

# Social Studies 4/5 – Forestry and Immigration

**Learning Goals:**

- Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to ask questions; gather, interpret, and analyze ideas; and communicate findings

**Materials**

Pencil

Pencil crayons or markers

Copy of the article (digital or printed)

Extension Activity: Colored paper, cardboard, recycled materials, tape

**Activities**

Read the article and complete the question below

# Forestry and Immigration

Wood was the staple of Canadian trade for much of the 19th century. The **timber trade** brought investment and **immigration to eastern Canada**. It brought with it economic development, **encouraged exploration**, and resulted in the **building of many towns, villages, and roads**.

The logging industry began because of European demand. Thousands of ships full of Canadian lumber made the trip to the British Isles. Rather than return home with no cargo, **many of the timber ships carried immigrants on the return voyage**.

Jobs in Canada attracted laborers from Ireland, Scotland, Poland, and many others. Although the trip would have been extremely unpleasant because the ships were not meant to carry passengers, the price for passage was inexpensive. Thousands of passengers died on these ships as they were overcrowded, clean drinking water was scarce, and disease spread quickly. The ships became known as "coffin ships" due to the fact that so many passengers died on the passage to Canada that took well over a month.

Pictured below are Irish passengers arriving to Canada.



An average timber ship could carry about 200 passengers. Since the travelers would bring along their own food and bedding, the trade was an extremely easy one to operate. All that was usually required was a few advertisements in local newspapers and a ship would quickly be filled to capacity.

In later decades, the quality and safety of the ships improved and the ships were outfitted with bunks along the sides of the hold.

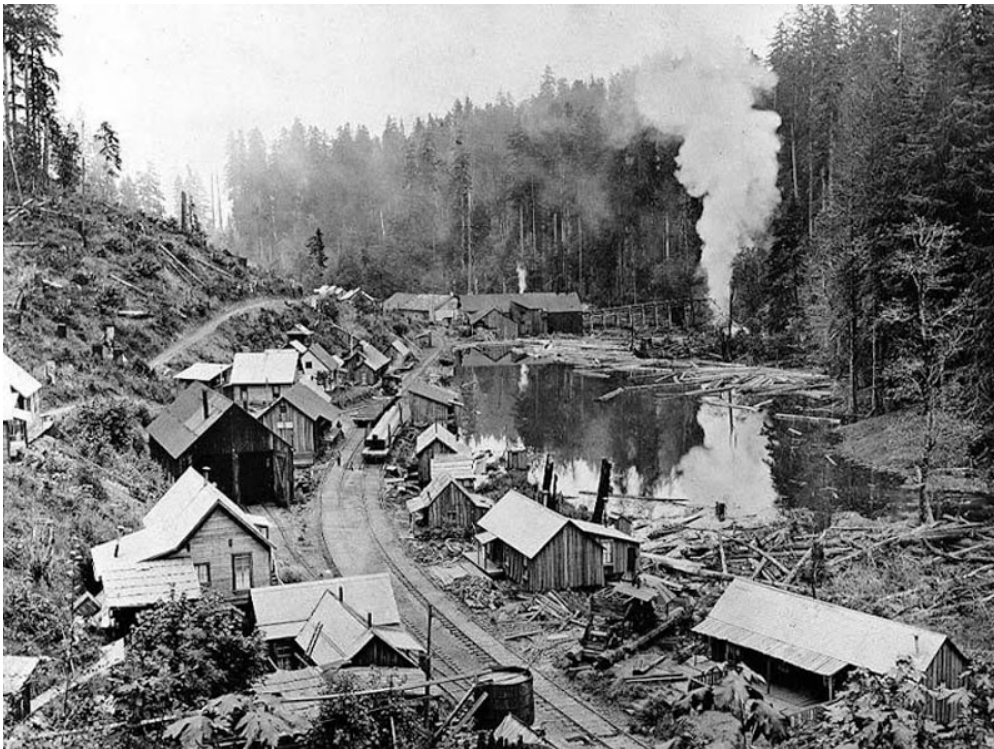
# Forestry and Settlement of Canada

In the 1800s, this land was under British rule. Today, most Canadian forest land is owned and administered by either the provincial or federal government and is referred to as Crown forest.

**How did the forestry industry change over time? What impact did this have on development?**

- Historically, a development that had biggest impact on the forest industry was the **development of the railroad**. Once the railroad was built, logging companies no longer had to rely on rivers to transport lumber.
- Licenses and fees to cut timber on Crown land started in 1826.
- Small operations made way for **larger corporations** that had the money to build the sawmills and to transport the lumber to ports for export.
- Mills were built along the railways all across Canada, and with them, **towns and cities**. Today, it is estimated that there are at least **300 communities** that are at least 50% forestry dependent.

Below is an example of an early sawmill town,



These large corporations also hired "lumber gangs" which were multi-cultural in make up. Gangs consisted of men of European decent, as well as East Indian and Chinese laborers.



How did forestry contribute to shaping Canada?

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