

# The Canadian Reader

Current Canadian events and issues for students in Grades 3 to 5



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Please circulate to:

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# Walking Around the World



Step by step, one kilometre after another. Walking all the way across a country, and then an entire continent. Then on to the next continent, walking and walking.

After eleven years of walking around the world, Jean Beliveau is almost done!

## Go!

Mr. Beliveau left his home in Montreal in August 2000. It was his 45th birthday. He wanted to change his life, to do something different – even a bit crazy. He came up with the idea of walking around the world. When he told his wife, she said, “Go.”

He has since walked nearly 76,000 kilometres across 64 countries in six continents. He pushes a three-wheeled stroller that carries his few belongings, including a tent and sleeping bag. He walks about 30 kilometres each day, and he has gone through 49 pairs of shoes.

## On the Road

From Montreal, Mr. Beliveau travelled south through the United States and down to South America. Then he walked through Africa and Europe. Next up: the Middle East, Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

Along the way he met thousands of kind people. They fed him meals, and gave him a place to sleep. Twice, he even received free dental work. The Canadian learned to speak several languages. And he knows many different ways to say, “Hello, how are you?”

The journey hasn’t always been easy, though. Once, in Africa, he was ready to give up. He



said to his wife on the phone, "I want to go home." Luce Archambault told him he was welcome to come home. But she encouraged him to keep going, and he did.

## Walking for Peace

Mr. Beliveau isn't just walking for himself. He says he's also walking for peace. The first ten years of his walk took place during the United Nations' decade for "peace and non-violence for the children of the world."

Back in her Montreal home, Ms. Archambault helps to organize his travels and maintain the website about his trip. She visits him once a year, wherever he is.

## On the home stretch

Soon, the global traveler will be home again. On January 30th, Mr. Beliveau flew back to Canada, arriving in Vancouver. He plans to walk the final 5,400 kilometers to Montreal.

He'll be home by mid-October.

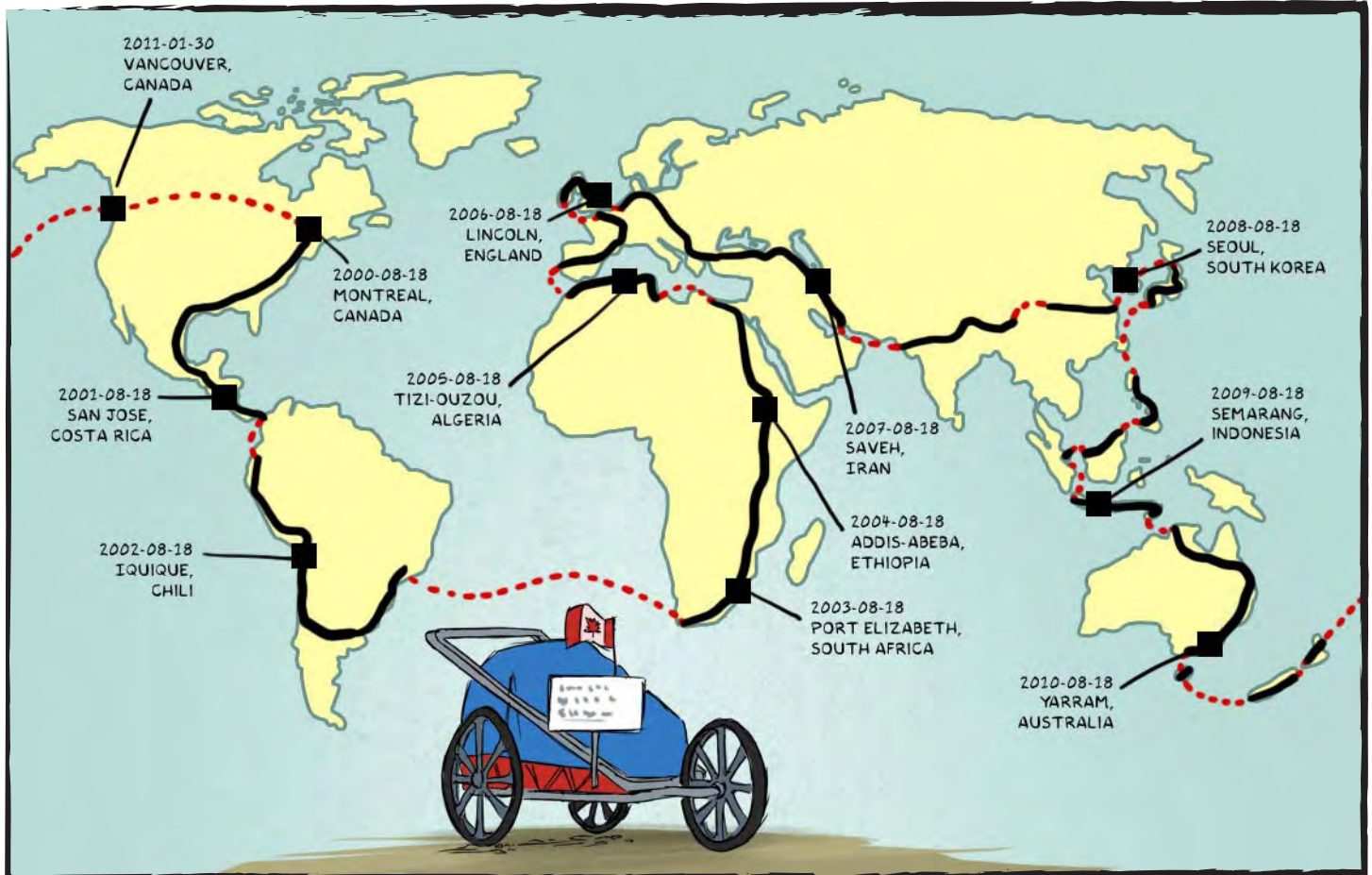
That will mark the end of a remarkable quest. And what do you think might have been the hardest part?

According to Jean Beliveau, the most difficult part of the whole trip was the very first step.

### Did you know...?

The circumference of the Earth at the Equator is about 40,075 kilometres.

As you see it, what is the importance of this story?



# Walking Around the World

## Lesson Plan

### Before Reading:

- Display a globe and share the following facts about the Earth:
  - *its circumference is 40,075 kilometres;*
  - *there are 195 countries in the world;*
  - *as of February 2011, the world population was approximately 7.1 billion people;*
  - *70 percent of the Earth is covered with water – 30 percent is covered with land;*
  - *its surface area is 510 million square kilometres.*
- Ask students to imagine themselves walking around the globe and consider the benefits and hardships of undertaking such a feat. Introduce the focus of the article: Jean Beliveau’s world-wide walk for peace and children.

### During Reading:

- While they read, have students mark the facts in the article that describe the positive aspects of Jean’s journey with a + and the hardships with a - .

### After Reading:

- Invite students to complete the **Pros/Cons** organizer (p. 10) to summarize the benefits and hardships of Jean’s journey. Encourage them to infer additional considerations from the article. Then, ask them to consider: a) the impact of Jean’s decision by weighing the evidence and considering whether or not the benefits outweigh the hardships; and b) if they would take on a personal challenge for a cause they believed strongly in (for example, world peace, children’s rights, clean drinking water, an end to poverty, or an end to child labour).

### Extension:

- Create a **postcard** from one of the countries (besides Canada and the United States) that Jean Beliveau visited on his world tour. Include the following: **On the front:** a scene (hand drawn or downloaded from the Internet) showing typical landscape; the country’s name. **On the back:** “Hello, how are you?” (or another common greeting) in the official language; the area of the country in square kilometres; a description of the climate; whether it is a developing or developed nation; two interesting facts about the people or the country. Weave the facts into a short, informative letter.
- Criteria for Assessment:** An informative postcard *has a revealing picture (shows the typical landscape of the selected country) and includes relevant, accurate facts.*

### Internet Connections:

- Find out more about Jean Beliveau’s walk at: <http://www.walk.org>. Learn more about countries of the world at: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>, <http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/countries/>, <http://kids.yahoo.com/reference/world-factbook> and <http://www.factmonster.com/countries.html>. Search greetings in different languages at: <http://users.elite.net/runner/jennifers/hello.htm> and <http://www.wikihow.com/Say-Hello-in-Different-Languages>. (Note: All URLs are posted as links at <http://www.news4youth.com>)

# Walking Around the World

## Pros/Cons

Benefits of walking around the world	Hardships of walking around the world

I feel the benefits outweigh / don't outweigh the hardships because...

I would / would not take on a personal challenge for a cause I feel strongly about because...