

## General Essential Questions for Mavericks: A History of Alberta

- Do we need mavericks to bring about change in our society?
  - How can I be a maverick? How am I already a maverick?
  - Did I have a maverick in my past? (Ancestry - parent/grandparent)
  - What do all the mavericks have in common? Different?
  - Is a specific maverick a good representative of Alberta?
  - Who do you think should be added to the list of Alberta Mavericks?  
Why?
  - Why was \_\_\_\_\_ important to the story of Alberta?
  - What was \_\_\_\_\_'s impact on Alberta's history?
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- What is the real story of my family's past?
  - Why did my family settle in Alberta?
  - Why did my family settle where they did? Where would you settle?
  - How will I be remembered in 100 years?
  - What can I do to bring about changes that would make Alberta and the world a better place?
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- Who is the "Greatest Albertan" of all time?
  - What is the "real story" of Alberta? Is it changing to meet the future?
  - What are the characteristics of a true "Albertan"?
  - How do the symbols of Alberta represent us?
  - What do the Maverick characters and stories tell us about Alberta's history and people?
  - How is our heritage and history different from that of another culture or country?
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- What was it like to be a \_\_\_\_\_ (rancher, etc.) in early Alberta? Could I live their life and be happy?
  - How is the perspective of \_\_\_\_\_ different from that of \_\_\_\_\_?  
(e.g. ranchers and First Nations)
  - What questions would you ask \_\_\_\_\_?
  - What were the five most distinguishing characteristics of \_\_\_\_\_ and how did they contribute to her/his success or failure? (strengths and weaknesses)
  - What lessons should we learn from the story of \_\_\_\_\_?
  - Taking advantage of 20-20 hindsight, what would you do differently if you were \_\_\_\_\_? Why would you make those changes?
  - How was \_\_\_\_\_ seen in his or her time by their peers or by other groups?

- Could something like the \_\_\_\_\_ ever happen again? Is it happening now in the world? How could we prevent it? (e.g. The First Nation's loss of land, Ukrainian or Japanese internments, World Wars, people fighting for the right to vote.)

### **Uninvited Guests Essential Questions**

- Did the Uninvited Guests act like proper guests?
- Why do people go on great journeys or move to new places?
- Why do we explore?
- How has exploration changed? What/where do we explore now?
- How were the First Nation and European cultures different?
- How would Alberta be different if Europeans changed and accepted the First Nations people's way of life?
- How should our nation's European explorers and settlers have treated the First Nations people they encountered?
- How did the Uninvited Guests affect the First Nations people?
- Did the Mavericks truly believe they were "Albertans?"
- How do we record or document our travels? What do we leave behind?
- Why do we create maps? What do they tell us?
- How can we create a map of a place that has not been explored before?
- How important were maps during the early days of Canadian exploration?
- What do historical maps tell us about how people understood their world at the time?

### **Mounties Essential Questions**

- Why do we need a police force?
- Will we always need a police force?
- How was policing different in early Alberta?
- What challenges were faced by the NWMP? How did they overcome them?
- How did the Mounties affect the First Nations people?
- Did the Mounties treat the First Nations people fairly?
- How did Canada and the U.S. deal with the First Nations people differently?
- How should we decide who has "sovereignty" of a region?
- How has the role of the RCMP changed since the NWMP were created in 1873?
- Why are the Mounties a famous symbol of Canada?

### **Railways Essential Questions**

- Why was the development of the railroad so important to the story of Alberta?
- How did the building of the railroad change Alberta and Canada?
- Was the treatment of the Chinese railway workers fair?

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- Should Chinese railway workers be compensated for the “head taxes” they had to pay?
- Should the ancestors of Chinese railway workers be compensated for the “head taxes” they had to pay?
- How has transportation changed through time?
- Why do we travel on long journeys?
- How do we deal with being treated differently than other people around us?

### **Ranching Essential Questions**

- Has ranching changed for the better since the 1880s?
- How did the arrival of ranching in Alberta affect the First Nations people?
- What impact did early Alberta ranchers have on the culture of Alberta?
- Is it possible for humans to actually own land?
- Who should own land and its resources? How should we decide how the resources should be used?
- How has the idea of owning land and placing fences around it changed our landscape and how we use the land?
- How did the ranchers’ notion of “the land” compare with the First Nations conception?
- Why was “the land” so important to the development of Alberta?
- How has Alberta’s landscape and climate affected our lifestyle and culture?
- What is the balance between preserving nature and continued development?
- What is the story or perspective of “the land” itself? How would it ask for us to treat it?
- How can humans avoid conflicts between cultures or nations?
- Why do people move onto and take away other people’s lands?
- Is there ever a proper reason to take away or settle on other people’s lands?
- How did Western Canadian settlement affect First Nations peoples?
- How should the Canadian Federal Government deal with First Nations land claim settlements?
- How do humans beings and their environments influence each other?

### **Politics Essential Questions**

- How does our government reflect our ideas of what it means to be an “Albertan?”
- Why do we need government?
- What traits should we look for in a good politician?
- Why can’t we just all agree?
- How can we make our government better?
- What would you do to become the next maverick politician?
- If you were the premier, what programs and policies would you use to address a current political issue?

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- Why do you agree or disagree with the political policies of a specific politician or political party?
- How can I make a difference on how decisions are made for my community?
- What would the perfect politician be like?
- Is democracy the best form of government?
- Is the media fair to politicians?
- What can we do to bring about change in our society?
- What makes people perceive a government as effective or ineffective?

### **Newcomers Essential Questions**

- Will immigration change the culture of Alberta? (This was a major worry for Albertans in the early 1900s)
- Why would immigrants come to Alberta?
- How did immigrants to Alberta choose to settle where they did?
- Why would immigrants leave their original homes to come to a new place?
- Should we accept any and all immigrants if they want to come to Canada?
- What would it be like to move to a new country?
- Do we treat all people equally?
- Should immigrants to Canada be forced to learn English?
- Should immigrants to Canada adopt Canadian traditions and put aside their old ones?
- How does migration affect Canada and the countries immigrants leave behind?

### **War and the Homefront Essential Questions**

- Why do we have wars?
- How can humans avoid conflicts between cultures or nations?
- How did Albertans contribute to the war efforts?
- What effects did war have on Alberta and its people?
- Do we have to fight wars? Is it ever justified to go to war?
- When is it appropriate for a country to use military force?
- Is it ever appropriate for one country to get involved in the internal affairs of another country?

### **Oil and Gas Essential Questions**

- What was the impact of oil and gas on Alberta's present and its future?
- Are Alberta, its economy, and its people too reliant on the oil and gas industry?
- How has having oil affected Alberta and the lifestyle of its people?
- How healthy is Alberta's environment for future generations?
- How are we affecting and changing Alberta's climate?
- What impact is the oil and gas industry having on the environment?

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- What laws should be in place to minimize the impact the oil and gas industry has on the environment?
- What can I do to reduce my need for oil and gas?
- Why do people and societies exploit or conserve natural resources?
- How does an oil spill affect the environment?
- Should we allow oil to be transported across water?
- How can we manage our resources in a sustainable manner?
- Should Alberta save its oil for its own use?
- In what ways are humans and the environment interdependent?
- How does oil affect Alberta's relationships with the rest of Canada?

### **Post Haste Essential Questions**

- How has Alberta changed in the past 100 years?
- Has Alberta changed for the better in the past 100 years?
- Where will the story of Alberta go next? What does our future look like?
- What will Alberta look like on its bicentennial in 2105?
- Should Alberta's heritage be preserved?
- Should taxpayer money be used to fund institutions like museums, zoos, or heritage sites?
- How have the arts changed over time?
- How has the West been depicted by artists, writers, singers, playwrights, and other artists?

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