

Explore Calgary

Read the following passage. Discuss any words or ideas that you are not familiar with before moving on. It may be a good idea to take notes on anything you're unsure of! The bolded words will be covered in Exercise 1.

Calgary is a city in the Canadian province of Alberta. It is located in an area of foothills and prairie, about 80 km east of the Canadian Rockies.

The city had a population of 1.2 million in 2016, making it Alberta's largest city and Canada's third-largest **municipality**. In 1988, Calgary became the first Canadian city to host the Winter Olympic Games.

The land that the city of Calgary currently sits on is full of history. The Calgary area was **inhabited** by pre-Clovis people whose presence has been traced back at least 11,000 years. Before the arrival of Europeans, the area was home to different native tribes. These tribes included the Blood, Blackfoot, Peigan and the Tsuu T'ina peoples.

Remember how Jasper was a fur-trading post? Well, Calgary was similar! The area became a post for the North-West Mounted Police (now the **Royal Canadian Mounted Police or RCMP**). The police detachment was sent here in 1875 to protect the western plains from US whiskey traders, and to protect the fur trade.

As the post grew, a railroad was built. This led to the steady growth of Calgary. In 1947, Alberta's **oil industry boomed**, giving the people in Calgary more and more jobs. There was so much success in the **oil industry** that thousands of people moved to Calgary. In fact, the city's highest population growth was during the most successful years of the oil industry in Alberta. While people made a lot of money off of oil in Alberta, oil prices in the USA and Saudi Arabia have caused a lot of people to lose their jobs. As the province refuses to move towards green energy, a lot of Calgary's citizens are struggling to find work.

Because of this, Calgary finds itself a home to **controversy**. Today, while we learn about Calgary, we will also learn how to express opinions and facts.

Exercise 1: Match the vocabulary word to the correct definition.

Municipality	A) The global processes of exploration, extraction, refining, transporting, and marketing of petroleum products
Inhabited	B) a period of great prosperity or rapid economic growth
Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)	C) a city or town that has corporate status and local government
Oil Industry	D) disagreement, typically when prolonged, public, and heated
“Boom” (alternate usage)	E) lived in or occupied
Controversy	F) The federal and national police service of Canada

Exercise 2: Rewrite the sentences using the opinion words and phrases below.

Opinion Words and Phrases		
Introductory Words and Phrases	Transitions	Opinion Clues
I think	First/second/third	Always/Never
I believe	First of all	Awful/Wonderful
I feel	Next	Beautiful/Ugly
In my opinion	After that	Better/Best/Worst
My favorite	Additionally	Delicious/Disgusting
The best	Equally important	Definitely
I strongly believe	Consequently	Enjoyable/Horrible
From my point of view	Besides	Favorite
It's my belief	Further/furthermore	For/Against
Based on what I know	Clearly	Good/Bad
I am convinced	Obviously	Inferior/Superior
Speaking for myself	In addition	Oppose/Support
I know you will have to agree that	For all these reasons	Terrible
I am confident that	Finally	Unfair
	In conclusion	Worthwhile

Tip: **introductory word/phrase** + **that** + **independent clause**

A. Emma is the best tutor ever.

I believe that Emma is the best tutor ever.

B. Healthcare should be affordable.

C. Apples are the best fruit.

D. Oil is bad for the environment.

E. She lied about why she wasn't at work.

Remember, this is just the first step. It is important to be able to explain **WHY** you think the way you do!

For example:

I believe that **Emma is the best tutor ever** *because* she plans great lessons. Good lesson plans are the first step to being a great tutor, and Emma understands that!

Now let's look at some common controversies in Calgary. Some of them are silly, but some are more serious. I've added photos and a short description for each topic, so you may form an opinion! Discuss your opinion on the following issues. Remember to use your opinion words/phrases as seen in the chart above!

A. Is this art? (circle streetlight)



Many people in Calgary believe that this public art piece is ugly, and weird! In fact, many of them think that it is not even art. However, some people think it is a fun and modern addition to the scenery around Calgary.

B. Are masks important?



Some people in Calgary are upset about the government decision that masks **MUST** be worn in indoor public spaces. They think that it is an attack on their rights and freedom. They also don't think COVID-19 is a very serious sickness. Many people disagree, and think that masks can help save people from COVID-19. These people believe that COVID-19 poses a real danger to the public.

C. Should Alberta only rely on the oil industry?



Albertans made a lot of money working in the oil industry during the boom. However, most of those people lost their jobs, and their money. Some people in Calgary still think that oil is the only good way for Alberta to make money. Others

think that Alberta should move towards green energy.

Okay, now enough work! Let's look at the fun parts of Calgary!



A view of the Calgary skyline. In the west, you can see the distant Rocky Mountains. To the east, the land flattens into the prairies. The large, skinny tower near the center is the Calgary Tower. The Calgary Tower opened in 1968. While it is no longer the tallest building in Downtown, the Calgary Tower's observation deck offers a stunning view of the city.



The view from Calgary Tower in downtown Calgary. As buildings continue to be built throughout downtown Calgary, the view from the tower is constantly changing. From this view, you can see exactly how flat the land is surrounding Calgary.



East of Calgary, but still in view of the Rocky Mountains, are the prairies. The prairies are a large span of flat land. While there are some hills, they are usually not very big. The prairies are home to thousands of farms. You will find a lot of cows and horses living on the farmland here.



One thing that makes Calgary unique is the Calgary Stampede. For two weeks every summer, people from across Canada come to Calgary to celebrate the “Cowboy lifestyle”. It’s kind of like a festival where everyone wears cowboy hats and there’s a lot of horses. While the main events include horse buggy races, a big part of the Stampede is all of the partying! This two week event is the highlight of the summer for many.



I first went to the Calgary Stampede in 2017. As is custom, my dad and I got matching cowboy hats. My favourite part was the food trucks! You get to try lots of different types of food from all over the world, as well as some Canadian classics. This includes poutine and beavertails!

While Calgary Stampede is the biggest event that Calgary hosts, Calgary is home to many art shows, theaters, musicians, and more! Calgary is surrounded by farmland, but is still a bustling city, making it a very diverse place. The mix of conservative cowboys and liberal artists mean there's something for everyone!