

## **EDUCATION**

Black people in Canada have made extraordinary contributions to the country and the world. Their contributions to the Sciences have been a benefit both in Canada and the world. Dr. Anderson Ruffin Abbott and inventor Elijah McCoy are two of our noted individuals who made lasting contributions.

**Here is a list of activities you will work on:**

- KWL Chart - Reading - - Video- References

### **KWL CHART**

<b>K</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>
What I know about Dr. Anderson Ruffin Abbott & Elijah McCoy	What I want to know about Dr. Anderson Ruffin Abbott & Elijah McCoy	What I learned about Dr. Anderson Ruffin Abbott & Elijah McCoy

**READING**



Anderson Ruffin Abbott was the first black doctor in Canada. Born in Toronto, Upper Canada, in 1837, he was the son of free black property owners, William Ruffin Abbott and Ellen (Toyer) Abbott, who left Alabama after their store had been destroyed. They briefly settled in New York before relocating to Toronto. Anderson's father bought property in and around Toronto and the family became wealthy.

Because of his family's wealth Anderson had access to the best education. He attended Buxton Mission School, a racially integrated school near Chatham, Canada West, noted for its superior education. He later studied at the Toronto Academy. He enrolled at the Toronto School of Medicine (later became affiliated with

University of Toronto), and had a supervised placement with Dr. Alexander Augusta, the first black doctor in North America and the head of Toronto City Hospital (now Toronto General Hospital). Abbott became licensed in 1861. During the Civil War, Anderson applied and was refused to be an assistant surgeon in the Union Army. Instead, he applied as a medical cadet in the newly formed USCT (US Coloured Troops), an all black regiment, and was hired as a civilian surgeon. He served in several U.S. hospitals between June 1863 and August 1865. Notably, Anderson was one of the doctors in attendance when President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in April 1865, and was later presented with the plaid shawl the president worn by Lincoln at his first inauguration in appreciation to save his life. He returned to Toronto and in 1871 opened his own medical practice. He married, and moved to Chatham Ontario. There, he was quite prominent. Anderson was appointed coroner for Kent County, Ontario. There he involved himself in societies that advocated education, including fighting against racially segregated school in Canada as president of the Wilberforce educational Institute between 1873 and 1880. Additionally, Dr. Anderson wrote several editorials and articles for various magazines and newspapers. He returned to the U.S. in 1894 where he accepted a position as surgeon-in-chief at Provident Hospital in Chicago, Illinois, the first black-owned hospital in the United States. He returned to Canada to continue his practice after a year. He died in Toronto on December 29, 1913.

## **VIDEO**

Below is a link to a video giving some information on Dr. Anderson Ruffin Abbott, reenacted.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dATV8EC8F1c>

**REFERENCES**

1. <http://www.blackpast.org/aah/abbott-anderson-ruffin-1837-1913> 2. <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/anderson-abbott/>

**ELIJAH MCCOY**

<b>K</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>
What I know about Elijah McCoy	What I want to know about Elijah McCoy	What I learned about Elijah McCoy

**READING ACTIVITY**



When someone says they want the “real McCoy” they mean that they want the “real thing”, “the real deal”, something authentic and not fake, or imitation. This term is said to be attributed to Elijah McCoy, a black inventor. Elijah McCoy was born in 1843 in Colchester, Ontario. The son of former slaves who had fled on the underground railroad for Canada, he grew up being interested in mechanics. His family moved to Michigan at age 3 and at age 15, his parents arranged for him to go to Scotland for an “apprenticeship in mechanical engineering.” He apprenticed in Edinburgh for five years as an engineer. He returned to Canada but could not find a job, but was able to secure one in Ypsilanti, Michigan as a fireman for the Michigan Central Railroad. As it turns out, “ steam-powered engines [of this era] faced consistent mechanical problems as industrial lubricants would quickly wear off, overheating and corroding the machinery and wasting tremendous amounts of fuel. Locomotives had to stop frequently as firemen such as McCoy tended to the engine, squirting oil onto its axles, gears, and levers—a time-consuming process that delayed many passenger and freight trains.” (Canadian encyclopedia). After several years on the job, Elijah McCoy invented an “oil drip up”, which administered a regulated amount of lubricant into the engine through a spigot. On 23 July 1872, he filed his first patent on the drip cup, registered under the title “Improvement for Lubricators in Steam Engines.” This invention was a success as it enabled locomotives to work without interruptions.

Within 10 years, “his device was so successful that buyers of steam trains and steam engines used in mines and factories would ask if the lubrication systems were the “Real McCoy.”

Elijah soon found work-instructing mechanical engineers on the proper installation of his lubricator, and consulting with manufacturers such as the Detroit Lubricator Company. He continued to invent and design new lubrication devices for a variety of mechanical engines. Notably, his 1882 hydrostatic lubricator for locomotive engines, as well as his designs for ship engines, made a significant impact on the

transport industry in the late 19th century. His most elaborate invention was the graphite lubricator, designed for "superheater" locomotive engines, which he patented in 1915, when he was 72 years old. This was a breakthrough because previous lubricators mixed oil with powdered graphite, a form of carbon. Powdered graphite is soft and greasy, and withstands high temperatures. However, because it is a powder, it clogged engines. Elijah's invention utilized graphite without dangers of clogging. He established his own company: The Elijah McCoy Manufacturing Company, and by the end of his career, Elijah had registered over 50 patents.

### **VIDEO**

Below is a video giving information on Elijah McCoy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFsCoSb10ro>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uRhSDGvm85U>

### **SUMMARY**

In this module you learned about the amazing contributions of two black men to the sciences, Dr. Anderson Ruffin Abbott and Elijah McCoy. They both made contributions that are very important in Canadian history! Revisit the KWL chart to find out what you remember from your readings.

### **REFERENCES**

1.[http://www.railfame.ca/sec\\_nom/en\\_nomineesDetail.asp?id=286&ssec=](http://www.railfame.ca/sec_nom/en_nomineesDetail.asp?id=286&ssec=)

2. [http://inventors.about.com/od/mstartinventors/a/Elijah\\_McCoy.htm](http://inventors.about.com/od/mstartinventors/a/Elijah_McCoy.htm)

3.[http://www.railfame.ca/sec\\_nom/en\\_nomineesDetail.asp?id=286&ssec=\)./](http://www.railfame.ca/sec_nom/en_nomineesDetail.asp?id=286&ssec=)./)