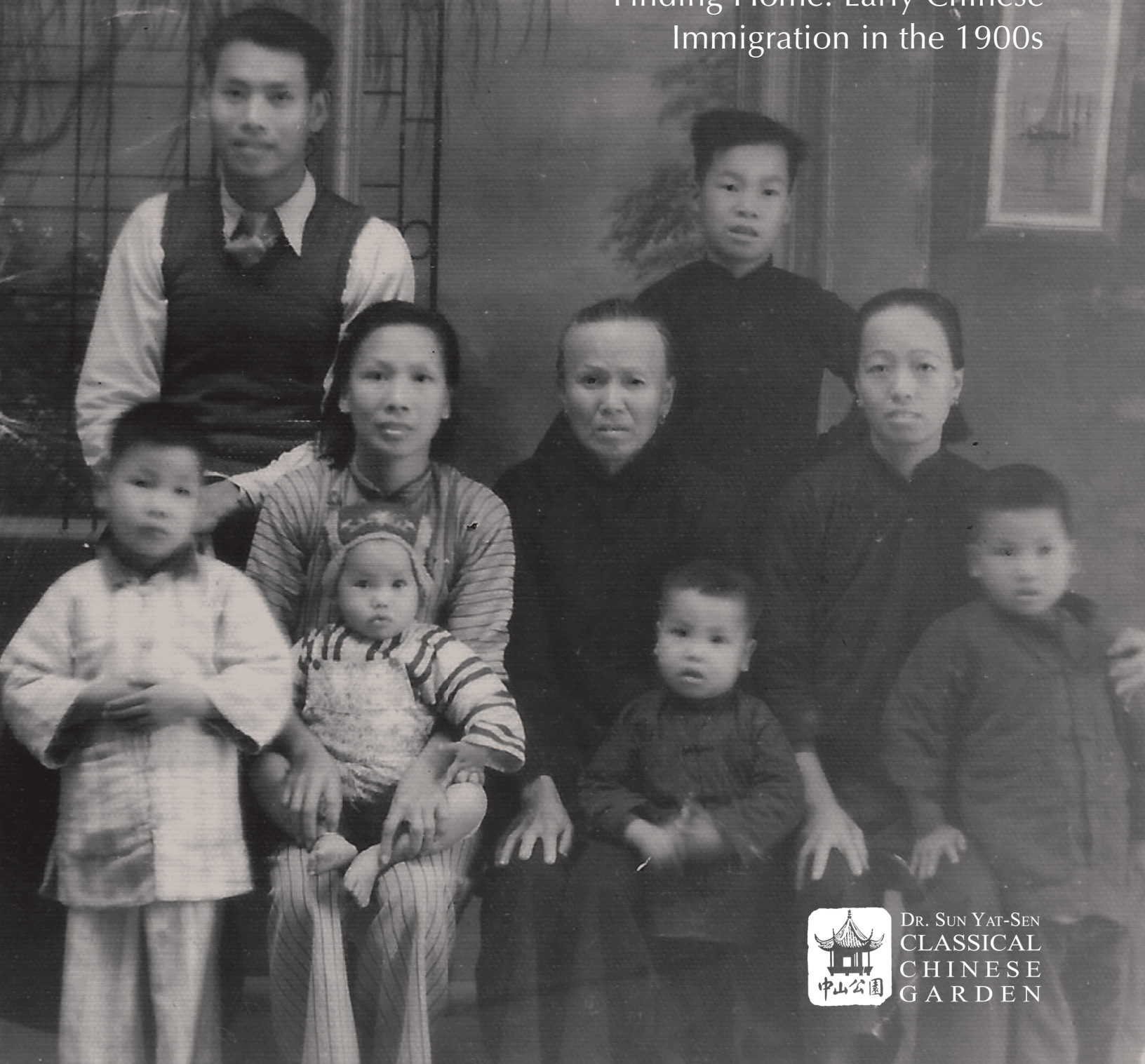


CROSSING BORDERS AND REMOVING BARRIERS

Finding Home: Early Chinese
Immigration in the 1900s



DR. SUN YAT-SEN
CLASSICAL
CHINESE
GARDEN

WORKSHEETS

for Social Studies 5 and 10

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LESSON 1: EARLY CHINESE IMMIGRATION

Part I: Introduction to the Lowe family

Did your family come to Canada from another country? If they did, do you know the story of why they left and what life was like for them when they arrived in Canada? Perhaps your family didn't come from another country but maybe you now live in a different place compared to your grandparents or aunts and uncles.

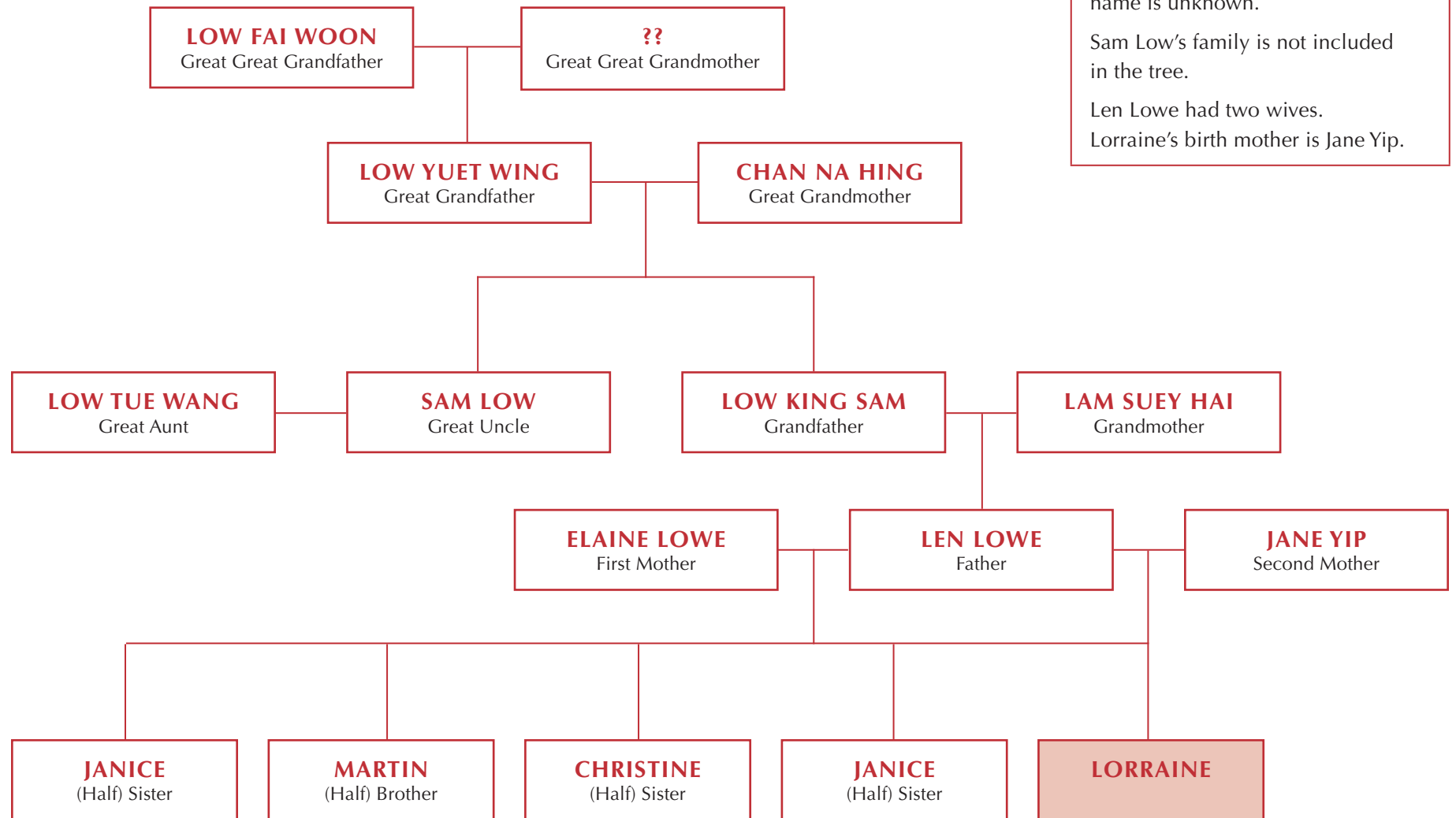
The process of moving and settling in a new country is called **immigration**. A person who immigrates is called an **immigrant**. In this lesson, you will learn about why many Chinese people immigrated to Canada in the late 1800s to the early 1900s.

This is **Lorraine Lowe** with her family. Lorraine is currently the Executive Director at Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden in Vancouver, British Columbia. Lorraine was born in Vancouver and is a second generation Chinese Canadian. Lorraine's story goes back to her great grandfather, **Low Yuet Wing**, who came to Canada in 1913 from Guangzhou, Toishan, China.

Figure 1. Lowe family photo. Sitting from left to right: Eileen (sister), Elaine (mother) and Len (father). Standing from left to right: Christine (sister), Martin (brother), Janice (sister) and Lorraine. Note that only adults are identified in this image.



LOWE FAMILY TREE



Notes

Lorraine's great great grandmother's name is unknown.

Sam Low's family is not included in the tree.

Len Lowe had two wives.

Lorraine's birth mother is Jane Yip.



A **family tree** shows the relationship between family members across generations.

A generation is a group of people who live around the same time period. For example, you and your siblings (if you have any) are a part of the same generation, but your parents belong to a different generation.

Here is how to read the family tree:

- Each generation forms a new row.
- A horizontal line that connects two people shows that they are married.
- A vertical line that comes out of the marriage shows that the couple had children.

Task

Study Lorraine's family tree and answer the questions below.

Questions

1. How many generations are shown in this family tree?
2. Who was the first person from Lorraine's family to come to Canada? Re-read the introduction on page 1 to find the answer. Circle this person's name on the family tree. Then, trace a line connecting Lorraine to this person.
3. Notice that Lorraine has a dotted line in the family tree. What makes Lorraine's relationship to the family unique? ? How is your own family unique?
4. Lorraine is a second generation Chinese Canadian. Did your family immigrate to Canada? If so, do you know what generation Canadian you are?

Task (Optional)

Using Lorraine's tree as an example, make your own family tree!

Do some detective work to find out your own family history.

Part II: Low Yuet Wing's Arrival

BACKGROUND

Times were hard for families in southern China in the last half of the 19th Century. A large increase in population meant there were food and land shortages. Families were affected by periods of floods and drought. Wars broke out both within China and with foreign enemies, and many millions of people were killed. The Government had no control and there was no sense of law and order.

The most affected areas were the counties surrounding the city of Guangzhou in Guangdong Province. Most of the first Chinese immigrants to come to Canada were from this area.

The bad conditions in China “pushed” people to leave. Jobs and opportunities in the young, new country of Canada “pulled” Chinese people to move there.

Although every family's migration story is different, historians talk in general terms about two ‘waves’, or large groups, of Chinese immigrants that came to Canada at this time. They came for two reasons: the gold rush and the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

THE GOLD RUSH

When gold was found in California in the 1850s, it attracted people from all over the world hoping to get rich. In 1858, gold was found in the Fraser Valley in British Columbia. Miners flocked to that area from California and from countries all over the world including China.

Chinese people referred to California and, later, British Columbia, as Gum Shan, meaning Gold Mountain.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY

Have you seen trains moving goods from one place to another? The Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) was an important railway that helped to connect British Columbia to the rest of Canada.

In 1867, Quebec, Ontario, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick formed the Canadian Confederation. A Confederation is a group of provinces that are united under a federal government. In 1871, British Columbia joined the Confederation with the promise that they would be connected to the more populated eastern provinces via the building of a new railway.

Many workers were needed in order to build the railway and British Columbia had a shortage of men. Many Chinese workers were hired to work on the main CPR line from 1881 to 1885. Some of these Chinese men were already in Canada because they had come for the Gold Rush. Others came

from Guangdong Province in China where life was very hard and jobs were scarce. Because there was not yet a railroad linking British Columbia to the rest of Canada, it was easier to transport workers from China by ship than bring in workers from other parts of the country.

The western sections of the railway in British Columbia were dangerous and difficult to build. The jobs that the Chinese did to build the railway were the most dangerous, such as blasting through rock using dynamite to create tunnels. Many men died on the job. The Chinese were paid much less than the white workers – about \$1 per day in comparison to \$1.50 - \$2.50 per day for non-Chinese.

The Chinese continued to build more rail lines in the early 1900s when Low Yuet Wing, Lorraine's great grandfather, came to Canada.



Figure 2. Low Yuet Wing's head tax certificate (front and back).

HEAD TAX

Look at this picture of Low Yuet Wing, Lorraine's great grandfather. The picture is a part of the head tax certificate. A head tax is an entry cost that Chinese Canadians had to pay to immigrate to Canada from 1885 to 1923. A head tax certificate is a document that was created when a head tax was paid.

The purpose of the head tax was to limit the Chinese from moving to Canada. Chinese Canadians were the only ethnic group that had to pay the head tax to come to Canada. Many Canadians were prejudiced against the Chinese. After the Canadian Pacific Railway was finished, they felt that there were too

many Chinese people in Canada. They thought that they were taking jobs away from other Canadians. Chinese workers were paid less than white workers, but only because they had no choice but to accept the lower wages offered to them.

How much did Chinese people pay to immigrate to Canada? In 1885, the cost of the head tax was \$50. This increased to \$100 in 1900, and then again to \$500 in 1903. You might not think that \$500 is a lot of money, but in those days people had to work two to three years to save \$500!



Task 1

Use the pictures of the head tax certificate to answer the questions below.

Questions

1. What date was this certificate created?
2. Based on this date, how much did Low Yuet Wing pay to come to Canada?
3. How old does Low Yuet Wing look in this picture?
4. Look at the back of the head tax certificate. Low Yuet Wing visited China several times after his initial entry to Canada. Each stamp shows when Low Yuet Wing re-entered Canada. When did Low Yuet Wing return to Canada?
5. Do you think it's fair that Low Yuet Wing had to pay a head tax to come to Canada? Why or why not?

Task 2

Read Lorraine's interview below.

Low Yuet Wing was the first of the Lowe family to arrive in Canada in 1913 from Toishan, Guanghai, China. Without any family **abroad**, he sailed across the Pacific, likely with mixed emotions of fear and excitement. As the Gold Rush of the 1870's generated lots of hope for him escaping poverty and war in China, the **allure** of opportunity in the West (known as "Gum Shan" or "gold mountain") was very appealing as he was sent abroad to work on the Canadian Pacific Railway.

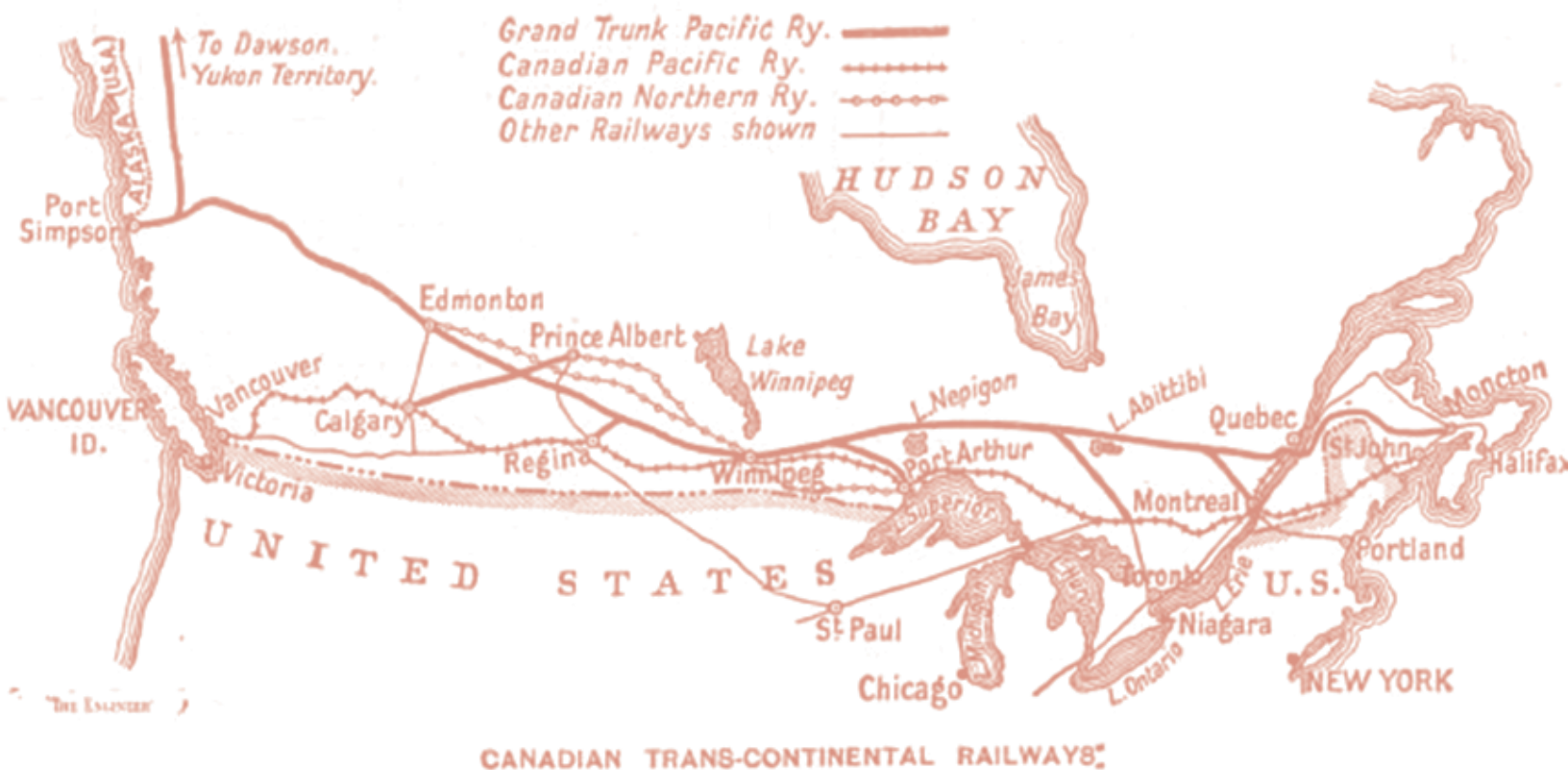
The General Immigration **Ledger** indicated that Great Grandfather was 15 years old when he arrived in Canada, but the Head Tax Certificate photo appears that he was more likely 9–10 years old. At the time, many Chinese immigrants altered their age on the paperwork to ensure they would be able to clear immigration and work on the railways.

Interview with Lorraine Lowe, October 2021

Abroad = to a foreign country

Allure = attraction

Ledger = a book of records



Questions

1. Where did Low Yuet Wing come from? How did he come to Canada?
2. How old was Low Yuet Wing when he came to Canada?
Why do you think that he changed his age to come to here?
3. What made Low Yuet Wing leave China?
4. What made Low Yuet Wing come to Canada?
5. Why do you think Low Yuet Wing came alone to Canada?
Hint: Think about the head tax.
6. Imagine being a 10-year-old travelling to a foreign country on your own.
How would you feel?

TUG OF WAR

Leaving your home to move to another country can be a difficult decision.

Use this exercise to think about what factors in China made people want to move to Canada, and what factors might have influenced them to stay with their families at home.

Task

1. Cut out the factor cards on the second page.
2. Identify whether each factor is a “tug” towards staying in China or coming to Canada.
Then, place each factor on either side of the arrow.
3. If you were Low Yuet Wing (Lorraine’s great grandfather), would you have immigrated to Canada or stayed in China? Identify your position on any part of this arrow.



<p><u>GOLD RUSH</u></p> <p>Gold was found in the Fraser Valley in 1857. Many Chinese from California and mainland China travelled to “Gum San” (meaning Gold Mountain) in search of gold.</p>	<p><u>LANGUAGE</u></p> <p>Imagine travelling alone to a foreign country where you don’t speak the language. What fears would you have, if at all?</p>	<p><u>FIRST OPIUM WAR</u></p> <p>The First Opium War (1839 – 1842) was a conflict between Britain and China about opium trade. The Opium War led to social and economic tension in China in the 1800s.</p>	<p><u>LACK OF FARMLAND</u></p> <p>The land was poor in some parts of China, such as the Guangdong province. Farmers did not have enough rich soil to grow crops for the population.</p>
<p><u>HEAD TAX</u></p> <p>Chinese immigrants had to pay an expensive head tax to enter Canada. In 1885, the fee was \$50 per person. By 1903, the fee increased to \$500 per person.</p>	<p><u>FAMILY</u></p> <p>Many Chinese immigrants could not bring their families with them because of the expensive head tax. Those who came alone were separated from their families for a long period of time.</p>	<p><u>TAIPING REBELLION</u></p> <p>The Taiping Rebellion (1850 – 1864) was a civil war against the Qing dynasty in China. Approximately 20 million civilians lost their lives during this period.</p>	<p><u>PERSONAL ITEMS</u></p> <p>Chinese people sailed across the Pacific Ocean to come to Canada. They had to leave behind large items such as houses, livestock, boats and other personal belongings.</p>



<p><u>CULTURAL SHIFT</u></p> <p>Chinese immigrants had to adapt to a new culture in a foreign country, like food, dress, music, social values, and other cultural traditions. What do you think you would miss the most if you had to leave home?</p>	<p><u>RAILWAY</u></p> <p>Many Chinese immigrants found work building the Canada Pacific Railway. From 1881 to 1885, they built a railway connecting British Columbia to the rest of Canada.</p>	<p><u>POVERTY</u></p> <p>The First Opium War and the Taiping Rebellion led to rural poverty in China.</p>	

LESSON 2: LIFE IN CANADA

Part I: Primary and Secondary Sources

Every family has a different story. Have you ever seen any old photos, letters or other important objects from your family's history? In this activity, you will look at primary and secondary sources to learn more about how Lorraine's family experienced life in Canada when they immigrated here.

Historians talk about primary sources and secondary sources when it comes to documents from the past.

Primary sources are first-hand accounts that are created at the time of an event or shortly afterwards. They are a record of what happened, or what was said, thought, or felt, during a particular time or event. They include diaries, photographs or letters.

Secondary sources are second-hand accounts that are not necessarily created at the time of the event. They often comment on or analyse an event using primary sources. They include newspaper articles, books or videos.

(Adapted from: <https://libguides.uvic.ca/primary>)

Chinese Canadians often experienced discrimination in Canada. **Discrimination** is the unfair treatment of people based on characteristics like race, age or sex. Chinese immigrants often experienced **racial discrimination (racism)** because they looked different, spoke a different language and had different cultural traditions.

The head tax placed on Chinese Canadians from 1903 to 1923 is one example of discrimination. Here is a cartoon from the *Canadian Illustrated News* published in 1879 titled "The Heathen Chinee in British Columbia."

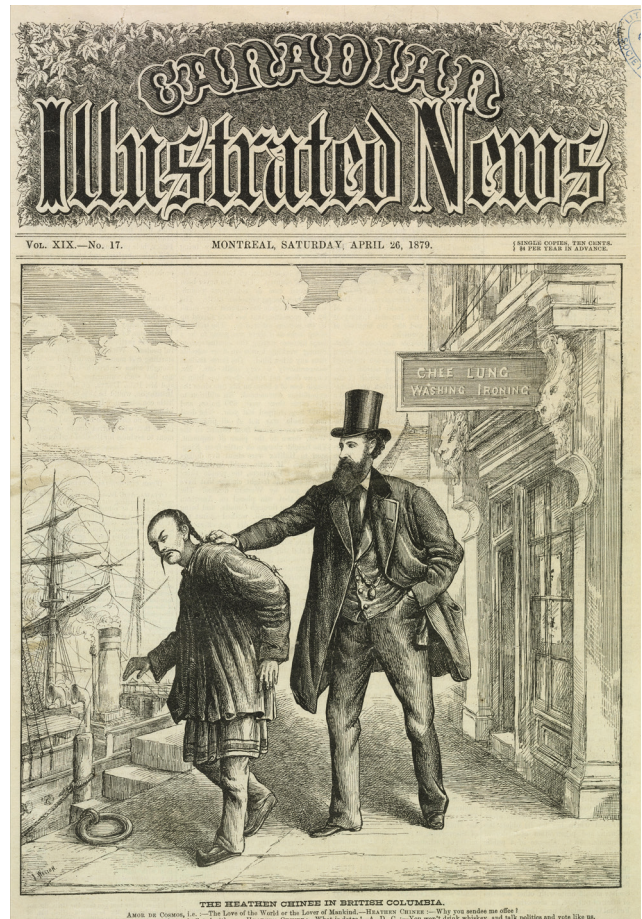


Figure 1. The Heathen Chinee in British Columbia.

(Credit: University of British Columbia Open Collections, CC_00009)

Task

Study the cartoon and complete the table below. What do you see, think and wonder about?

See	Think	Wonder

Extension Questions

1. What attitude is suggested in this cartoon?
2. Read the caption at the bottom of the image.
Summarize the dialogue between the two characters.
3. In the caption the word 'assimilation' is used. What does assimilation mean?
Should immigrants be assimilated into a culture?

Part II: Danger and Discrimination

LOW YUET WING'S STORY

Let's now look into how Lorraine's family experienced life in Canada. Last time, you learned that Low Yuet Wing, Lorraine's great grandfather, travelled from China on his own when he was around 10 years old. When he arrived in British Columbia, he began to work on the Canadian Pacific railway (CPR).

The CPR was an important railway that helped to connect British Columbia to the rest of Canada. Many Chinese immigrants worked on the Rocky Mountains in dangerous, winter conditions. They were also only paid \$1.00 a day, while white workers were paid between \$1.50 to \$2.50 a day.

Task

Read Lorraine's interview. Then, answer the questions below.

After enduring the hardships of the dangerous working conditions in constructing the Canadian Pacific Railway such as handling explosive **nitroglycerin** to break up solid rock, Great Grandfather was discriminated against and treated very poorly and violently by the non-Chinese workers.

He was ridiculed, spat on and beat up daily for not being able to speak or understand English and witnessed fellow workers dying from the explosions, landslides. Chinese workers were brought over for cheap labour and Great Grandfather was paid less than half of what the other white workers received and was charged for room and board, work clothing when the others did not. He also woke up some mornings next to his dead bunkmates dying in the middle of the night due to the cold winters, lack of supplies and harsh living conditions.

Interview with Lorraine Lowe, October 2021

Nitroglycerin = an explosive chemical found in dynamite.

Questions

1. Is this interview a primary or secondary source? Explain how you know this.
2. How was working on the CPR difficult? Give two examples from the text.
3. Why do you think Chinese workers (instead of non-Chinese workers) were tasked to use nitroglycerin?
4. How much were Chinese people paid compared to other non-Chinese workers?
5. According to Lorraine, what were other ways that Chinese immigrants were discriminated against?



CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT



Low Yuet Wing survived the dangerous conditions of the CPR and stayed in Canada afterwards. He was one of many men who came to Canada without their families. Many people like Low Yuet Wing lived on their own and formed a “bachelor society” in BC (“bachelor” means single men). Some of these men were in fact married and had families in China, but had to live like bachelors in Canada.

Why did so many Chinese men live on their own? Remember how expensive the head tax cost in 1903, and how much Chinese workers were paid to work on the CPR every day. If you do the math, you will find out that it took approximately two to three years to save \$500.

To make matters worse, the head tax was replaced by the Chinese Exclusion Act (“exclusion” means to keep out) in 1923. This almost entirely stopped the immigration of Chinese people to Canada. Some exceptions were made for a small group of people including diplomats, merchants, “men of science” and students. Overall, less than 100 Chinese people came to Canada during the exclusion period from 1923 to 1947.



Task

Read Lorraine's story. Then, answer the questions below.

Things got really bad in and around 1907 in BC, as the level of racism, violence escalated to frightening levels. It was not until then did Great Grandfather decide to pack up and travel back to China - he did this several times before coming back to Canada in the 50's and headed to Eastern Canada where he heard that the racism was less harsh in Ontario.

Great Grandfather settled eventually in Tilbury, Ontario in the 50's operating Reno's Grill alongside other immigrants from China and my father in 1955. Great Grandfather worked hard to help him through schooling and eventually a degree in electronics and worked on the D.E.W. Line in the cold harsh climate of the North.

It was not until 1960 that my father and mother came to Vancouver to start a life together. They opened up a Chinese restaurant in Ladner called, "Happy Garden" and took side jobs to work towards achieving the "Canadian Dream."

Interview with Lorraine Lowe, October 2021

D.E.W. Line = Distant Early Warning Line, a series of radar stations in the Arctic

Figure 2. Low Yuet Wing (right) at his restaurant, Reno's Grill, in Tilbury, Ontario



Questions

1. Why did Low Yuet Wing return to China several times after he immigrated here?
2. Why did Low Yuet Wing move to Ontario?
3. What did Low Yuet Wing and his family do for work in Ontario?
4. When did Low Yuet Wing bring his family over to Canada?
5. How did Low Yuet Wing help Lorraine's father?
6. Why do you think there was less racism in Ontario?
What evidence from Low Yuet Wing's story might reinforce that idea?

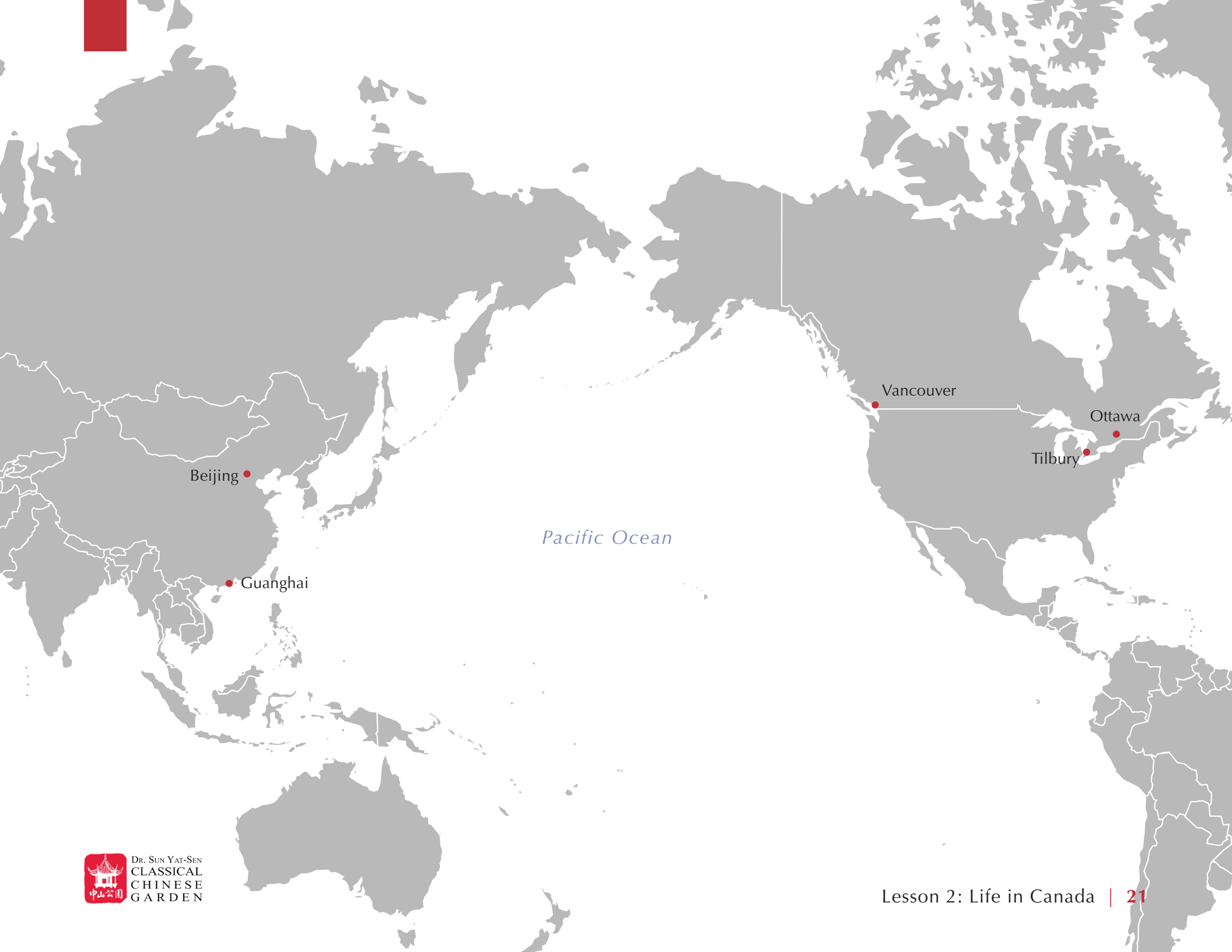
Task (Optional)

The stamps on the front and back of the head tax certificate show when Low Yuet Wing re-entered Canada (but not when he left Canada).

Let's summarize what you learned about Low Yuet Wing's family. First, look at the date stamps on the Head Tax certificate to complete the table below. Then, re-read Lorraine's story above to complete the other information.

Use the map on the next page to trace their paths around the world. First, find the places on the map. Then, connect the places with a line showing their travels from 1913 to 1960.

Year	Who?	Place travelled from	Place travelled to
1913 - 39	Low Yuet Wing	Guanghai, China	Vancouver, BC, Canada
1950		Guanghai, China	Tilbury, ON, Canada
1955	Lorraine's father (Low Yuet Wing's son)	Guanghai, China	
1960		Tilbury, ON, Canada	Vancouver, BC, Canada



Part III: Family Reunion

CULTURAL ADAPTATION

In 1947, the **Chinese Exclusion Act** was finally removed and Chinese Canadians were allowed to enter Canada again. Many Chinese Canadians served in World War II (1939-1945), and this helped to change the public attitude towards Chinese Canadians. For the first time in 1947, Chinese Canadians were granted citizenship.

In 1952, Low Yuet Wing was finally able to sponsor his family to come to Canada. The first members to arrive were his son, **Sam Low**, and his grandson, **Len Lowe**. While Low Yuet Wing visited China four times between 1913 and 1939, he did not continuously live with his family for 39 years! Can you imagine being separated from your family for that long?

Although the Chinese Exclusion period ended in 1947, there were still rules on Chinese immigration. Chinese Canadians could only bring their spouses and children to Canada. Therefore, some people entered Canada illegally as “**paper relatives**.” In fact, official immigration papers show that Sam and Len are brothers, although this is not true.

When the Lowe family arrived to Canada, they had to adapt to a new culture. For example, how do you think the language, food, dress, religion, social values, and other cultural factors might have been different between China and Canada? What part of the Chinese culture do you think the Lowe family kept when they moved here?

Perhaps your family members immigrated to Canada from another country. Does your family keep parts of another culture alive?



Figure 1. Len Lowe (left) Low Yuet Wing (right) reunited in 1952 in Canada



Figure 2. Len Lowe began to work for his grandfather's restaurant, Reno's Grill in Tilbury, Ontario

Task

Look at the photos below. The two photos show some of the same people. Image 1 was taken in the late 1930's. In it, Low Yuet Wing is the man sitting on the right with his young grandson, Len Lowe, next to him. Image 2 was taken in the 1960's. In it, Low Yuet Wing is sitting on the far left and Len Lowe is the man who is standing.

Look closely at the photos. What do you think these photos show about how the family adapted to Canadian culture? Make **observations** and **inferences** about these photos using the tables below.

Historians talk about making observations and inferences when they look at old photos.

- An **observation** is when a historian collects information about something using their senses (sight, sound, smell, taste and touch).
- An **inference** is when a historian draws a conclusion based on their observations.

For example, you might observe that a person is wearing Western clothes in a family photo where most are wearing traditional Chinese clothes (Image 1).

You might infer that the person was living outside China at the time, or preferred to wear non-traditional clothing.



Image 1



Image 2

Table 1: Observations and Inferences of Image 1 (Adapted from [TC2 Explain the Image](#))

	Observations	Inferences
Who is in the image?	Five adults and two children are in the picture. There are different generations of people in the photo, from young to old. All except two people are wearing traditional Chinese clothing. From the introduction above, I know that Low Yuet Wing is the person on the far right.	This is a photo of a Chinese family. The oldest person in the middle of the photo seems to be the head of the family, surrounded by the rest of his family members. Low Yuet Wing is one of two people wearing Western clothing, which shows that he adapted to the Western culture when he immigrated to Canada.
What are they doing?		
When was this photo taken?		
Where was this photo taken?		
What is the significance of this image?		

Table 2: Observations and Inferences of Image 2 (Adapted from [TC2 Explain the Image](#))

	Observations	Inferences
Who is in the image?		
What are they doing?		
When was this photo taken?		
Where was this photo taken?		
What is the significance of this image?		

FAMILY FRIENDS

When Lorraine looked through her family photo album, she found that there were many pictures of family friends, also called the Lowe family. Here we will learn about their experience in Canada, and compare and contrast that with Low Yuet Wing's family experience.

Him Lowe first came to Canada in the 1930s. Like Low Yuet Wing, Him Lowe sponsored his three children, Fred, Julien and Elizabeth Lowe, in the 1950s after the Chinese Exclusion Act was removed. Since Len Lowe arrived to Canada around the same time, Fred, Julien and Elizabeth, became like cousins to Len.

Fred Lowe eventually married Leung Mee Ping, a bride that he sent from Hong Kong. The marriage and his family story was featured in a newspaper below.



Figure 3. Julien Lowe and Len Lowe.



East
and west
united

BELIEVED TO BE the first wedding with Chinese principals, solemnized in Penetang, this scene was taken during the exchange of vows between Fred Lowe and Leung Mee Ping shown kneeling before Rev. L. J. Delaney at All Saints' Church. The attendants are Julien Lowe and Elizabeth Lowe. Standing immediately behind the newlyweds is former M.P. Julien Ferguson, Collingwood, who gave the bride away. — Staff photo.

Task

Look closely at the image. What does it show about the way the Lowe family adapted to their Canadian life? Complete the table on observations and inferences below.

Figure 4. Fred Lowe marries Leung Mee Ping in Penetang.

Table 3: Observations and Inferences of Figure 4 (Adapted from TC2 Explain the Image)

	Observations	Inferences
Who is in the image?	Fred Lowe and Leung Mee Ping are the couple getting married. They are in front of Reverend L. J. Delaney, surrounded by family and friends. Everyone is wearing Western clothing. There are two non-Chinese people in the image, including the Reverend and the former M.P. for Simcoe North, Julien Ferguson, who was chosen to give the bride away.	All attendants are wearing Western clothing at a church, which shows how Chinese immigrants adapted to life in Canada. Fred also has an English name, instead of a Chinese name. Julien Ferguson was likely an important part of Fred Lowe's life. Given the discrimination that Chinese people experienced in the 1900s, this friendship might have been unusual at the time.
What are they doing?		
When was this photo taken?		
Where was this photo taken?		
What is the significance of this image?		

Pre-Christmas nuptials

Chinese girl travels from Hong Kong to wed Penetang restaurant owner

Fred Lowe, Chinese restaurant proprietor of Penetang, had his hopes fulfilled when, surrounded by members of his family, he wed his Chinese bride in All Saints' Church, Penetang, Saturday, Dec. 21. Rev. L. J. Delaney of St. Mark's, Midland, officiated.

The little bride, Leung Mee Ping, had arrived in Toronto, from Hong Kong, the previous Sunday.

As with many other Chinese families who emigrated to the Western World, the Lowe family has had many heartaches, intermingled with pleasant moments.

The father of the family, Him Lowe, arrived in Collingwood during the depression years and set himself up in the restaurant business, hoping to make enough

money to bring other members to join him.

It wasn't until the end of World War II that the elder Lowe had saved the \$1,000 necessary to bring his eldest son, Fred, to this country. When he received word that Fred had arrived safely in Los Angeles, he was so overjoyed and excited he suffered a stroke.

Fred finally arrived in Collingwood and began working with his father. The pair quickly gathered together the money to bring the younger son, Julien, to this country. However, the father had overworked himself for too long. About four years ago, he died, leaving his sons to fend for themselves.

At this point, Julien Ferguson, then M.P. for Simcoe North, took the two boys into his home. He and his wife taught the

boys to speak English, by pointing to objects and repeating the names of those objects.

Julien Lowe was sent to school in Collingwood, while Fred, who had graduated from high school before leaving China, continued to work. Eventually Fred bought a restaurant in Penetang.

Shortly after starting up business in Penetang, Fred expressed a wish to have his mother and sister by his side. Again Julien Ferguson came to the aid of the family he had befriended. Following a considerable amount of work through various channels, Mr. Ferguson was successful in having a special act passed in the house permitting the pair to enter Canada.

After arriving here, the mother chose the Christian name of Mary, while the daughter, who still attends Penetang Protestant Separate School, chose Elizabeth for her given name.

Julien Lowe is still living with the Fergusons in Collingwood, while he attends high school. He has his eyes set on a degree either in medicine or engineering.

All Saints' Church had been beautifully decorated for the Christmas season when the wedding was held. Attendants were Julien, best man for his brother, and Elizabeth, bridesmaid for her sister-in-law to be.

The bride was given in marriage by Julien Ferguson, who later said, "This has been one of the proudest days of my life."

Others attending the ceremony included Mrs. Ferguson, and her mother, Mrs. A. Bryson of Toronto; and Raymond Downer, Collingwood.

One of the features of the wedding breakfast was the spoons used for the soup course, which had been brought by the new bride from China. Shaped more like a ladle, the spoons were of china, and beautifully decorated in hand-painted designs.

It was interesting to note that the Lowe family, when speaking to Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson, called them godfather and godmother. Mrs. Bryson was addressed as grandmother.

The new bride is able to speak English, having studied it in Hong Kong while waiting to come to Canada. Still very much unused to translating the language into her own Chinese thinking, she appeared somewhat shy.

However, all who attended the ceremony expressed the opinion: "She is one of the loveliest brides we have ever seen."

Task

Read the newspaper article below.

Then, answer the questions below.

Proprietor = owner of a business

Officiate = to perform a ceremony

Emigrate = to leave a country, the opposite of immigrate

Intermingle = to mix together

M.P. = Member of Parliament



DR. SUN YAT-SEN
CLASSICAL
CHINESE
GARDEN



Questions

1. Is this newspaper article a primary or secondary source? How do you know?
2. Who is Him Lowe? How did Him Lowe bring his sons to Canada?
3. What happened to Fred and Julien Lowe when their father died?
4. How did Fred and Julien Lowe learn English?
5. How did Julien Ferguson help to bring the rest of the Lowe family to Canada?
6. Why do you think the family chose Christian names when they came to Canada?

Extension Questions

7. Fred Lowe's bride, Leung Mee Ping, is described as "the little bride."
Why do you think that she is described this way? What attitude is suggested by the author?
8. The title of the image in the newspaper article is "East and West United."
Do you think that this story represents how Chinese Canadians in general were treated then? Why?
9. In what ways is a newspaper article a reliable source of information? Explain.
10. In what ways is a newspaper article not a reliable source of information? Explain.
11. How is Him Lowe's family story similar and/or different to Low Yuet Wing's family story?

LESSON 3: HUMAN RIGHTS

Task

1. Access the Infobites: Rights and Freedoms (third section from the top). Write the definition for each of the rights and freedoms in the table below.
2. Then, think about whether Chinese Canadians were treated fairly in the early to mid 1900s with respect to these rights and freedoms. Use the following resources to find the answers to the guiding questions in the table.
 - Look at the images found in the Royal BC Museum's Early Chinese Canadian Experiences to find information about democratic rights, equality rights and fundamental freedoms.
 - Look at the images and videos found in the Royal BC Museum's Acknowledging Past Wrongs to find information about legal rights and mobility rights.
 - Use your knowledge from previous classes to include what you know about the Lowe family.

Table 1: The Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Chinese Canadian Experience (Adapted from Landscapes of Injustice)

Rights and Freedoms	Definition	Chinese Canadian Experience
Democratic Rights		Did Chinese Canadians have the right to vote? When and how did this change?
		Who was the first Chinese Canadian Member of Parliament? When did he become the MP?

Equality Rights		What were the working conditions like for Chinese workers on the Canadian Pacific Railway
		Were Chinese Canadians allowed to join the Canadian military? When and how did this change?
		How did the head tax and the Chinese Exclusion Act limit the immigration of Chinese people?
Fundamental Freedoms		How did Chinese Canadians continue to practice their culture in Canada (e.g. language, ceremonies, music, clothing)?
Legal Rights		Where were Chinese immigrants kept initially when they arrived to British Columbia?

		What were the conditions of the Federal Immigration Detention Hospital?
Mobility Rights		Where were Chinese patients with leprosy sent to?
		Was Low Yuet Wing allowed to leave and reenter Canada? How did the government keep track of his reentry?
		Was Low Yuet Wing allowed to move to other provinces?

Question

Let's summarize what you learned above. Were Chinese Canadians treated fairly for certain rights and freedoms in the early to mid 1900s? Select yes, no or sometimes from the second column. Look at the evidence that you collected above to explain your reasoning.

Rights and Freedoms	Were Chinese Canadians treated fairly for these rights and freedoms? (Yes/No/Sometimes)	Explanation
Democratic Rights		
Equality Rights		
Fundamental Freedoms		
Legal Rights		
Mobility Rights		