Easy Stories: People

Joan Acosta

bestofthereader.ca

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Welcome

This e-book is part of a series called Best of The Reader. The stories in the e-books are from *The Westcoast Reader*. It is a newspaper for adults who are improving their English reading skills.

Easy Stories: People

This e-book is a collection of stories from other e-books in this series. These stories are at the lowest reading level.

Reading level

Most of the e-books in this series have three reading levels. This book has only one level:

Level 1

To the reader

✔ You can use this book in a classroom, with a tutor, or on your own.

✔ Each story has exercises to go with it. These exercises can help you improve your English and reading skills.

✔ You can check your answers at the end of the book.

To the teacher

There is a Teachers' Guide on this website. The guide has ideas and suggestions on how to use the e-books with students.

Acknowledgements

The author gratefully acknowledges the financial support of Capilano University for this project.

A special thank you to the learners and teachers who helped choose the articles for this book.

All of the material in this book first appeared in *The Westcoast Reader* (1982 to 2009). Some of the articles have been updated. Most of the exercises and activities for learners are based on material from *The Westcoast Reader* Teachers' Notes (1982 to 2009).

Credits

Photos

Front cover: Rochette, Wikimedia Commons; Gbedze, Yu, Sedins: *The Vancouver Sun;* Giffin: *The Province*

Page 5: Aglukark: *The Vancouver Sun;* sign: Sebastien Lapointe; Page 8: Iva Makarov; Page 9: Canada Post; Page 10: *The Province*; Pages 12, 14, 16, 19, 22, 25, 27, 29: *The Vancouver Sun*

Illustrations

Page 5, 7, 9, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 28, 29, 30: Guy Parsons;

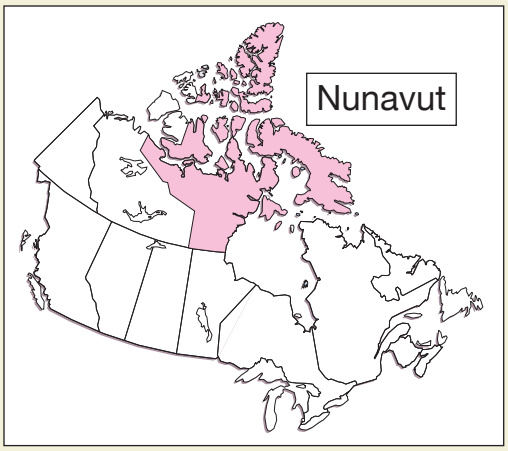
Page 8, 10, 11, 12, 14 (map), 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25: Nola Johnston: Page 8: (logo) Moose Cree First Nation

Susan Aglukark

Susan Aglukark is a singer.
She grew up in Nunavut.
Susan sings
in English and Inuktitut.
She has won many awards
for her music.

Did you know?

- Nunavut is a territory of Canada.



- About 80 percent of the people in Nunavut are Inuit.
- Most Inuit speak Inuktitut.

A stop sign in Inuktitut and English

How do you say it?

Aglukark (say: ah-GLEW-kark)
Nunavut (say: NEW-nah-voot)
Inuktitut (say: in-NOOK-ti-toot
Inuit (say: IN-you-it)

The Westcoast Reader 5/1995

Is it a or b?

Circle the correct answers.

1. Susan Aglukark is a ___.
   (a.) singer
   b. nurse

2. Susan grew up in ___.
   a. Yukon
   b. Nunavut

3. Susan sings in English and ___.
   a. Portuguese
   b. Inuktitut

4. Susan has ___ many awards.
   a. won
   b. sold

5. ___ is a territory of Canada.
   a. Ontario
   b. Nunavut

6. Most people in Nunavut are ___
   a. Haida
   b. Inuit

Canada

Here is a list of Canada's 10 provinces and three territories. Fill in the missing (capital) letters.

Provinces

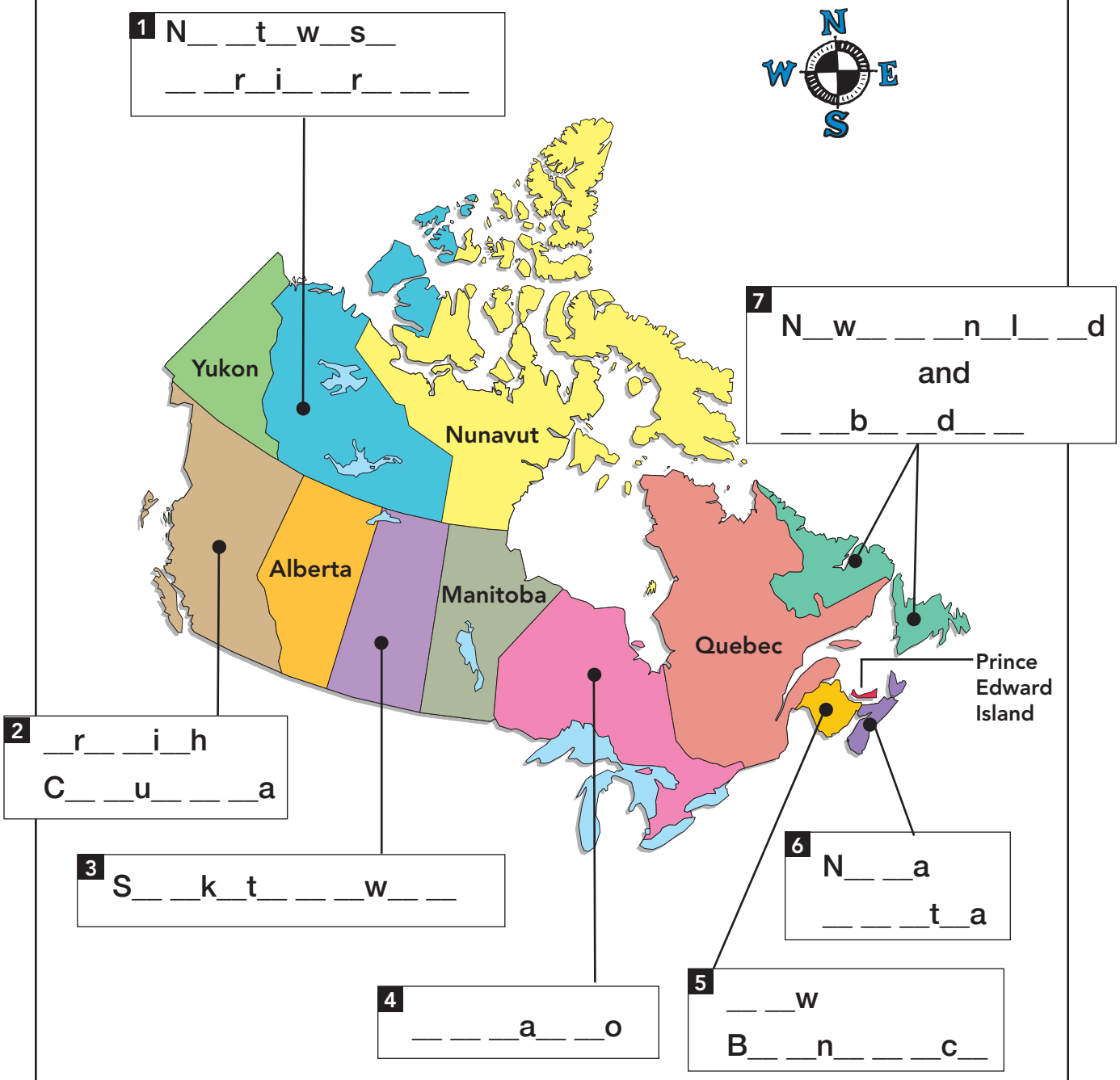
1. Alberta
2. __ritish __olumbia
3. __anitoba
4. __ew __runswick
5. __ewfoundland and __abrador
6. __ova __cotia
7. __ntario
8. __rince __dward __sland
9. __uebec
10. __askatchewan

Territories

1. __orthwest __erritories
2. __unavut
3. __ukon

Map of Canada

Fill in the names of the missing provinces and territories.

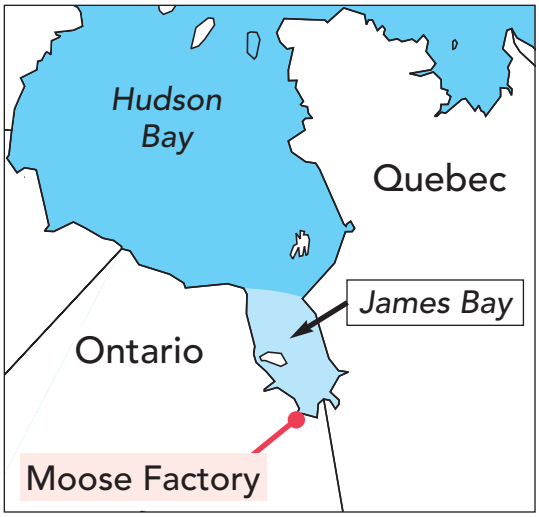


Jonathan Cheechoo

Jonathan Cheechoo played for the San Jose Sharks hockey team for seven years.

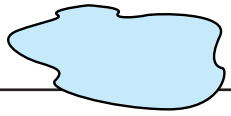
Jonathan Cheechoo
is a hockey player.
He has played for two teams
in the National Hockey League
(NHL).

Jonathan is from Ontario.
He is from
the Moose Cree First Nation.



Jonathan Cheechoo
was born in Moose Factory.
It is a small community
on James Bay.

The weather in Moose Factory
is very cold in the winter.
Jonathan learned to skate
on a frozen pond.



Finish the chart

Write the singular or plural for each word.

Singular	Plural
1. moose	moose
2.	beavers
3. mouse	
4. bird	
5.	sheep
6. tiger	
7. goose	

Singular	Plural
8. fox	
9.	deer
10. salmon	
11. monkey	
12.	wolves
13. cow	
14. calf	

Moose

- Moose live in most parts of Canada.
- In the summer, moose live near lakes and marshes. They eat water plants.
- An adult male moose is about two metres high.
- Male moose have antlers.

Alix works at a garden centre

Alix Giffin works
at a garden centre.
She likes her job.
She says, " I am always busy."

Alix uses pruning shears to cut off dead leaves.

Alix uses these at work

pruning shears

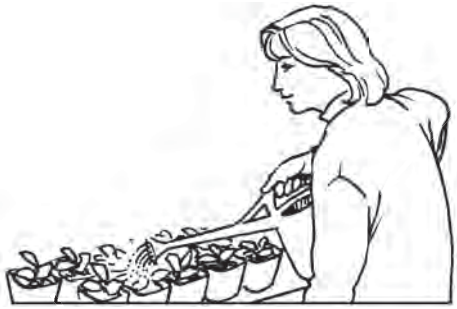
trowel

gardening gloves

watering can

What does Alix do?

✔ Alix waters plants.



✔ She moves plants.

✔ She helps customers.

The Westcoast Reader 9/2005 • Adapted from *The Province*

Unscramble the words

Put the words in the right order to make sentences.

1. works centre garden at Alix a

   Alix works at a garden centre.

2. her Alix job likes

   _____

3. busy is always Alix

   _____

Gardening

Fill in the blanks to finish the words.

1 t r o w e l

2 __ __ __d__ __ __n__

__ __o__ __ __

3 w__ __ __r__ __ __

__ __n

4 p__ __ __ i__ g

__h__ __ __s

Honoré has a radio show

Honoré Gbedze

Honoré Gbedze is from Togo.
He came to Canada in 2000.

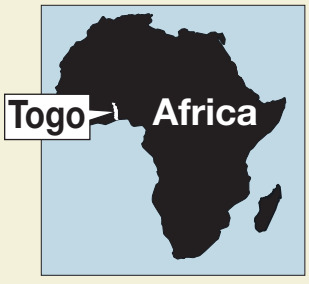
Honoré has a radio show.
It has news about Africa.
It also has African music.

Honoré says,
"We have lots of immigrants
from Africa in Canada.
They like to hear news
from their homeland."

How do you say it?
Honoré (say: on-oh-**reh**)
Gbedze (say: **beh**-jeh)
Togo (say: **toh**-goh)

Did you know?

✔ Togo is a small country on the west coast of Africa.



✔ The official language of Togo is French. Many people in Togo also speak one or more African languages.

✔ More than 34,000 immigrants from Africa live in BC. Most of these people live in the Vancouver area.

The Westcoast Reader 9/2008 • Adapted from *The Vancouver Sun*

What's the word?

Unscramble the letters and write the words on the lines.

1. Honoré Gbedze is from _____.
   goTo
2. He came to _____ in 2000.
   anCdaa
3. Honoré has a _____ show.
   doair
4. The radio show has news about _____.
   rifAca
5. The show also has African _____.
   ucmsi

Two words in one

Match each word on the left with a word on the right. Then write the new word on the line.

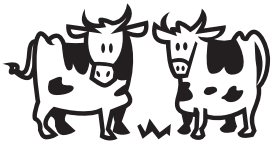
1.	home	ball	homeland
2.	news	land	_____
3.	base	coat	_____
4.	down	room	_____
5.	rain	paper	_____
6.	bed	town	_____

A family farm

Len and Gerda Kooyman and their seven sons

Len and Gerda Kooyman
have a farm near Chilliwack.
The Kooymans have seven sons.
Everyone in the family
helps on the farm.

The Kooymans have 2,000 cows.
They milk the cows every day.



Chilliwack is 100 kilometres
east of Vancouver.
It is near the Fraser River.

The Westcoast Reader 5/2002 • Adapted from *The Vancouver Sun*

Unscramble the words

Put the words in the right order to make sentences.

1. family farm Kooyman a has The

   The Kooyman family has a farm.

2. Chilliwack near The is farm

   _____

3. have The 2,000 Kooymans cows

   _____

Baby animals

Match each adult animal with the correct baby animal.

1. cow g	a. kitten
2. dog ___	b. lamb
3. sheep ___	c. fawn
4. cat ___	d. gosling
5. hen ___	e. puppy
6. deer ___	f. chick
7. bear ___	g. calf
8. goose ___	h. cub

Animal sounds

Match the animals with the sounds they make.

1. cows f	a. quack
2. dogs ___	b. oink
3. ducks ___	c. buzz
4. lions ___	d. hiss
5. bees ___	e. bark
6. pigs ___	f. moo
7. frogs ___	g. roar
8. snakes ___	h. croak

Mei Yu is a cartoon artist

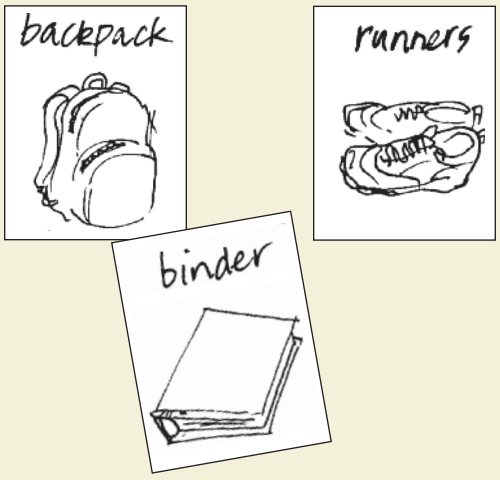
Mei Yu likes to draw cartoons.

Mei (say: may) Yu is 20 years old.
She is a cartoon artist.

Mei is also a teacher.
She teaches children
how to draw cartoons.

Mei was born in China.
She came to Canada in 1989.
She learned English quickly.
"I drew pictures to remember
the English words," she says.

How did Mei
learn new words?
She wrote the word.
Then she drew a picture.

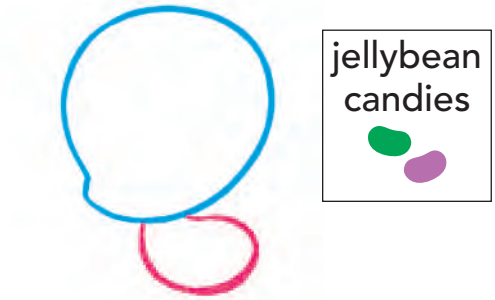


The Westcoast Reader 1/2007 • Adapted from *The Vancouver Sun*

Mei teaches you how to draw a puppy

1 Start with a big head.

2 Draw the body like a jellybean.



3 Keep the legs short.

4 Draw big ears. Add eyebrows. End the tail in a point.

5 Draw a small nose and mouth. Make the eyes big.

6 Erase the extra lines. The puppy is finished.

Answer the questions

Write the answers on the lines.

1. Where is Mei Yu from?

   She is from China.

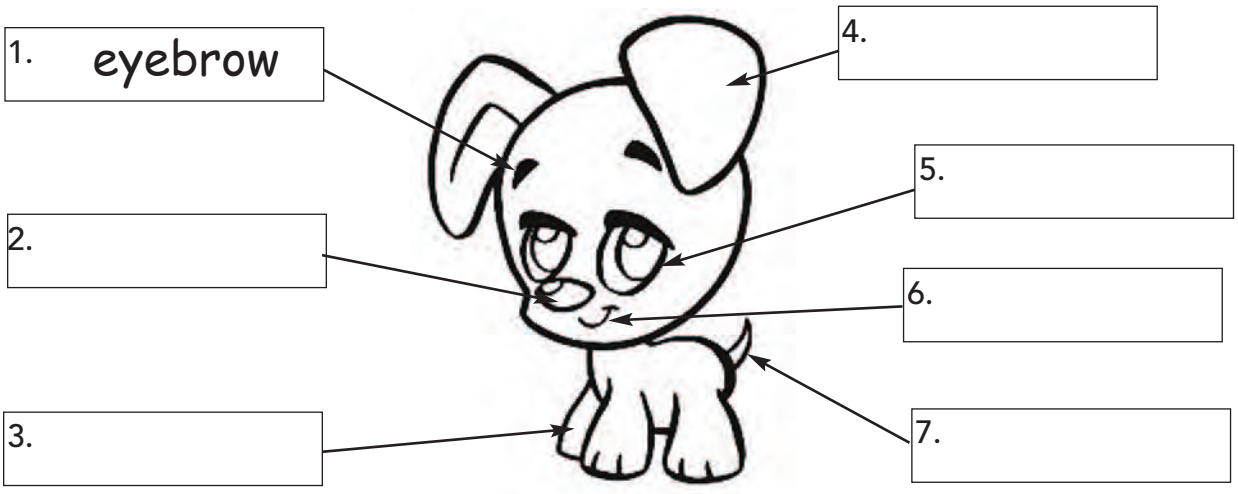
2. When did she come to Canada?

3. Who does she teach?

4. What kind of artist is Mei?

Label the puppy

Write the correct words in the boxes.



tail ear ~~eyebrow~~ leg nose mouth eye

Hannah's pennies help

Hannah Newbury is 8 years old.
She collects money
to help homeless people.

☞ More on page 6

penny

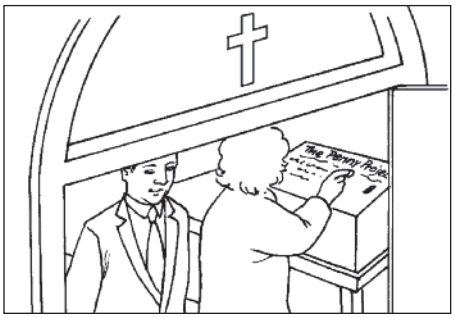
Canada's penny

For many years, Canada had a one-cent coin called a penny. In 2012, the Canadian Mint stopped making pennies. Canada's penny had two maple leaves on it.

maple leaf

How does Hannah help?

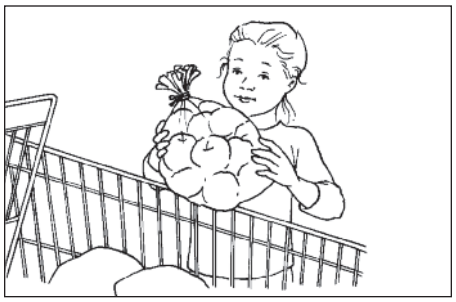
- Hannah collects pennies and other coins at her church.



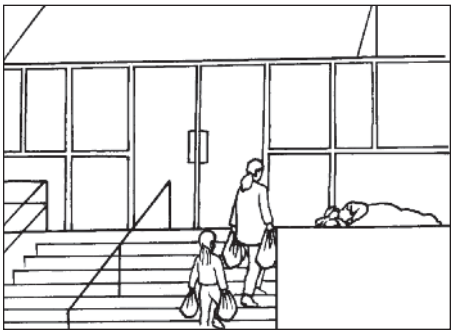
- She puts the coins in special paper rolls.

- Hannah takes the rolls of coins to the bank. She gets bills for the coins.

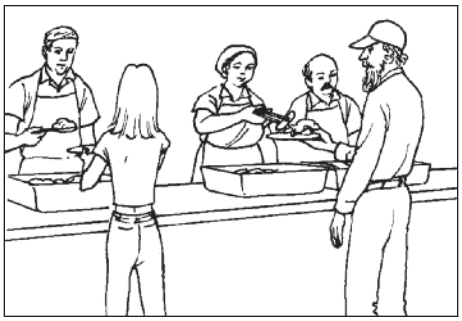
- Hannah buys food with the money.



- Hannah and her mother take the food to a church in downtown Vancouver.



- People at the church use the food to make meals for homeless people.



The Westcoast Reader 12/2008. Updage 2015 • Adapted from *The Vancouver Sun*

What's the word?

Unscramble the letters and write the words on the lines.

1. Hannah Newbury collects _____ to help homeless people.
   yemon

2. Hannah uses the money to buy _____.
   dofo

3. Hannah and her _____ take the food to a church.
   rethmo

4. _____ at the church use the food to make meals.
   eoPpel

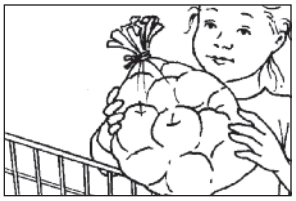
5. The meals are for homeless people in downtown _____.
   canVuevro

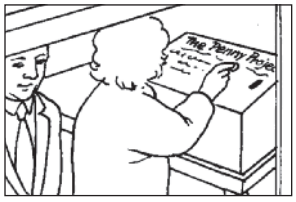
What happened first?

Put the pictures in the correct order.

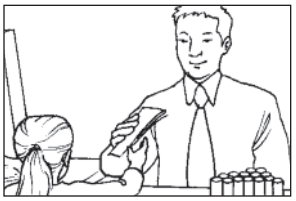
Number ____

Number ____


Number ____


Number ____

Number ____


Number ____

Leo helps Sarah

Sarah Lepp is 21 years old.
She is disabled.
Sarah uses a wheelchair
to get around.

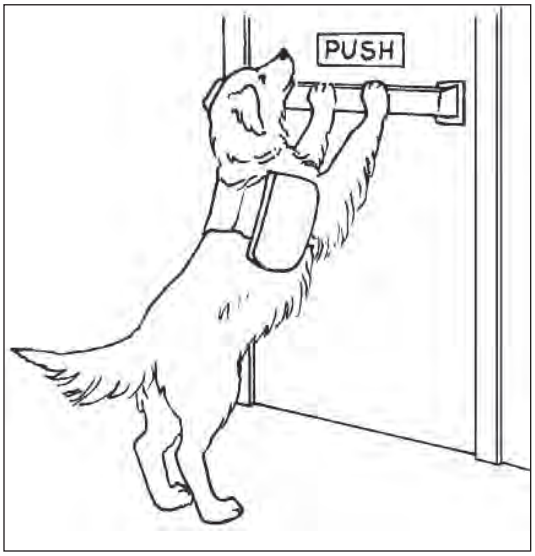
Leo is a service dog.
He lives with Sarah.
He helps Sarah in many ways.

Sarah wants to cross the street. Leo pushes the button for the walk signal.

☞ More on page 23

The Westcoast Reader 1/2006 • Adapted from *The Vancouver Sun*

How does Leo help Sarah?



- Leo opens doors.

- Leo turns lights on and off.

- Leo pulls a strap to open the fridge.

- Leo brings things to Sarah.

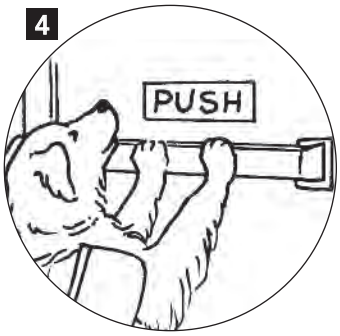
Tell Leo what to do

1

2

3

4



Look at each picture and tell Leo what to do.

1. Turn on the lights. OR Turn off the lights.

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Can you think of two other ways Leo can help Sarah? Write your answers on the lines.

1. _____

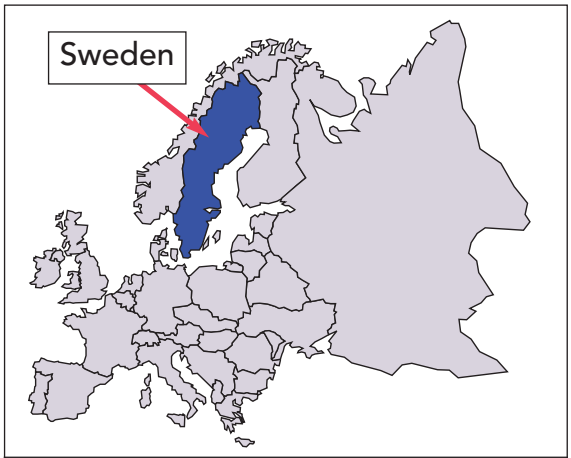
2. _____

Swedish twins are hockey players

Daniel (left) and Henrik in 2000

Daniel and Henrik Sedin
are hockey players.
They play for
the Vancouver Canucks.

The Sedins are twins.
They are from Sweden.
They came to Vancouver
in 2000.



Sweden is in northern Europe.

Played in the Olympics

The Sedin twins
also play for Sweden.
They won a gold medal
at the 2006 Olympic Games.

Henrik (left) and Daniel in 2014

- Henrik was voted the most valuable player in the National Hockey League (NHL) in 2010.
- Henrik and Daniel retired from hockey in 2018.

The Westcoast Reader 3/2006, updated 2018

Label the hockey player

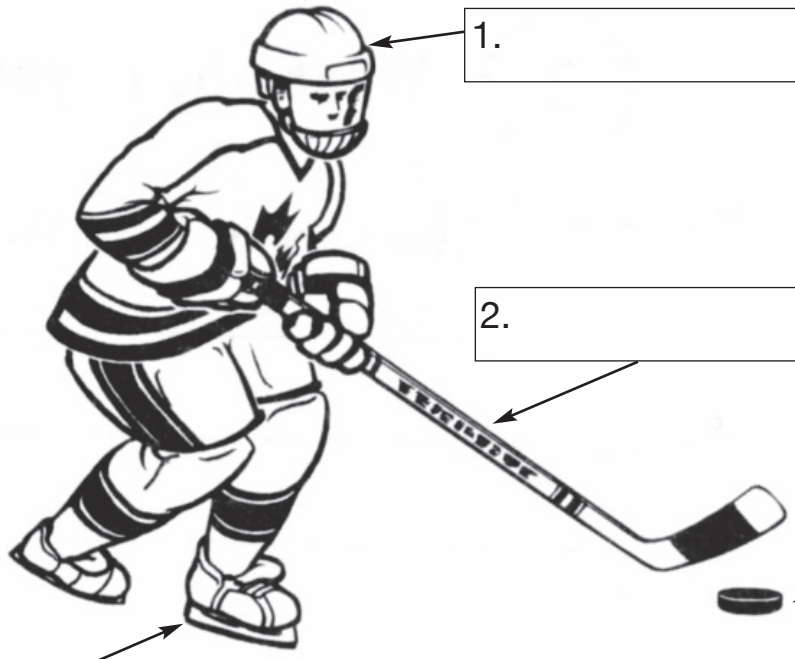
Fill in the blanks with words from the box.

skate

helmet

puck

hockey stick



1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Finish the sentences

Use the words in the boxes to finish the sentences.

twins

years

Vancouver

hockey

Sweden

1. Daniel and Henrik Sedin are _____hockey_____ players.
2. They play for the _____ Canucks.
3. The Sedins are _____.
4. They are from _____.
5. The Sedins were 19 _____ old in 2000.

Joannie is an Olympic athlete

Photo: David W Carmichael • CC-BY SA Wikimedia Commons

Joannie Rochette is 23 years old.
She is from Quebec.
Joannie is a figure skater.
She says, "My dream
is to win a gold medal
at the 2010 Olympics."

How do you say it?
Joannie (say: zho-ann-ee)
Rochette (say: roh-shet)

The Westcoast Reader 3/2009

Joannie won a medal

Many people
will remember Joannie.
Her mother died
during the Olympics.
Joannie was brave.
She skated and won
a bronze medal.

Did you know?

- The 2010 Winter Olympics were in Vancouver and Whistler, British Columbia.
- The 2014 Winter Olympics were in Sochi, Russia.

Photo: David W Carmichael • CC-BY SA Wikimedia Commons

What's the Olympic sport?

Match the name of the Olympic sport with the picture.

1. bobsleigh (bobsled) e

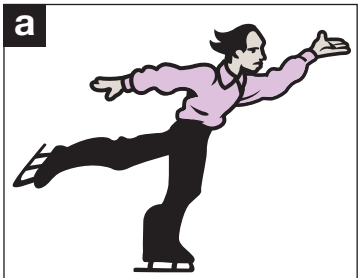
2. speed skating _____

3. ski jumping _____

4. hockey _____

5. figure skating _____

a



b

c

d

e

f

Josh is a Paralympic athlete

Josh Dueck is 28 years old.
He is from British Columbia.

Josh had a skiing accident
in 2004.
He broke his back.
Josh cannot move his legs.
But he still skis.
He uses a sit-ski.
Josh says, "I want to ski
in the Paralympic Games."

How do you say it?
Dueck (say: **dew**-ik)

- The 2010 Paralympic Games were in Vancouver and Whistler, British Columbia.
- More than 500 athletes with disabilities competed in five sports. For example:

Update

- Josh won a silver medal at the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games in Vancouver.
- He won a gold medal and a silver medal at the 2014 Paralympic Games in Sochi, Russia.

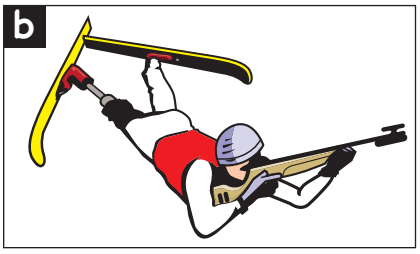
The Westcoast Reader 3/2009

What's the Paralympic sport?

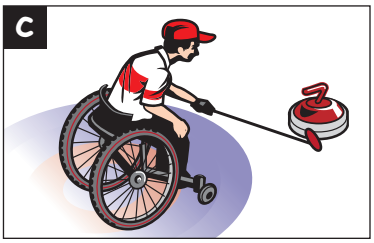
Match the name of the Paralympic sport with the picture.

1. biathlon b

2. alpine skiing _____

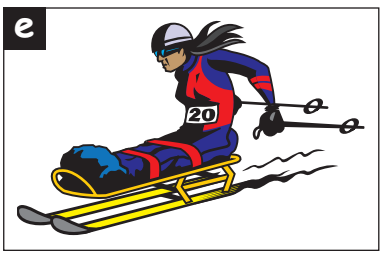


3. wheelchair curling _____



4. ice sledge hockey _____

5. cross-country skiing _____



Find it

Look through this e-book to find these pictures. Each one is part of a larger picture. Write the title of the story that goes with each one.

1

2

3

4

5

6

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

Answers for exercises

Is it a or b? (p 6)
1a 2b 3b 4a 5b 6b

Canada (p 6)
Provinces: 1. Alberta 2. British Columbia
3. Manitoba 4. New Brunswick
5. Newfoundland and Labrador
6. Nova Scotia 7. Ontario
8. Prince Edward Island 9. Quebec
10. Saskatchewan
Territories: 1. Northwest Territories
2. Nunavut 3. Yukon

Map of Canada (p 7)
1. Northwest Territories 2. British Columbia
3. Saskatchewan 4. Ontario
5. New Brunswick 6. Nova Scotia
7. Newfoundland and Labrador

Finish the chart (p 9)
1. moose 2. beaver 3. mice 4. birds
5. sheep 6. tigers 7. geese 8. foxes
9. deer 10. salmon 11. monkeys
12. wolf 13. cows 14. calves

Unscramble the words (p 11)
1. Alix works at a garden centre.
2. Alix likes her job.
3. Alix is always busy.

Gardening (p 11)
1. trowel 2. gardening gloves
3. watering can 4. pruning shears

What's the word? (p 13)
1. Togo 2. Canada 3. radio
4. Africa 5. music

Two words in one (p 13) (possible answers)
1. homeland 2. newspaper 3. baseball
5. downtown 4. raincoat 6. bedroom

Unscramble the words (p 15)
1. The Kooyman family has a farm.
2. The farm is near Chilliwack.
3. The Kooymans have 2,000 cows.

Baby animals (p 15)
1g 2e 3b 4a 5f 6c 7h 8d

Animal sounds (p 15)
1f 2e 3a 4g 5c 6b 7h 8d

Answer the questions (p 18)
1. She is from China.
2. She came to Canada in 1989.
3. She teaches children.
4. She is a cartoon artist.

Label the puppy (p 18)
1. eyebrow 2. nose 3. leg 4. ear
5. eye 6. mouth 7. tail

What's the word? (p 21)
1. money 2. food 3. mother
4. People 5. Vancouver

What happened first? (p 21)
Top row: 2 6 4
Bottom row: 1 5 3

Tell Leo what to do (p 24)
1. Turn on the lights. OR Turn off the lights.
2. Bring me the newspaper.
3. Open the fridge.
4. Open the door.

Label the hockey player (p 26)
1. helmet 2. hockey stick
3. puck 4. skate

Finish the sentences (p 26)
1. hockey 2. Vancouver 3. twins
4. Sweden 5. years

What's the Oympic sport? (p 34)
1e 2f 3c 4d 5a 6b

What's the Paralympic sport? (p 36)
1b 2d 3c 4a 5e

Find it (p 34)
1. Alix works at a garden centre
2. Mei Yu is a cartoon artist
3. Leo helps Sarah
4. Susan Aglukark
5. A family farm
6. Jonathan Cheechoo