. • Explore the phenomenon of “Chinatowns” and “Little Italy” and other ethnic neighbourhoods in your community. Analyze the factors that contribute to the establishment of these particular areas and whether these are positive/negative situations. • Explore the historical significance of Save the Children Foundation and the remarkable contributions of two young Canadian students. • Explore the contributions made by women during the era surrounding WWI and WWII. What changes are noted regarding women’s role in war time in modern times? • Did you know it used to be illegal to drive on the right hand of the road in Victoria, BC before 1921? Find

	<p>evidence that supports or negates this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Francophones were amongst the first non-aboriginal people in BC. Explore the historical significance of this while making connections to the Francophone Association of today. • It is said that the <i>Chinook</i> language was British Columbia's very own language. Find evidence that it actually existed and how it came to be.
<p>Symbols of Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flag Coat of arms National anthem Maple leaf Beaver Provincial flowers, flags Stamps of Canada Coins of Canada 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take our National Anthem and create a pictorial collage of the meaning you infer within each line of the text. • Discover and write about the significance of the symbols within the provincial flag of BC. • Create a display of the flag of each province and territory, outlining the significance of the symbols used in each. • Construct a collage of colour of the geographical features of Canada. Create a display of Canada by collecting pictures and images depicting the many different geographical features. • Explore Canada's ties to the Commonwealth and explore issues of continuity and change.
<p>Transportation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Railroad Ferries Air travel/ airports Highways Public transportation Modes of travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline the history of railways in Canada. • Examine the historical significance of the Last Spike at Craigellachie, BC. • Examine the role of the sternwheeler to the development of British Columbia. • Discover the historical significance and fate of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Canadian Pacific Railway ▪ The Canadian Northern ▪ The Pacific Great Eastern ▪ Grand Trunk Pacific ▪ The BC Electric Railway Company • Explore the historical significance of the Alaska Highway. • Explore the concept of continuity and change as it applies to the BC Ferries System. • Discover the historical significance of the Trans-Canada Airlines and the Canadian Pacific Airlines to British Columbia.