

# Social Studies 4/5 – Forestry in BC

**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)

**Activities**

Read the article and complete the question below. Complete the Assignment on the last page. Choose either Choice A or Choice B.

## Forestry in British Columbia

Most provinces have been involved in forestry, including BC. Even though about 60% of British Columbia is forested and has almost 20% of Canada's forested land, lumbering didn't begin seriously in the province until the 1850's. BC's rugged terrain and the lack of a reasonable trade route to Europe from BC made BC late to join in this industry. However, the early industry cut down the huge trees close to the tidewater and served markets scattered around the Pacific and as distant as South Africa.

British Columbia's forestry industry increased dramatically with the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway in the 1880s, as well as the completion of the Panama Canal in 1914. The Panama Canal is a man-made 60 kilometer waterway in Panama that connects the Atlantic Ocean with the Pacific Ocean. It saved ships from having to go from BC all the way around the tip of South America to get to the Atlantic Ocean, making the trip to Europe much shorter.

In 1917, British Columbia passed the forestry production of every other province in Canada, and by the late 1920's British Columbia was producing half of Canada's annual cut of timber.

# Sustainable Forestry Management Practices

As long as the trees are replanted at the same rate as they are cut down wood will be a renewable resource. **Sustainable forest management** is a way of using and caring for forests so as to maintain their environmental, social and economic values and benefits over time.

Today, **Canada is a world leader in sustainable forest management**, applying it across the country's publicly owned forests – meaning about 94% of all Canada's forest land.

In 1989, the Forestry Act established Forestry Canada. The role of this department is to promote sustainable development of Canada's forests.

In 2003, the fifth National Forest Strategy states that "the long-term health of Canada's forest will be maintained and enhanced, for the benefit of all living things, and for the social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being of all Canadians now and in the future."



How is Canada making sure that our forests will continue to produce trees for the future?

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## **Assignment: Write a letter or diary entry**

**Choice A)** Write a letter home or a diary entry that discusses daily life of an early logger. Make sure to talk about what your job is specifically and what life is like working in a logging camp. Your writing should be at least three paragraphs long.

**Your letter/diary entry clearly indicates:**

- who you are and where you are from
- what your job is
- what the life of an early logger might have been like

OR

**Choice B)** Write a letter home or a diary entry that discusses daily life as a tree planter. Make sure to talk about what your job is specifically and what life is like working as a tree planter. You will have to do a bit of research for this writing. A quick internet search will show many images and several tree planters have written about the experience. Your writing should be at least three paragraphs long.

**Your letter/diary entry clearly indicates:**

- what your job is like specifically
- what the life of a tree planter is like

**Share your writing with a family member or a peer.**

**Extension:** Record yourself reading your letter. You may dress up in clothing that represents what loggers might wear. Share your video in person or digitally to a family member, friend, or classroom teacher.