



The Shared Histories Project Workbook

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Storytelling is important. It allows us to learn about the world and ourselves, understand how history has shaped our present and imagine new possibilities for our futures.

The Shared Histories Project invites you to honour Black changemakers whose stories resonate with you. Submit a creative profile featuring a Black changemaker whose story you think should be remembered.

A number of submissions will be selected to be featured in a published book.

- 1 Research Black changemakers
- 2 Select a Black changemaker to feature
- 3 Gather information
- 4 Develop a creative profile
- 5 Submit!

1 Research Black changemakers

Consider Black artists, athletes, scientists, doctors, teachers, astronauts, politicians, advocates, and more who are connected to Canada and have made an important difference in the world.

2 Select a Black changemaker to feature

Name of the Black changemaker selected:

Tip:

To increase the chance that your submission will be selected for publication, pick a lesser-known changemaker with a big impact. Submissions featuring changemakers published in Trailblazers (2020) will not be considered for publication.

Why did you choose to feature this changemaker? What about their story resonates with you? Why do you think it's important for their story to be remembered?

Who inspires you?

Whose story is missing from history books?

3 Gather information

Get to know the changemaker you selected! Gather information using the internet, books, old newspaper articles and other sources. Use the next two pages to write your information and don't forget to keep track of your sources!

About the Black changemaker

When were they born?

Where were they born?

*When did they come to Canada
(if applicable)?*

*Why did they come to Canada
(if applicable)?*

Where did they grow up?

*What province(s) are they
connected to?*

What was their family like?

What was their life like growing up?

What are 2-3 interesting facts about the changemaker?

What were their interests and passions?

What are 3 of their key personality traits?

What obstacles did they face?

Provide 2-3 specific examples of what they've done to make a difference.

What impact did they have on their community, the country and/or the world?

Why is it important for their story to be remembered?

Sources

List the sources you used to find key information

Tips!

Check your sources

Make sure the websites you use for research are credible and the information is accurate.

Avoid plagiarism

Plagiarism means using someone else's work without giving them proper credit. Make sure that your final submission is original and that you credit your sources.

Review your work

Use additional paper to create a mind map or a few versions of the profile before you get to the final. Edit and proofread your work before submitting it. Consider asking a teacher, guardian or friend to review and provide feedback before finalizing.

4 Develop a creative piece to tell the story

Now it's time to tell the story! The creative profile includes three parts: (1) a summary, (2) an illustration, and (3) a poem (optional).

Summary

In 200 words or less, introduce the world to the Black changemaker you selected. Use the information you gathered to write about their profile and impact.

Hint: The summary should answer who, what, where, when, why and how.

Illustration

Draw a portrait of the Black changemaker you selected. Keep the background plain and try to use up as much of the space representing the Black changemaker.

Poem (optional challenge)

Using rhyme, write a short poem in honour of the Black changemaker you selected.

Think about the poem as a nursery-rhyme-like summary to help people remember the changemaker's story.

The poem can be as short as 4 lines

Submit!

About the storyteller

• What is your full name?

• What is your age?

• Do you self-identify as Black?

• Full name of legal guardian (if storyteller is under the age of 19):

• Primary contact email address (please include contact email of legal guardian if storyteller is under the age of 19):

Visit counterstory.ca/shared-histories to submit your creative profile by April 1, 2024.

Email contact@counterstory.ca for any questions, accommodation requests and workshop inquiries.



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