

Curriculum Links

The Follow the North Star tour connects to curriculum expectations across multiple subjects – social studies, history, and geography. Key curriculum connections of the program and accompanying pre-visit activities are outlined below.

Curriculum Connections: Social Studies

Grade	Curriculum Strand	Tour Content
1-2	Heritage and Identity: Our Changing Roles and Responsibilities	A few thousand Africans arrived in Canada in the 17th and 18th centuries as slaves. After the American Revolution, the British gave passage to over 3000 slaves and free Blacks who had remained loyal to the Crown. These Black Loyalists joined the many other United Empire Loyalists. Describe the impact of significant social and political movements on Canadian society; describe how individual Canadians have contributed to the development of Canada and its emerging sense of identity.
1-2	People and Environments: The Local Community	People of African descent migrated to Canada at different times throughout history. There are many notable names from the St. Catharines community who were involved in the safe passage of Freedom Seekers through the Underground Railroad.
3	Heritage and Identity: Communities in Canada, 1780-1850	By 1834, slavery was abolished in Canada and throughout the British Empire. Between 1815 and 1860, some 30,000 enslaved people escaped the United States through the Underground Railroad and found refuge in this country. Despite abolition, Blacks in Canada continued to face considerable challenges because of racism and discrimination. Describe the impact of significant social and political movements on Canadian society; describe how individual Canadians have contributed to the development of Canada and its emerging sense of identity

5	People and Environments: The Role of Government and Responsible Citizenship	Examination of the Underground Railroad and Freedom Seekers who contributed to the community and nationally positively impacting economic, political, and social avenues. Discussion of laws that contributed to Freedom Seeker movement, people and places that impacted the well-being of Black Canadians.
6	Heritage and Identity: Communities in Canada: Past and Present	Examination of the Underground Railroad and Freedom Seekers who contributed to the community and nationally positively impacting economic, political, and social avenues. Discussion of laws that contributed to Freedom Seeker movement, people and places that impacted the well-being of Black Canadians. Describe the impact of significant social and political movements on Canadian society; describe how individual Canadians have contributed to the development of Canada and its emerging sense of identity

Curriculum Connections: History

Grade	Curriculum Strand	Tour Content
7	Canada, 1800-1850: Conflict and Challenges	In 1793, the Upper Canada legislature passed an act that granted gradual abolition and any slave arriving in the province was automatically declared free. Fearing for their safety in the United States after the passage of the first <i>Fugitive Slave Law</i> in 1793, over 30,000 slaves came to Canada via the Underground Railroad until the end of the American Civil War in 1865. They settled mostly in southern Ontario, but some also settled in Quebec and Nova Scotia. Many returned to the United States to fight in the Civil War and rejoin their families after its end.
8	Creating Canada, 1850-1890	In 1793, the Upper Canada legislature passed an act that granted gradual abolition and any slave arriving in the province was automatically declared free. Fearing for their safety in the United States

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8	Canada, 1890-1914: A Changing Society	Until the passage of the <i>Slavery Abolition Act</i> in 1833 that the British parliament prohibited enslavement, effective August 1, 1834. In the years that followed, all people of African descent in Canada were legally free, but they were not equal: they have faced systemic racism, racial segregation, prejudice, and inequality in Canadian society, the roots of which can be traced back, at least in part, to the many, complex legacies of enslavement.

Curriculum Connections: Canadian and World Studies

Grade	Curriculum Strand	Tour Content
10	Canada, 1914-1929 Canada, 1929-1945 Canada, 1945-1982 Canada, 1982 to the Present	Throughout the 1900's, Freedom Seekers were faced with many changing social and economic conditions, inclusive of economic diversification. Over the course of the last four centuries, people of African and Caribbean descent have shaped their own identities in Canada while making important contributions to Canadian society. Describe some of the major local, national and global forces and events that have influenced Canada's policies and Canadian identity since 1914.

11	The United States, 1791-1877	During the War of American Independence (1775-1783), the British offered freedom to enslaved Africans in America who joined the British side during the war. Many saw this as an opportunity for freedom. In 1793, the anti-slavery movement was emboldened by the actions of Chloe Cooley, an enslaved African woman in Upper Canada (now Ontario) who had resisted being transported and sold into the United States. John Graves Simcoe, Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, who supported abolition before coming to Canada, had heard about Cooley's case. He introduced a law titled <i>An Act to Prevent the further Introduction of Slaves and to limit the Term of Contracts for Servitude</i> .
11	The United States, 1877-1945	Throughout the 1800's, a number of historic Black communities were established across Canada. Some of these communities came as a result of war. Also, between 1800 and 1865, approximately 30,000 Black people came to Canada via the Underground Railway – the network of secret routes and safe houses used by enslaved Africans to escape into free American states and Canada with the support of abolitionists and their allies.
11	Factors Influencing Migration to Canada	Examining push and pull factors of Black people migration from the United States to Canada due to systemic racism and prejudice.
11	The Canadian Experience	Between 1700s – 1900s, Black Canadians experienced many inequalities which brought forth the enactment of laws for enslaved Africans to escape to freedom.
12	Canada: History, Identity, and Culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada, 1774-1867 • Canada, 1867-1945 • Canada since 1945 	Black Canadians have faced – and continue to face – prejudice, inequalities, and systemic barriers to full and equal participation in society, dating back to the enslavement of African people in Canada. Exploration of abolition slave acts and

		Fugitive Slave laws (Canada vs United States) and the migration of Black people to Canada (push and pull factors).
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Curriculum Connections: Geography

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8	Global Inequalities: Economic Development and Quality of Life	Examination of the Underground Railroad and Freedom Seekers who contributed to the community and nationally positively impacting economic, political, and social avenues.
9	Issues in Canadian Geography <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing Canada's Resources and Industries 	The migration of Black Canadians during the 1700s-1900s to Canada (locally, St. Catharines) impacting local businesses and industries that utilized both natural and man-made resources.
12	World Issues: A Geographic Analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial Organization: Relationships and Disparities 	Forced migration and the separation of families happened within Canada and America, just as it did within the continent of Africa. The burgeoning agricultural economy not only created an enormous new region for slavery in the Lower South, it turned the Upper South into slave-exporting states, where families and individuals were at constant risk of being sold to other slave owners. Although humans have created systems and structures to allow societies to function, throughout the early 17 th century until the 1800s, slaves were exploited for their labour for the purposes of economic growth of colonialism.