

THE WCR LEARNING COMMUNITY

This project is made possible through funding from the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.



The rain did not stop people.
Photo: Ward Perrin, PNG

Thousands of people walked to honour survivors

Adapted from *The Vancouver Sun*

Level 2

It was raining. Everyone held umbrellas. Seventy thousand people walked to honour First Nations people.

The walk ended a week of events. The events celebrated Aboriginal heritage.

The week was a time to remember the hurt caused by residential schools. It was a time to look forward to a better future.

Remembering was part of the process this week for Mavis Jeffries. Telling her story was hard.

She felt ill. She nearly fainted. The support she received was like a warm blanket.

Dr. Bernice King spoke at the walk. Her father was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He worked for equal rights for American black people in the 1950s and '60s. In 1968, he was shot and killed.

The Canadian government took aboriginal children away from their homes. They had to live at residential schools. The schools lasted 150 years.

The children who went to these schools are called survivors. These survivors are now adults.



Mavis Jeffries and her daughter came to walk.
Photo: Ward Perrin, PNG

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Reading Exercise

Truth and Reconciliation Walk

Write answers to these questions? Use a complete sentence.

1. How long did we have residential schools in Canada?

2. How many people walked?

3. What was the weather like on the day of the walk?

4. Who spoke to the crowd?

5. What do we call the children who went to residential schools?

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Answer key

Truth and Reconciliation Walk

These are sample sentences to answer the questions. You answers may use different words.

1. We had residential schools for 150 years.
2. 70,000 people walked.
3. It was a wet, rainy day.
4. Dr. Bernice King spoke to the crowd.
5. We call these children survivors.