

## **Community**

Have you ever heard of the Calgary Stampede? You may have even gone to watch the parade. If you haven't make sure you go one day. Stories of cowboys and cattle ranching are an important part of the history and culture of Alberta and Western Canada. There was one very famous Albertan cowboy known as John Ware. Have you heard of him? In this module you will learn about John Ware and how he contributed to his community in Alberta.

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

- KWL Chart
- Reading
- Listening / Video
- Summary

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

**KWL chart**

<b>K</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>
What I know about John Ware.	What I want to know about John Ware.	What I learned about John Ware.

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## **READING**

### **Adventurous Albertans**

There are many tales of the hardships faced by groups of early settlers in Alberta, but some of the most interesting stories are about those people who survived the hardships. These people contributed greatly to the growth of the province and, for various reasons, were inspirations not only to the people with whom they lived, but also to those of us who can look back and appreciate their contributions. John Ware was one of these Adventurous Albertans.



Picture taken  
from <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/john-ware/>

This reading below was adapted from <http://www.albertaparks.ca/dinosaur/information-facilities/nature-history/john-ware/>

John was an African-American born into slavery on a South Carolina plantation around 1845. He rose to fame in the young Canadian prairies due to his excellent skills with horses. His friendly personality and determination made him many friends.

In 1882, John and a friend rode north on a cattle drive to Montana. They were soon hired by Fred Stimson of the North West Cattle Company to escort a herd across the border to the Bar U Ranch, near Calgary. John loved the northern landscape and never returned to the USA. He worked on several area ranches including the Bar U which is now a National Historic Site. He was good at working with wild horses.

By 1890, John was on his own property near Millarville. In 1892 he married Mildred Jane Lewis in Calgary's Baptist Church. Within eight years they had three sons and two daughters.

In 1900, the Ware family and 300 head of cattle moved from the Calgary area to a spot northeast of Duchess in Alberta. John built a modest cabin on the banks of the Red Deer River from spruce logs drifting past from upstream sawmills. That home was destroyed in the spring flood of 1902. John relocated to higher ground overlooking a stream now called Ware Creek.

Sadly, the family did not occupy the new home for long. In spring 1905, Mildred died of pneumonia. In September of that same year, John was killed when his horse tripped and fell on him.

John's death came just 12 days after Alberta became a province. John Ware's funeral in Calgary was the largest in that young city's history. Afterwards, the children were sent to live with their grandparents and the property was sold.

### The John Ware Cabin

John Ware Cabin is located in Dinosaur Provincial Park in Alberta. A true pioneer, John Ware had a good reputation because of his skills and relationships with others. He was an honest man. Other cattlemen respected him for that. First Nations people/ Indigenous people called him "Matoxy Sex Apee Quin" (bad black white man) because of his courage and enormous strength.

By the late 1950s, the John Ware cabin had deteriorated. Members of the Brooks Kinsmen Club saved it. Volunteers made repairs and local ranching families furnished it to create a turn-of-the-century setting.

In 1998, Parks Canada was selected to restore it. The cabin was reopened to visitors in June 2001 and officially unveiled on Parks Day in July 2002.



[http://www.albertaeh.ca/gallery/var/resizes/Southern-Alberta-Region/Brooks-Alberta/Dinosaur-Provincial-Park-/johnware-cabin20090624\\_63012.JPG?m=1399744504](http://www.albertaeh.ca/gallery/var/resizes/Southern-Alberta-Region/Brooks-Alberta/Dinosaur-Provincial-Park-/johnware-cabin20090624_63012.JPG?m=1399744504)

### John Ware's Legacy

There are several places in Alberta named after John Ware. Some of them are:

- Mount Ware
- John Ware Junior High
- Ware Creek
- John Ware Building at SAIT (Southern Alberta Institute of

Technology)

### **LISTENING/VIDEO**

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

Watch this video about John Ware

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

### **SUMMARY**

What have you learned about John Ware? Go back to the KWL chart and write down what you have learned in the "W" column.

### **References**

The references are for additional information only. You do not have to study them for the quiz.

<http://www.albertaparks.ca/dinosaur/information-facilities/nature-history/john-ware/>

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[http://www.albertaeh.ca/gallery/var/resizes/Southern-Alberta-Region/Brooks-Alberta/Dinosaur-Provincial-Park-/johnware-cabin20090624\\_63012.JPG?m=1399744504](http://www.albertaeh.ca/gallery/var/resizes/Southern-Alberta-Region/Brooks-Alberta/Dinosaur-Provincial-Park-/johnware-cabin20090624_63012.JPG?m=1399744504)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RObDIOYulH0>

[http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/eppp-archive/100/200/301/ic/can\\_digital\\_collections/pasttopresent/settlement/index.html](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/eppp-archive/100/200/301/ic/can_digital_collections/pasttopresent/settlement/index.html)