

AGRICULTURE

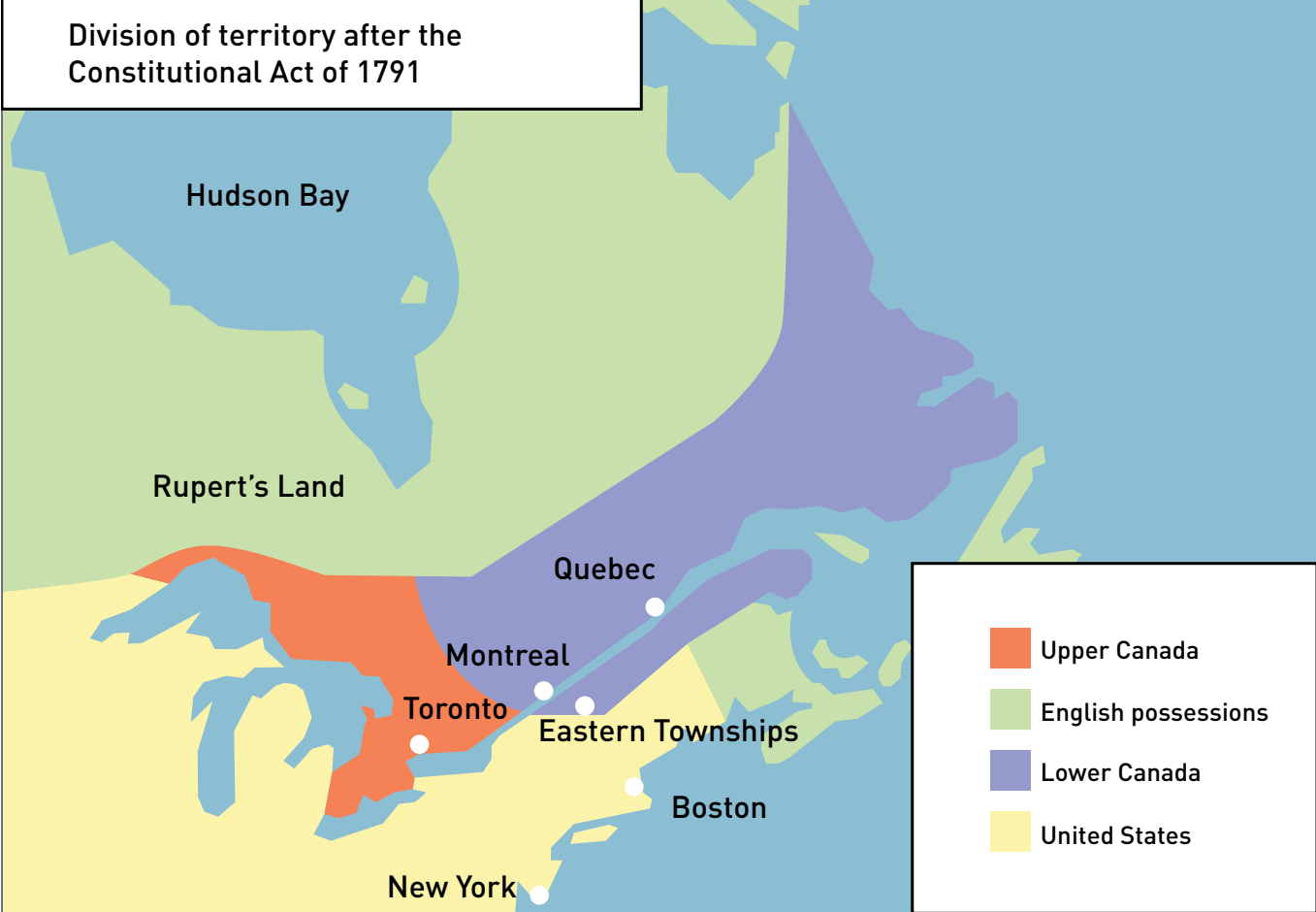
Dear Diary,...

Student's Workbook
For elementary school



THE CREATION OF THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS

MAP 1: 1791 CONSTITUTIONAL ACT



Following the Constitutional Act, new territories were created to welcome Loyalists: Upper Canada and the Eastern Townships. Circle these two territories on the map.

1. In your opinion, who inhabited this land before the arrival of the Loyalists?

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MAP 2: DIVISION OF LAND IN THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS



2. In your opinion, what is the main difference between a seigneurie and a township?

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Photography: A Window into the Past

In the following pages, you will discover several photographs that were taken in the Eastern Townships over the 20th century.

These photographs allow us to observe the past and to better understand the way people lived. **The following questions will help you analyze the images.**

1. Who can we see on these photographs?
2. What are the people in these photographs doing?
3. What do these photographs have in common?
4. What tools or methods are being used by the people featured in these photographs?
5. Do you think we still work this way today?
// *What do you know about the methods and farming equipment we use today?*
6. After observing photographs 3 and 4, do you believe that the people who arrived in the Eastern Townships at the beginning of the 19th century used the same tools?



Photograph 1: Two children using a horse drawn plow / Eastern Townships Resource Centre / Newton Brookhouse fonds P042-165



Photograph 2: Postcard showing men, women and children in a hay field around 1910, in Frelighsburg / Eastern Townships Resource Centre / Herbert Derick collection P058-010-05-002_026



Photo 3: Bringing in the green feed around 1940-1950 / Townships Resource Centre / Mildred Waldron collection P170-002-D023-001



Photograph 4: Using a hay loader in the 1950s / Eastern Townships Resource Centre / Reginald Conner fonds P046-001



Photograph 5: Mowing hay 1950 / Eastern Townships Resource Centre / Reginald Conner fonds P046-003



Photograph 6: Milk skimming station belonging to Nelson Fish, built in 1893 in Minton / Eastern Townships Resource Centre / Reginald Conner fonds P046_004

In the Footsteps of a Farmer in Stanbridge Township

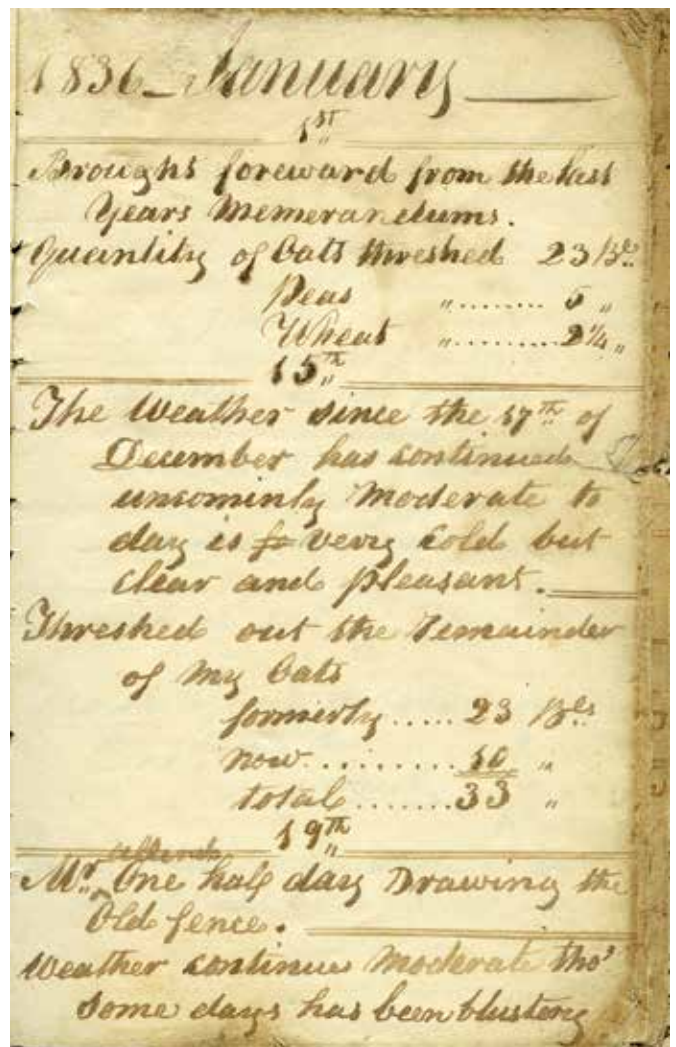
Around 1820 in the Eastern Townships, most families spent their time farming. Some barely managed to feed themselves with their own harvest while others made money by selling their surplus at the market.

The following document is a diary that was kept by a farmer who lived in Stanbridge in 1836. This document is an important key to understanding the lives of people who lived in this period.

1. Where is Stanbridge located? Colour this township on Map 2: Division of Land in the Eastern Townships
2. Observe the document
 - / Why is the weather such an important topic for this farmer?
 - / What was this farmer growing?

« The weather fine milder. [...] Planted potatoes in the garden. »

« Since the thunder storm, we have had something like spring weather; this a fine Warm day; the grownd too wet to admit sowing. »



Eastern Townships Resource Centre / Textual Records collection / P997-004-01-001a_April

Dear Diary,...

Now, it's your turn to pretend to be a farmer living in the Eastern Townships in the 19th century. You have been occupying a township for a few years now and you are keeping a daily diary.

Your mission: Recreate a diary that records the following information:

- / The date and place where this day is taking place.
- / The geographic area in which this place is located (for example: in the north-eastern sector of the Shipton Township).
- / Include at least two items grown or raised by your farmer.
- / Include one item that is an Eastern Townships specialty created by your character.
- / Include a farming task that your farmer must carry out.

To help you write your diary, start by filling out the table below. To do so, consult documents 1, 2 and 3 in the following pages.

	Information
Food grown	
Animals raised	
Tasks carried out	
Eastern Townships specialty products	
Qualities, strengths and values of farmers	
Other information related to farm life	



Document 1: Agriculture in the Eastern Townships

As of 1820, farmers would gather in agricultural societies and would organize fairs. They quickly began to raise cattle and sheep. Different races of cattle and sheep were imported from New England and from England. Land was used not only for pasture, but also to grow various types of cereal (ex. wheat, buckwheat, oat) and to farm basic food staples (ex. potatoes, fruit, vegetables, squash). Part of the land could also be used as a sugar bush or as a plantation of other fruit-bearing trees. In 1830, 5000 of the 5800 families present in the Eastern Townships made their living through agriculture. Some farmers only succeeded in growing the food they needed for subsistence, whereas other produced some surplus. Women and girls were generally in charge of the vegetable garden, of milking the cows and of churning the butter, and men usually cleared the forests and worked in the fields.

Document 3: Dairy-based Agriculture

Very early on, the Eastern Townships became known for its dairy production. The rest of Quebec didn't turn to this sector of agriculture until the 1870s. Raising dairy cattle required less land, so variations in the climate had a lesser impact on productivity, in comparison to wheat production. In the 1830s, several local farms began producing their own milk and dairy by-products (ex. cheese, butter, cream). As of the 1850s, dairy products were sold in urban markets. The development of the railway and the circulation of wagons that enabled produce to be stored in a cool area paved the way for the distribution to various markets in Quebec and in the United States. In 1865, the first industrial cheese factory was established in Dunham. The Eastern Townships were one of the pioneer regions of dairy-based agriculture in Quebec.

Document 2: An American Accent in The Townships

With the creation of the Eastern Townships in 1792, several parcels of land were distributed for clearing and farming. Other than Loyalists, several Americans crossed the border to settle in the townships with their families. These pioneers had learned in early childhood how to live and survive in the deep forest. Their families had cleared land for generations. Furniture was built on site. If they were lucky, the land was fertile, and the harvest was abundant. However, dangers lurked at every corner and accidents often occurred: men could be crushed, drown in the rapids and rivers, children could get lost in the woods, etc.

In societies of American origin, there was a strong sense of equality and freedom. Women played a crucial role. They not only ran the household, they sewed, weaved, knitted and took care of those who are ill. When the men were absent, they oversaw the work done on the land.

However, in the eyes of the British, these pioneers were savages, men of the forest. The fact that they enjoyed their whisky didn't help much either.





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and



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