

MEET SOME AMAZING ADVOCATES, INNOVATORS AND ATHLETES!

SCHOLASTIC CANADA
BIOGRAPHY



For ages 6 – 10 / Full-colour illustrations / 32 pages
Also available in French – *Biographies en images*

Explore the Scholastic Canada Biography series.

Canada is home to many incredible people who have made the world a better place. Reading about them helps kids learn about our history, and instills a sense of pride. And the stories of these trailblazers are fascinating!

Meet Viola Desmond



1. Viola is now on the Canadian ten-dollar bill. Design a stamp, flag, monument or other item to tell people about her. What will you include so people can learn about how she changed Canadian history?
2. Imagine Viola is coming to your house for dinner. What other Canadian who has made a difference in the lives of others would you invite and why?
3. Pretend you're Viola writing in your diary about your night in jail. Write about how you're feeling and what happened in New Glasgow.
4. Viola was an entrepreneur. Design an advertisement for her beauty school, salon or cosmetics line.
5. Does discrimination still happen today? Discuss this with the rest of your class.

Meet Chris Hadfield



1. Imagine Chris is visiting your school. Make a poster to tell students about one of his accomplishments.
2. Chris performed many science experiments in space. Some were based on ideas kids sent him. What experiments would you ask an astronaut to perform?
3. Watch a video of Chris doing an experiment in space or talking about life aboard the International Space Station. Draw a picture of your favourite part of the video and write a paragraph about why you like it.
4. Travelling to space is exciting and teaches us a lot, but it's also expensive and sometimes dangerous. Divide your class in two and have one side come up with reasons why people should go to space and the other with reasons why we shouldn't.
5. Write a letter to Chris telling him three reasons why you think he's a great Canadian and asking a question about space.

Meet Tom Longboat



1. Pretend you're Tom, and have a friend pretend to be a reporter. Act out for your class an interview with Tom after his Boston Marathon win.
2. Research another Indigenous person who has made a difference. Make a list of five facts about his or her life.
3. The timeline of Tom's life (pages 30–31) includes many important events. Create a timeline for your life so far, including events like when you were born, when you came to Canada, when you got a pet, etc. Illustrate your timeline if you like.
4. With a friend, brainstorm a list of at least five reasons why Tom is important to Canadian history.
5. Some famous athletes appear in ad campaigns. Design a poster for a running shoe that features Tom Longboat.

Meet Elsie MacGill



1. Write down five words to describe Elsie, along with an explanation of why you think she has each of these characteristics.
2. Design and draw a plane that's especially good at flying in cold Canadian winters. List its features and explain why they're necessary.
3. Elsie's work was very important during World War II. Find out more about this war and make a list of five things Canadians did to help win it.
4. Create a poem about Elsie. Include facts about her life and her achievements. (Don't worry — you don't have to make the lines rhyme!)
5. Make a list of five questions you'd like to ask Elsie. Have a friend do the same, but don't work on your lists together. Then exchange your lists and try to answer each other's questions the way you think Elsie would have responded.

Meet Willie O'Ree



1. With a friend, pretend to be Willie and a reporter interviewing him after his first National Hockey League (NHL) game. What questions do you think the reporter would ask? Present the interview to your class. Can you dress the way the reporter and Willie might have in 1958?
2. Willie played for the Boston Bruins in the NHL. The Bruins jersey is black, gold and white with a "B" on the front. Design a new jersey for your favourite team, real or imaginary!
3. Pretend you're Willie and that you've just scored your first goal in the NHL. Write a letter home, telling your family about it. What details will you include?
4. Playing in the NHL was Willie's dream. Would you like to play a professional sport? Give three reasons why or why not.
5. In 1958, Willie was the first black player in the NHL, but there have been others since then. Research one of them and make a list of five facts about his life.