

SPRING BREAK challenge #1

During Spring Break, we challenge you to get out and explore Maple Ridge with your families! Every day, we will share a local historic location for you to discover, along with some great discussion and learning points to engage with local history.

We encourage you to print off pages 2 & 3 for your kids (or save this document to a mobile device), and go on a new adventure every day during Spring Break.

While you're out and about, check out the local EARTH DAY initiative at www.mrearthday.ca with dozens of other challenges and local gems to visit! Be sure to snap a photo during your adventures and share it on social media with #emergeMR for a chance to win some great prizes!



MAPLE RIDGE
MUSEUM
& COMMUNITY ARCHIVES

Where is this?



P00016, Japanese kindergarten building at corner of 232 and Dewdney as it appeared in the 1960's or 70's. Now serves as CEED Centre moved to 223rd Street.

Before the internment measures of 1942, the communities that now make up the city of Maple Ridge had a large and thriving Japanese population. In fact, in the 1920s and 30s, nearly one third of the locals were of Japanese descent. They were primarily berry farmers who settled in the eastern areas of Ruskin and Whonnock. By 1927, there were 220 local farms owned by Japanese settlers. Also, these farmers, such as Tokutaro Tsuyuki and his wife Tori Hara, started the very first greenhouses in Maple Ridge. This community grew with the creation of the *Haney Nokai* agricultural collective, a Japanese community hall, and a school.

Pictured above was the Japanese Kindergarten, originally built in 1936 at the corner of 232nd and Dewdney. It was eventually moved to the Haney district and today, it is used as the CEED centre to teach environmental education programs.

Our shared history



PHOTO CAPTION: P08421

April 16, 1934

Graduation day for this class
at the Japanese Kindergarten.

TODAY'S CHALLENGE

Visit the old Japanese Kindergarten (now the CEED Centre) at 11739 and 223rd Street. Looking at the outside of the building, compare it to your school:

- Is your school bigger than this one? How much bigger? (How many Kindergarten buildings do you think could fit inside of your modern day school?)
- There is not much indoor space in this building, which means all breaks and recesses were spent outdoors (yes, even in the rain and the snow!). What types of games and activities do you think the students played almost 100 years ago? *Remember! Technology didn't exist then, nor did fancy playgrounds!*
- In the pioneer days of the Fraser Valley, one room schoolhouses were also very common. In these schools, children of the community would attend class every day together from grades 1 all the way through grade 9. Can you imagine attending school with your brothers, sisters, and neighbours every single day for 10 years? The older students would be expected to help the younger ones. Do you have a younger sibling or friend that you have to help with their homework? What is your favourite subject to teach or learn?

For more at-home learning...

The Japanese stories of the Lower Mainland, visit <http://nikkeistories.com/>

And, to learn more about pioneer schoolhouses, watch this great video on YouTube:

[Lochiel Schoolhouse Learning Lesson](#)

Also, did you know that the Maple Ridge Museum has a searchable online database and lots of great learning resources? Visit us here! <http://mapleridgemuseum.org/>