

TRAVEL BACK IN TIME...



# MISSION: CAPITAL

Welcome to  
“Mission: Capital!”

Travel back in time to learn about the people, places and events that helped build the capital of our country. Your team’s mission is to visit the mission sites and solve the challenges along the way.

Use the map to find the challenge stops and mission sites. Read the information, solve the challenges and record your answers. When you are finished, return to Mission Central to meet up with the rest of your group. Your mission commander (your teacher) will have the correct answers to all the challenges.

## MISSION 1

**Union Station and the Château Laurier**  
(Time destination: 1912)

How did you travel to Ottawa? In 1912, many travellers arrived by train at the brand-new Union Station. They didn’t even need to go outside in order to visit the Château Laurier Hotel, thanks to the underground tunnel that linked the two buildings.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, trains were the fastest way to move people and goods across the country. Competition between railway companies was fierce; to attract passengers, the companies built grand hotels along rail routes. The Château Laurier was the first luxury hotel built by the Grand Trunk Railway.



A big celebration was planned for the Château Laurier and Union Station in April 1912, but something happened that delayed the opening until June and made it much more subdued: the president of the Grand Trunk Railway died in the sinking of the Titanic.

**FAST FACT**

### DISCOVERY CHALLENGE

Union Station was Ottawa’s passenger rail station until 1966, when the train tracks were moved out of downtown. Your challenge: determine where the train tracks were located until 1966.



*Hint: Read the interpretation panel to the right of the train station, looking out over the Rideau Canal.*

## MISSION 2

**Colonel By’s House**  
(Time destination: 1826)

Lieutenant-Colonel John By chose this spot for his family around 1826. He lived here with his wife and daughters while supervising the construction of the Rideau Canal.



Before By’s arrival, only a few families had settled in the area now known as Ottawa. Canal construction changed all that. Thousands of labourers, soldiers and tradespeople arrived to work on the project. Living conditions varied greatly: the wealthy built large stone houses, the working class lived in wooden homes, and the poorest labourers—mostly from Ireland—lived in crowded shacks and even caves along the banks of the canal. These three communities grew into a town, which its settlers called “Bytown” to honour Colonel By.

As for Colonel By’s house, it was destroyed by fire in 1848. Its ruins were hidden and remained a mystery for over 100 years!

### PUZZLE CHALLENGE

If you wanted to stay at the Château Laurier when it opened in 1912, it would have cost you \$2 a night. See if you can match these other 1912 prices with the items on your shopping list.



- a) \$2.95   b) \$0.23   c) \$0.10   d) \$2.50

1. Box of Corn Flakes  
 2. Children’s hat (on sale!)  
 3. Ladies’ bathing suit  
 4. Pair of men’s socks (on sale!)



### DISCOVERY CHALLENGE

It wasn’t until the 1970s that archaeologists excavated and found the stone ruins that you see here. Search the site to discover some of the artifacts uncovered by the dig. Write down three of them, and think of an equivalent object that could be found in a home today.

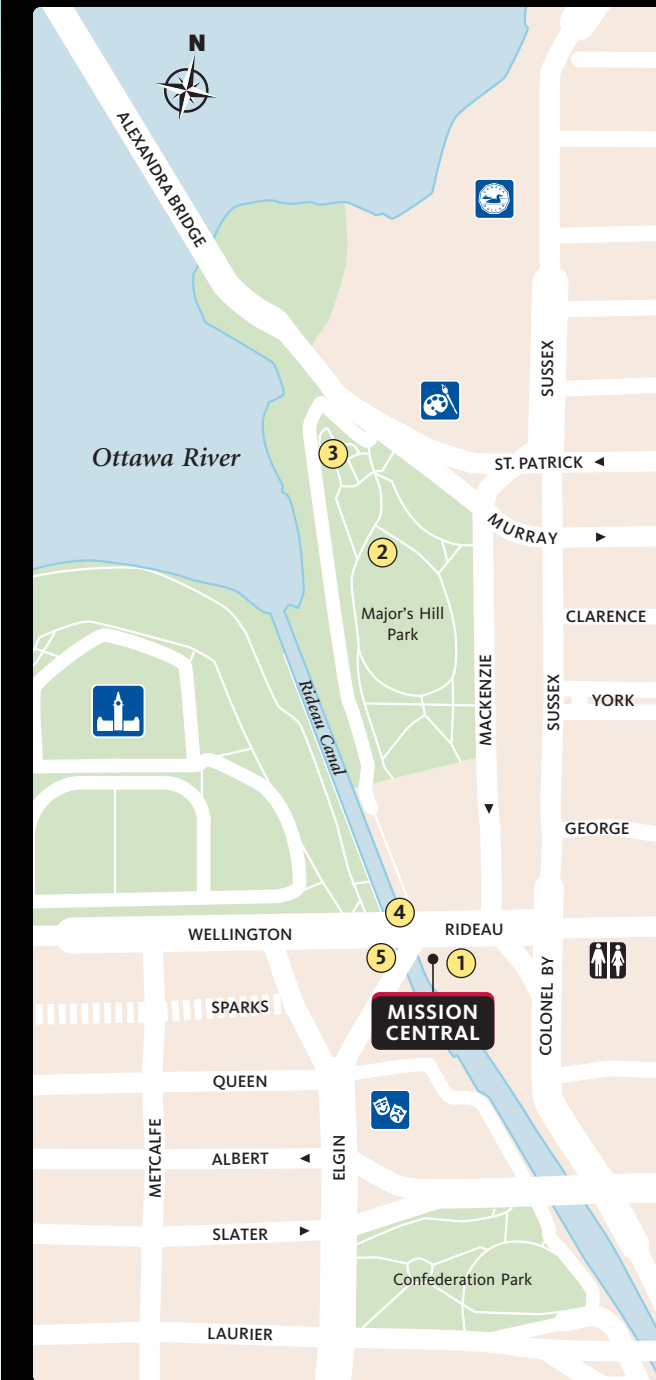


Artifact from the 1840s      Object from today

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_

In 1855, Bytown was renamed “Ottawa” to give it a fresh start. It had developed a reputation as a lawless lumber town. Its citizens were known for boozing, street fighting and riots. The town was also quite disgusting: there were open sewers along the unpaved streets, and the air was thick with sawdust from the lumber mills.

**FAST FACT**





### MISSION 3

**Anishinabe Scout**  
(Time destination: 1613)

Would you spend weeks guiding a stranger, who didn't speak your language, along rivers and through dense forest? When French explorers arrived in Canada, First Nations scouts guided them in navigating Canada's waterways. Algonquin peoples have lived in this region for more than 8,000 years, and used the Ottawa River as a trade route.

The scout was originally supposed to be kneeling in a canoe, but the people paying for the sculpture in 1918 ran out of money. So, the scout was placed at the foot of a statue of a French explorer, without the canoe. As time went on, people objected to an Aboriginal scout kneeling down in front of a European, so the sculpture was moved to this location, close to the river that forms an important part of Algonquin heritage.



Anishinabe is the name the Algonquin use for themselves. It means "native person."

**FAST FACT!**

#### PUZZLE CHALLENGE

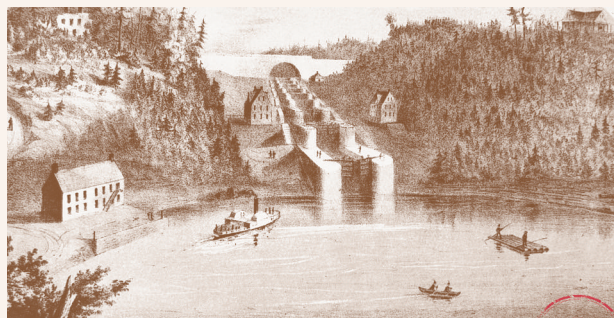
I am the French explorer who travelled up the Ottawa River in 1613, with the help of Anishinabe scouts like this one, who was originally placed in front of my statue. If you look through the trees to the north, you can see me. Who am I?



### MISSION 4

**Rideau Canal**  
(Time destination: 1832)

What would you do if the main road in your community was suddenly too dangerous to use? When the United States invaded Canada during the War of 1812, it became obvious that Canada's main supply route, the St. Lawrence River, was too close to the border. A better route was needed, so the Rideau Canal was built to move troops and equipment between Montréal and Kingston safely.



But by the time the canal was completed, the threat of invasion by the United States was gone. The canal was never used for its military purpose.

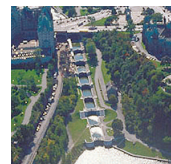
Today the canal is used for enjoyment. Fishing and boating are popular activities. And, in the winter, it's transformed into the Rideau Canal Skateway — the world's largest skating rink.

**FAST FACT!**

#### DISCOVERY CHALLENGE

How many locks are there?

Hint: if you stand on the bridge overlooking the locks you can easily count them!



### MISSION 5

**The Valiants Memorial — Laura Secord**  
(Time destination: 1813)

If you knew that people were in danger, what would you be willing to do to warn them? In June 1813, Laura Secord overheard that American soldiers were planning to attack a British outpost near Niagara Falls. She walked all day, more than 30 kilometres, from her home to the outpost to warn the officer in charge. Two days later, British soldiers and First Nations warriors ambushed American troops close to the outpost, forcing the Americans to surrender.

Laura Secord's actions weren't publicly recognized for almost 50 years. Since then, however, her story has been told in books and plays. And monuments, like this one, have been created to honour her courage.



To make the statues in The Valiants Memorial lifelike, the artist dressed life-sized plaster figures in reproductions of period clothing. She cast the sculpture and clothing first in wax, and then in bronze.

**FAST FACT!**

#### DISCOVERY CHALLENGE

Find the statues of the two military leaders who, like Laura Secord, were commemorated for their bravery during War of 1812, and list their names.



#### FINAL CHALLENGE

If you could go back in time to witness one of these events, which would you choose?

- 1613: Algonquin peoples help French explorers navigate the Ottawa River.
- 1813: Laura Secord warns the British of an attack
- 1832: The Rideau Canal is officially opened.
- 1912: Union Station and the Château Laurier are opened.
- 1972–1973: The ruins of Colonel By's house are discovered by archaeologists.



### MISSION COMPLETE!

Return to Mission Central (your starting point) to meet up with the rest of your group.



*Mission: Capital* was developed with the assistance and feedback of more than 500 Grade 7 and 8 students from Ontario and Quebec who were visiting Canada's Capital Region with Keating by Explorica.

**Keating**  
-explorica-

Cette publication est également disponible en français.  
© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, 2014.  
Catalogue No.: CH4-165/2014E-PDF  
ISBN: 978-1-100-23498-4

