

# SPRING BREAK challenge #2

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](http://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

# Logging in BC



P00706, 1920 Three forestry workers posing in front of a giant cedar tree.

Pictured here are three logging workers of the *Abernethy & Lougheed Logging Company* in the 1920s in front of a huge cedar tree. This company was the largest railway logging operation in all of BC.

Logging railroads were a very important part of the industry history of British Columbia for the first half of the 20th century. Before big highways and trucking companies, these railroads transported timber to the nearest body of water so it could be sorted and shipped to a mill for processing.

The first small logging companies were started in BC in the 1840s and the Hudson's Bay Company built BC's first sawmill in Victoria in 1847 before many other mills were built throughout the province. By the 1920s, BC was producing half of Canada's entire timber supply and forestry remains a major industry for our province today.

In addition to depending on the forestry and transportation industries for work, the early settlers of Maple Ridge also relied on wood for their homes. Before synthetic materials were created, everything needed for day to day life had to be built with natural materials - including the houses themselves!

Before the arrival of the Europeans, the local First Nations people depended on the forests for wood, plants, and wildlife. This tradition of cultivating the natural resources of the land goes back thousands and thousands of years. Since the settlement history of Maple Ridge is relatively new (less than 200 years), it is sometimes easy to forget just how long these trees have existed and the important history of people depending on them for their way of life.

# Today's Challenge



PHOTO CAPTION: P07999 Trunks of 4 cedar trees in 1924 at Alouette Lake

## For more at-home learning on BC's forestry industry:

"Big Timber" A Canadian government film about BC's forest industry from 1935 (BC History): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c35PEJCMG1w>

Modern Forestry in BC, a short film from 1967 (BC History) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ybFwa69kbhc>

BC Council of Forest Industries "forest facts" <https://www.cofi.org/forest-facts/>

## TODAY'S CHALLENGE

Visit Golden Ears Park and go for a nature walk with your family. Play a game to see who can spot the biggest tree! Enjoy nature by turning off all of your electronic devices and just stop to listen. Take a few moments to see what you can experience:

- What do you see?
- What do you hear?
- What do you smell?

When you return home, stop outside in your front or back yard. Now that you've re-entered an urban area, what differences do you observe in the environment? What sounds, sights, and smells do you now experience? How are they different or the same than when you were walking through the old forest?



PHOTO CAPTION: P07712 Hammond Cedar Mill in the 1950s.

For a searchable online database of Maple Ridge history and lots of great learning resources, visit us here! <http://mapleridgemuseum.org/>