

Black Canadian Veterans' Stories Website Exploration

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Black Canadian Veterans' Stories website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the site's name, "BLACK CANADIAN VETERANS STORIES", and a language selector for "English" and "Français". The main navigation menu includes "Home", "Stories & Articles", "Gallery", "Videos & Media", and "More".

The main header features a large, dark background with a pattern of red poppies. The title "BLACK CANADIAN VETERANS STORIES" is prominently displayed in white, with a gold maple leaf icon to the left. On the left side of the header, there are social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

The main content area is divided into three sections. On the left is a portrait of a young Black man in a military uniform. In the center, the text reads "BLACK VETERANS THEIR STORIES OUR CANADIAN HISTORY" in gold, with a gold maple leaf icon below it. Underneath this is the "Legacy Voices Canada 150 Project" title. The central text block contains a welcome message: "Welcome to the Black Canadian Veteran's website. The intent of this site is to raise awareness of the contribution made by Black Canadians who served in the Canadian Military during conflict and in peacetime. Black Canadians have a long tradition of service to Canada. All served with distinction and in some cases made the ultimate sacrifice." Below this is a paragraph: "For many years the stories of Black veterans were not shared in the mainstream media or textbooks. This site will be a small step in ensuring these important stories are shared with the accuracy and the respect these veterans deserve. The site is a tool for educators, students and those...". On the right is a portrait of an older Black man in a suit.

At the bottom center, there is a copyright notice: "© 2023 by BVC."

Teacher's Overview: Website Exploration

Good day, fellow educational professional.

The objective of this package is to have students explore the contribution of Black veterans to Canada's development as a nation. This material provided by [Black Canadian Veterans Stories website](#).

This package can be used in whole or in part to advance your practice. It contains a number of components, and based on your needs and available time you can select which elements that best fit your outcomes.

As we are aware, the topic of Black contributions to the development of Canada has become a prominent issue in education. Black people were part of Canada's history long before we existed as a nation. Some arrived with the British Navy in what would become Nova Scotia. This institution contained sailors from all corners of the British Empire. The first large-scale immigration of free Blacks to the British North American colonies occurred after the American Revolution. The British had made promises to them, in exchange for their loyalty. The descendants of this group of pioneers would later form the core of the men of No. 2 Construction Battalion. Another major wave of Black emigration to Canada came as the terminus of the *Underground Railroad*. Slavery was abolished in the British Empire with the passing of the *Slavery Abolition Act* in 1833, which came into effect on August 1, 1834. This made Canada into a safe haven for escaped slaves. Through this railway, a number of Blacks moved into what is now called Ontario, establishing themselves in places like Wilberforce, Dawn Settlement, Elgin Settlement, the Queen's Bush and Birchtown. The next major round of immigration came in the 1960s, when large numbers of Caribbean women came to Canada as domestic labour under the West Indian Domestic Scheme. After a year, they would become permanent residents and were able to bring in other family members. Most recently, Canada has experienced a wave of Black migration directly from the African continent as a result of the Immigration Point System first introduced in 1967.

The Exploration

Context:

The story of the Black presence in Canada is long and unique. Too often, the stories of Black Canadians are mixed with or overridden by the narrative of African Americans.

Black people have been a part of Canada's history long before we existed as a nation. Some arrived early with the British Royal Navy in what would eventually become Nova Scotia. This institution contained sailors from all corners of the British Empire, including Blacks, Bengals, Sikhs, and Chinese. In New France, the Atlantic Slave trade would see some Blacks joining already enslaved First Nations.

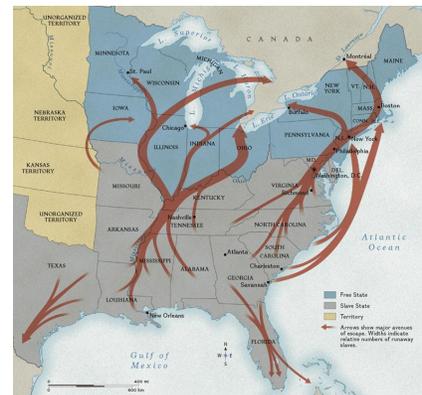
The first large-scale immigration of free Blacks to the British North American (BNA) colonies occurred after the American Revolution, in 1783. Britain had made promises to these Black Loyalists, in exchange for their support during the Revolution, promises they later failed to honour. The descendants of this group of pioneers would later form the core of *No. 2 Construction Battalion's* Canadian enlistment.

Another major wave of Black immigration to Canada came as the terminus of the *Underground Railroad*, a system of secret routes and safe houses that actively assisted runaway African American slaves. Slavery was ended in the British Empire with the passage of the *Slavery Abolition Act* in 1833, which came into effect on August 1, 1834. This turned BNA into a safe haven for escaped African American slaves. Through this *Railway*, a number of Blacks moved into what is now Ontario, establishing themselves in places like Wilberforce, Dawn Settlement, Elgin Settlement, the Queen's Bush and Birchtown.

The next major round of immigration occurred in the 1960s as large numbers of Caribbean women came to Canada as domestic labour through the *West Indian Domestic Scheme*. After a year, they became permanent residents and were able to bring other family members to Canada. This group would establish the powerful Caribbean presence in Toronto and Caribana.

Most recently, Canada has experienced a wave of Black migration directly from the African continent as a result of the Immigration Point System first introduced in 1967.

The purpose of our work today is to examine the military contributions of these Black Canadians to our development as a nation.



Black Canadian Veterans Stories

“The intent of this site is to raise awareness of the contribution made by Black Canadians who served in the Canadian Military during conflict and in peacetime. Black Canadians have a long tradition of service to Canada. All served with distinction and in some cases made the ultimate sacrifice.”

<https://www.blackcanadianveterans.com/>

Step One:



Go to the website linked above and open the *Stories & Articles* tab. Use the Search window to locate “Lincoln Alexander” and answer the following questions:

1. Where and when was he born?
2. What is his family background?
3. What part of the Armed Forces did he join and when?
4. What did he do after his military experience?
5. What makes him exceptional?

From the same Stories section of the website, choose three individuals with different yellow tags (Great War, Veteran’s Profiles, Women, Airforce, Army, etc.) and answer the same five questions.

Step Two:

Answer the following questions in your notes:

- Thinking about the individuals as a group, describe one thing that you learned that you did not know before.
- What kinds of activities were these individuals involved in during the war?
- What happened to them after the conflict was over?

Step Three:

Historians write in a particular way to provide proof of their conclusions. You have examined three individuals. Using the attached form and a Black veteran other than Lincoln Alexander, create a paragraph outline that answers the following questions:

Of the individuals you selected, which do you feel made the most significant impact on Canada as a nation?

Historical Essay Paragraph Outline: Who do you feel made the most significant impact on Canada as a nation?

<p>Thesis or Main Argument. A single sentence that does not provide evidence, but simply states what you will be proving</p>	
<p>Argument 1 statement PLUS what evidence do you have to prove it? (this evidence should be a short quote from the website)</p>	
<p>Argument 2 statement PLUS what evidence do you have to prove it? (this evidence should be a short quote from the website)</p>	
<p>Argument 3 statement PLUS what evidence do you have to prove it? (this evidence should be a short quote from the website)</p>	
<p>Conclusion: what have you proven and how?</p>	

Example: **Who do you feel made the most significant impact on Canada as a nation?**

Thesis or Main Argument. A single sentence that does not provide evidence, but simply states what you will be proving	Lincoln Alexander changed what was possible for Black Canadians.
Argument 1 statement PLUS what evidence do you have to prove it? (this evidence should be a short quote from the website)	Acceptance into the Airforce. “He enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force on 20 October 1942... as a radio operator.”
Argument 2 statement PLUS what evidence do you have to prove it? (this evidence should be a short quote from the website)	Member of Parliament “In June 1979 Prime Minister Joe Clark appointed Mr. Alexander as Minister of Labour, the first Black-Canadian to be a cabinet minister.”
Argument 3 statement PLUS what evidence do you have to prove it? (this evidence should be a short quote from the website)	Standing against Racism “Mr. Alexander was vocal about racial injustice.”
Conclusion: what have you proven and how?	Lincoln Alexander’s acceptance into the RCAF, becoming a Cabinet Minister and acting against racism proves his is the most significant contribution to Canada’s development as a nation.