Saskatoon River Fieldtrip

*“Rivers are places that renew our spirit, connect us with our past, and link us directly with the flow and rhythm of the natural world.”****—Ted Turner***

**Give three reasons why you think Saskatoon was founded along the river? What benefits did the river provide the settlers? What drawbacks?**

**As you are walking along the river, be aware of your surroundings and observe how the river has shaped the city, or how the city has shaped the river to meet its needs. Draw a mini map of our walk in the space below.**

**River Landing Activities**

**River landing Activity**

1. **Walk along the splash park area, what do you notice?**
2. **What is this an example of?**
3. **Point out areas where humans have impacted the watershed and changed it**
4. **What are the benefits/drawbacks of creating a Dam?**
5. **What pollution issues would we need to consider in Saskatoon due to our location**

**Side-walk chalk Math Work**

**Do you think it is a benefit to live in a city along a river? What benefits? What negatives are there? How can we work to protect the river and the ecosystems around it? Do you have any experiences with the river (like family walks, biking, the beach, boating, etc.)? Do you think most grade 8’s in Saskatchewan have had that opportunities? Why or why not?**

**A river is constantly changing and impacting its surroundings. While we were walking, give us three examples you saw of how the river is changing the environment around it, and how the city was or wasn’t dealing with the problem**

**What are some benefits of leaving a river to be as ‘natural landscape’ as possible**

**What are some drawbacks?**

**What is the purpose of the Weir?**

**Trivia Questions….**

**What first European group came to Saskatoon in hopes of settling?**

**Who was their leader?**

**What were the three first areas of saskatoon?**

**How did the North West Rebellion impact Saskatoon?**

**Name the statue that honors “the prince of the plains” and where is it located?**

**This is a place where ‘great bands use to play’**

**I’m big and red, I have wheels but never move. What am I?**

**Built in \_\_\_\_ was the tallest building in Saskatoon until \_\_\_\_\_**

**The bez is considered on the Canada’s Railroad hotels t/f**

**What order was the three main bridges built in Saskatoon?**

**What is special about how the Broadway Bridge was built?**

**What is the university bridge supposed to look like?**

**Name one reason why the Saskatoon river was hard to transport good down**

**AS we walk we share:**

**Ancient History**

In 1881, a group of temperance activists from Ontario formed the Temperance Colonization Society (TCS), with the idea of creating an agricultural colony on the prairies, dedicated to the ideals of the Temperance Movement, a philosophy which blamed alcohol for most of the ills that beset society. Take away the alcohol, the reasoning went, and you took away the ills.

at the same time, the Canadian government was hoping to stimulate agricultural settlement on the prairies by offering huge blocks of land to colonization companies.

by June of 1882, John Lake--a Methodist minister turned entrepreneur--was scouting out possible colony sites along the South Saskatchewan River.

On the advice of Chief White Cap of Moose Woods, Lake chose the site we now call "Nutana" as a place to plant the new town.

Saskatoon grew slowly. There was no railway and the river was too shallow and too full of shifting sandbars for easy navigation. (One steamboat captain remarked to the effect that one did not sail down the South Saskatchewan so much as hopped from sandbar to sandbar.) Sensationalized newspaper reports of the North-West Rebellion in 1885 also helped discourage settlement. Less than a dozen new settlers a year arrived in the district between 1885-1890.

By 1899 Saskatoon consisted of a few houses on the east side of the river and on the west side was the station house, the section foreman’s house, the Mounted Police barracks, a stone building, a hotel and about six other houses and shacks. In 1901 when the west bank settlement incorporated as a village, it kept the name of Saskatoon. The name of the original settlement on the east side was changed to Nutana. A third settlement, Riversdale, developed west of the railway tracks beginning in 1903. In 1906 with the promise of a traffic bridge and other civic improvements, the three settlements amalgamated to form a city. The trickle of immigrants was becoming a flood and Saskatoon became the fastest growing city in Canada.

Saskatoon’s River Landing has played a key role in the city’s history while the shape and function of the site have changed radically. Before settlement, the riverbanks of the South Saskatchewan were a rest stop for wildlife as well as bison hunting parties following the herds on their yearly migration.

After settlement, early settlers could watch the buildings of the Saskatoon Temperance colony being erected on the other side of the river. A tent city sprang up south of 19th Street when the Barr Colonists rested here before dispersing across the province. Immigration Hall was the first federal building in Saskatoon. Railroads replaced wagon trails. A railroad bridge was built.

False-fronted wood buildings sprang up, housing livery stables, auto retail stores, bicycle shops and boarding houses. James Clinkskill built a grand house at the base of the new traffic bridge. The new power plant brought the promise of technology and modern convenience. Saskatoon experienced a great boom and than an equally dramatic bust.

Chinese immigrants opened shops. River Landing became Chinatown, complete with grocers, services and the Chinese Nationalist League. The city elite looked for ways to reclaim the South Downtown. The city purchased the land bit by bit, and eventually approved the construction of Saskatoon’s Technical College, soon followed by the Saskatoon Arena.

The buildings on the site, from the mid-to late-20th century, changed hands several times, and many were demolished. Clinkskill’s house remains as a buried foundation. Remnants of Saskatoon’s Technical College, renamed the Gathercole building, have been saved and await reuse in upcoming developments. Immigration Hall is nothing but a shadow in an old photograph, and all this is left of the A.L. Cole generating station is the decommissioned pump house, which still holds a commanding view of the river. The old railyards are gone-the Senator Sid Buckwold Bridge and Midtown Plaza have taken their place.

Walking history tour

* Gaberila dumount statue:

**Gabriel Dumont** known as "the **Prince of the Plains**" died in 1906 at the age of 69. He is buried in Saskatchewan at the Batoche cemetery overlooking the South Saskatchewan River. The **Gabriel Dumont statue** was commissioned for Bill Epp by "Commemorate 85", the 100th Anniversary of the Northwest Resistance. Identity of Rider: Gabriel Dumont

* The Vimy Memorial

is symbolic of the lives that were lost during WWI, and the Battle of Vimy Ridge. The memorial was established in 1937 in honour of the country’s involvement during the First World War in the Battle of Vimy Bridge, which was of significant importance as well as major consequence for Canada. The other monument is also called the Canadian National Vimy Memorial and it is located in Pas-de-Calais, France.

Kiwanis Memorial Park is valued as a cultural landmark in Saskatoon. Kiwanis Park is part of the Meewasin Valley park and trail system. The Meewasin Valley Trail measures 60+ kilometres and connects to many picnic day use sites, activity destinations, lookouts and riverfront parks including **Kiwanis Park**.

[](https://www.ehcanadatravel.com/saskatchewan/gallery/Saskatoon-Saskatchewan/Kiwanis-Park)The downtown park was first established in 1946. It is located between the Broadway Bridge and the University Bridge on the banks of South Saskatchewan River. It is easily accessed from downtown shops and stores.

Kiwanis Park is a memorial park created to honor and remember the many historical events of the world and of Saskatchewan. There are monuments, pavilions, fountains, statues and information billboards detailing historical events.

* Bess hotel

Opened in 1935,  The building is considered one of [Canada's grand railway hotels](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada%27s_grand_railway_hotels). After its completion, the building was the [tallest building in Saskatoon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_tallest_buildings_in_Saskatoon), until the nearby Marquis Tower was completed in 1966.

* Three churches- st pauls, st johns, knox united – why would the churches want to be along the river? Talk about churches in Europe and their purpose.
* Three bridges:
* Victoria Bridge: The original Traffic Bridge opened on October 10, 1907. Saskatoon's first bridge specifically designed for foot and vehicle traffic, it was built at the insistence of the people of Nutana, who needed a safe and reliable way for vehicles, pedestrians and freight to cross the river.( its why nutana joined sasktoon)

University bridge: The University Bridge officially opened on November 15, 1916. A notable feature of its design is the descending size of its arches, which were described as "like a stone skipping across water". It was built to link Sutherland and the University of Saskatchewan with the central part of the city across the river.

The Broadway Bridge was designed by engineers from the University of Saskatchewan, and was built by the City in partnership with the federal and provincial governments as a "make work project" during the Great Depression. It was finished in just 11 months, opening on November 11, 1932. A total of 1,593 men worked around the clock to build it.

The river and us

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| 904 | Apr. 15 | Railway Bridge was destroyed by ice during spring breakup. |