



Front-page News

Level: High school

Goal: Write a brief article about an event in Montréal's history or the chronology of one of the city's buildings.

Description: This activity will take place in three parts.

First, students will visit the virtual exhibit *Montreal, 500 Years of History in Archives*. They will then choose the topic for their newspaper column from the exhibit. A list of possible topics can be found below.

Then, students will research bibliographical sources and do reading to identify key concepts and elements.

Finally, students will be asked to write an article of 400-500 words maximum.

Total length: Three periods or more, as needed.

Location: In the classroom or at home.

Skills to be developed:

This activity will help students develop both language arts and social skills. The visit to the virtual exhibit and research using on-line references will also contribute to developing students' ICT skills.



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Proposed process:

■ Period 1

1. Visit the virtual exhibit *Montreal, 500 Years of History in Archives*.
2. Choose the theme for the article from the contents of the exhibit. Here are a few suggested topics:

| Characters | Places | Events |
|------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| The Iroquois | Montreal forts | Founding of Montréal |
| Jeanne Mance | Place Jacques-Cartier | Arrival of the <i>Grande recrue</i> |
| John Molson | Place d'Armes | Capitulation of Montréal |
| Émile Nelligan | The Olympic Stadium | 1976 Olympic Games |
| Gaston Miron | Notre-Dame Church | Expo 67 |
| Pauline Julien | Université de Montréal | Fire at the Parliament |
| Norman Bethune | McGill University | The Great Fire of 1852 |
| Paul Buissonneau | City Hall | The Great Peace of Montréal |
| Camillien Houde | The Botanical Garden | The Opening of the Lachine Canal |
| Jean Drapeau | Chalet on Mount Royal | |
| Etc. | Etc. | <i>Soirée de la poésie</i> Etc. |

■ Period 2

3. Bibliographical research. Here are a few suggestions of online references to propose to your students:

The official site of Old Montréal and its heritage data base:

<http://www.vieux.montreal.qc.ca/>

Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online:

<http://www.biographi.ca/index2.html>

***Bilan du siècle* integrated database of information about Québec**

<http://www.bilan.usherb.ca/>

***Montréal-Clic* Bulletin (published by the *Centre d'histoire de Montréal*)**

http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/portal/page?_pageid=2497,3089812&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

Learn Montréal's history (*Archives de Montréal*)

http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/portal/page?_pageid=165,230190&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

Commission de toponymie du Québec

<http://www.toponymie.gouv.qc.ca/topos.htm>



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- **Period 3**

4. Writing the column. We suggest having students read several historical columns to give them a feeling for the style. Here is a link to historical columns from the *Archives de Montréal* that might serve as examples.

Learn the history of Montréal (*Archives de Montréal*)

http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/portal/page?_pageid=165,3261746&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&view_target=search&item_id=&gpage_id=&page_id=&statut=

(In french)