

History

In this section you will learn about Mathieu DaCosta, the first black man to come to Canada, and about an immigration movement called the Exodusters.

Here is a list of activities you will work on:

- KWL Chart
- Reading
- Listening / Video

Look at the KWL chart below. What do you already know about Mathieu DaCosta? and the Exodusters? Write what you already know in the "K" column. What do you want to know about Mathieu DaCosta and the Exodusters? Write down what you want to know in the "W" column of the chart.

KWL chart

K	W	L
What I know about Mathieu DaCosta	What I want to know about Mathieu DaCosta	What I learned about Mathieu DaCosta

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READING



Mathieu Da Costa

Mathieu Da Costa was the first black person known to have come to Canada. In 1605 Mathieu Da Costa travelled from France to the new French colony of Port Royal, in today's Nova Scotia.

Mathieu Da Costa was a free man, not a slave, who worked as a translator. He could speak French as well as the language of the local Native people, the Mi'kmaq. The French needed Da Costa to help them trade with the Mi'kmaq. He returned to Europe around 1607.

THE EXODUSTERS

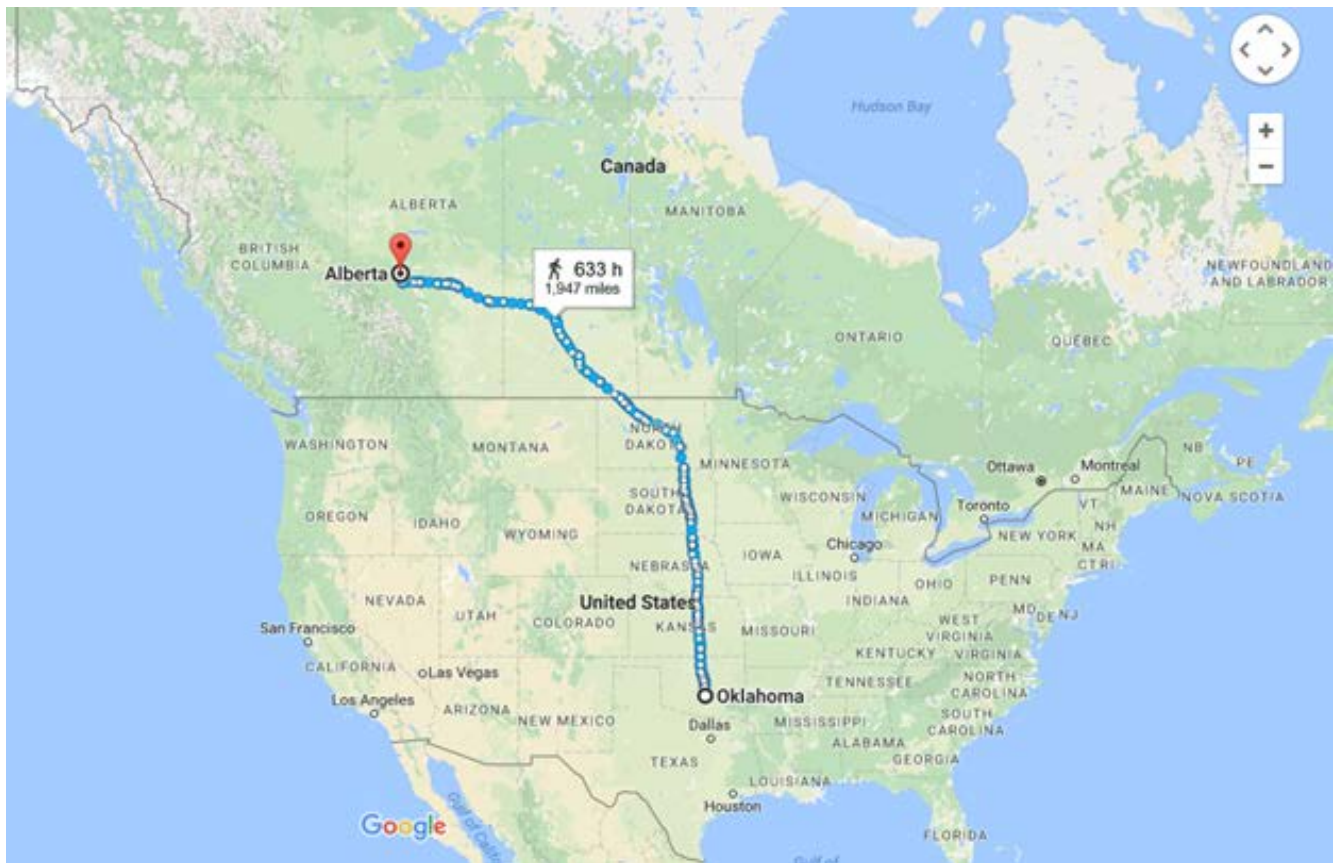
In the 1880s in the United States, many Black Americans escaped violent anti-Black groups and segregation laws in the south by moving west to new states such as Oklahoma and Kansas. Most were poor farm labourers known as Exodusters.

Many Exodusters did well in Oklahoma and Kansas, but some farmers were hit by drought and floods, and others found that land was becoming too expensive. They began to think about moving north to Canada.

By the 1910s the state of Oklahoma had passed segregation laws like the ones in the southern United States. This prompted a group of Exodusters to move to the Canadian Prairies to see what it would be like to live in Canada. In 1911 a group of nearly 200 Black People from Oklahoma and Kansas made the journey to the Canadian Prairies to live. They went on to establish communities from western Alberta to Thunder Bay, Ontario.



Using Google Maps you can see the journey from Oklahoma to Alberta



LISTENING/VIDEO

Information from the videos and audios will also be included in the quiz.

In this video you will see a brief explanation of the Exodusters journey from the South to Kansas.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQ8181EU1f8>

REFERENCES

This is for more information. You do not have to study the references.

<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/mathieu-da-costa/>

<https://www.pier21.ca/research/immigration-history/settling-the-west-immigration-to-the-prairies-from-1867-to-1914>

Sadler, Rosemary, *The Kids Book of Black Canadian History*. Toronto: Kids Can Press. 2003