

# What We Choose to Remember

## Teacher's Guide: Activity 2 PDF



The film **What We Choose To Remember** was produced by ELAN (English Language Arts Network) with funding from the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise. The Teacher's Guide was created by Chantal Clabrough, Social Sciences Teacher, B.A., M.A. Teaching and Learning McGill University (Winner 2023 Governor General's Award for Excellence in Teaching History), in collaboration with Guy Rex Rodgers.

Photos used in this document were provided by participants or are public domain.

## Activity 2: Does a Street Name or a Flag Matter?



Montreal's coat-of-arms was initially unveiled in 1833 with four floral emblems: beaver, rose, shamrock and thistle. In 1938, the beaver was replaced with the fleur-de-lys. In 2017, the white pine symbol was added at the center, and the date of unveiling the new flag coincided with the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

*Teachers can show this 2-minute video on the many changes to Montreal's flag:*

<https://www.mtl.org/en/experience/montreals-flag-coat-arms>

*This 5-minute video explains the choice of the white pine:*

<https://montreal.ca/en/articles/montreals-flag-and-coat-arms-38303>

# Introductory Activity

5-15 Minutes

Teachers may use the first part of this activity as an introduction before watching the film (either in sections or in its entirety).

Selected Clips:

Historical overview 00:00 - 6:56

Vanishing Anglos section 1:03:01 - 1:06:07

Students:

The narrator, Guy Rex Rodgers, starts the film by asking passersby on a busy Montreal street if they know what the symbols on the city of Montreal's flag mean. Many do not.

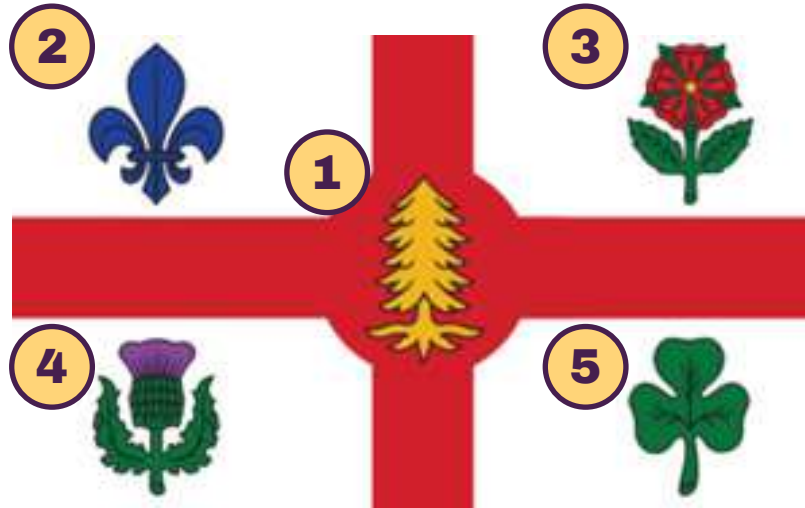
Do you know what the symbols on Montreal's flag stand for?

Teachers:

Ask students to brainstorm with a partner or in small groups what the symbols on the Montreal flag represent. You may also ask them if they have any information or history about the five communities represented on the flag. See the answer key for details.

# Intro Activity

Study the flag with a partner or in a group and explain what the 5 symbols represent:



## Questions

1. White Pine

2. Blue Fleur-de-Lys

3. The Red Rose of Lancaster

4. Purple Thistle

5. Green Shamrock

## Optional Group Discussion Questions

1. Why do we have flags?
2. Why should it matter what a flag symbolizes?
3. Why did Montreal update the city of Montreal's flag only recently in 2017? Why wasn't it changed before?
4. What would a flag representing your family history look like?
5. What symbols or colours are important to you if you had to make your flag about yourself?

## Activity 2A: What's your flag?



Does the city where you live have a flag? Do you know what it means?

Research your city's flag. Include information on the symbols, colours and history.

Write up your information in the form of a report. Cite the sources you use correctly. Try using [easybib.com](http://easybib.com)

# Evaluation Rubric

Category	5	4	3	2-1	Checklist
<b>CONTENT\ INFORMATION DEVELOPMENT</b>	Ideas are very well developed with an in-depth analysis and explanation.	Ideas are developed with some missing explanations and lacking some analysis.	Ideas are developed with few explanations and little analysis.	Ideas are not developed with no explanations and no analysis.	Picture of flag Meaning of symbols or colours of flag Research
<b>ORGANIZATION: Written</b>	No typos. Excellent use of grammar.	Few typos. Good use of grammar.	Several typos. Use of grammar sparingly.	Numerous typos. Poor grammar.	Organization of ideas/facts/research Written production
<b>Bibliography</b>	Bibliography in correct format.	Bibliography is correct.	Bibliography is incorrect.	Bibliography is missing.	Bibliography (correct format, try easybib.com)
<b>COMMENTS:</b>					<b>TOTAL:</b>  ____ /10

## Activity 2B: What's in a name?



### Student Short Answer Response:

One class, including research time or as a take-home assignment.

In 2019, Amherst Street in downtown Montreal was changed to Atateken Street.

Jeffery Amherst was the commander-in-chief of the British forces during the Seven Years' War, led the British to victory over the French in 1759 and ultimate control of much of the North American continent. He also encouraged the spread of smallpox via blankets given to Indigenous peoples during Pontiac's War and Indigenous insurrection against the British.

“Extirpate This Execrable Race’: The Dark History of Jeffery Amherst | CBC News.”  
CBC News, CBC/Radio Canada, 29 Apr. 2017,  
[www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/jeffery-amherst-history-complex-1.4089019](http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/jeffery-amherst-history-complex-1.4089019).



## Group discussion: 5 minutes

Street names change over time, but why are they changed? Does it matter?

Students: Research street and place names where you live, particularly those renamed. You can consult your local librarian, historical association or city hall to inquire about name changes in your area.

Pick one name and write a small report on what the street, village or geographic feature used to be called. Explain who or what it was named after. Explain why and when it was renamed.

Reflection: Do you agree with the name change? Explain in your response.

Include an adequately annotated bibliography. Try [easybib.com](http://easybib.com)

# Evaluation Rubric

Category	5	4	3	2-1	Checklist
<b>CONTENT\ INFORMATION DEVELOPMENT</b>	Ideas are very well developed with an in-depth analysis and explanation.	Ideas are developed with some missing explanations and lacking some analysis.	Ideas are developed with few explanations and little analysis.	Ideas are not developed with no explanations and no analysis.	Street name- old & new Historical explanation Reflection question: Do you agree with the name change?
<b>ORGANIZATION: Written Bibliography</b>	No typos. Excellent use of grammar. Bibliography in correct format.	Few typos. Good use of grammar. Bibliography is correct.	Several typos. Use of grammar sparingly. Bibliography needs to be corrected.	Numerous typos. Poor grammar. Bibliography is missing.	Organization of ideas/facts/ research Written production Bibliography (correct format, try easybib.com)
<b>COMMENTS:</b>					<b>TOTAL:</b>  _____ /10

## Activity 2 Answer Keys



### Does a street name or flag really matter?



#### Montreal's flag: Five symbols

##### 1. White Pine:

Symbol of the Great Tree of Peace. A white pine's needles grow in clusters of five, and this particular pine tree was chosen to symbolize the history of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy of the five nations of "the people of the long house": Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawks), Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas and Senecas. Montreal grew exponentially, with over 50% being English-speakers.

##### 2. Blue Fleur-de-Lys:

Represents the French roots of the city of Montreal. French explorer Jacques Cartier first visited the Iroquois village of Hochelaga on today's island of Montreal in 1535. Montreal, previously called Ville Marie by the French, was founded in 1642 as a mission to evangelize Indigenous peoples. French culture flourished in New France's institutions, present-day Quebec, and Canada, particularly the French language and Catholic religion.

##### 3. The Red Rose of Lancaster:

Represents the history of English in Montreal. After several attempts to take New France in battle, the British were victorious at the Battle of the Plains of Abraham in Quebec City in 1759. Montreal surrendered to British forces in 1760, becoming a British colony until the creation of Canada in 1867. British culture, business and institutions were pivotal to Montreal's history. Note the woman in the film thinks it is the Yorkshire rose, which is white.

##### 4. Purple Thistle:

Represents the Scottish heritage in Montreal. Scots first arrived in Canada in the 17th century and dominated the fur trade and commercial life in Quebec beginning after 1759. Scots were critical in developing Quebec's society as farmers, teachers, architects, politics and business. James McGill is perhaps Montreal's most famous Scott. He donated money and the land on what is today McGill University.

##### 5. Green Shamrock:

Represents the Irish heritage in Montreal. The Irish made important economic and cultural contributions to Montreal and Quebec society, first arriving in the 17th century as military with the French, the Irish spread from Newfoundland into Acadia (Maritime provinces) and arrived in large numbers at the British colony in the 19th century due to the Irish potato famine. The Irish actively participated in Quebec and Montreal's cultural, business and political institutions.

## Optional Group Discussion Questions

1. Why do we have flags?
2. Why should it matter what a flag symbolizes?
3. Why did Montreal update the city of Montreal's flag only recently in 2017? Why wasn't it changed before?
4. What would a flag representing your family history look like?
5. What symbols or colours would be important to you if you had to make your own flag about yourself?

## Activity 2A: What's your flag?



Does the city where you live have a flag? Do you know what it means?

Research your city's flag. Include information on the symbols, colours and history.



***Encourage students to consult their local historical association, city hall or library.***

Write up your information in the form of a report. Cite the sources you use correctly. Try using [easybib.com](http://easybib.com)

## Activity 2B: What's in a name?



### Student Short Answer Response:

One class, including research time or as a take-home assignment.

*Group discussion: 5 minutes:*

Street names change over time, but why are they changed? Does it matter?

Students: Research street and place names where you live, particularly those renamed.

Reflection: Do you agree with the name change? Explain in your response.

Include a properly annotated bibliography. Try [easybib.com](http://easybib.com)