MIDDLE SCHOOL · AGES 11 TO 14

The Royal Chapel

His Majesty’s Royal Chapel of the Mohawks: the faith, kept since 1785, and the Crown face to face.

Read

In 1710 four Mohawk and Mahican leaders, the “Four Kings”, visited Queen Anne in London and asked for a chapel. She sent silver communion pieces and a Bible to Fort Hunter, in the Mohawk Valley.

After the American Revolution, the Mohawks brought the silver and the Bible to the Grand River. In 1785 the Crown built them a new chapel there. Joseph Brant and his son John are buried beside it. In 1904 King Edward VII made it a Chapel Royal.

The Queen signed the chapel’s Bible several times, and in 1984 unveiled a plaque in English, French and Mohawk. The chapel received its own arms in 2023. The Mohawk Nation of Grand River reads it as a free chapel of the Crown, the first of three promises: a church, a school and a mill.

Look

How to read it: the chapel’s life along one line.



Words to know

Word	What it means here
Chapel Royal	A chapel with a special link to the King or Queen.
Communion silver	Cups and plates used in church services.
Plaque	A metal sign that records history.
Arms	A design granted as a sign of identity, like a coat of arms.
Tomb	A place where someone is buried.
Free chapel	A chapel under the Crown directly, not under a bishop.
National Historic Site	A place Canada recognizes for its history.

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Work with a primary source

> *“Her Majesty’s Chapel of the Mohawks · La chapelle des Agniers de Sa Majesté · Ne iakotaneraientahtsera ne iekora ne Kanienkehaka roteronnaienhs”*
>
> The title of the federal plaque, unveiled by the Queen on 1 October 1984.

Ask the source	Your answer
In how many languages is the title written?	
Why might a plaque use three languages?	
Whose chapel does the title say it is?	
What can the source not tell us?	

Three points of view

What the chapel is, described three ways. Read each, then explain why they differ.

Who	What the chapel is
Canada	A National Historic Site, recognized for its history.
Its keepers	A chapel of the church, kept and shown to visitors.
The Mohawk Nation of Grand River	A free chapel of the Crown, where the Mohawk prerogative runs and no denomination should own it.

Claim, evidence, reasoning

Choose one claim the poster makes, for example “the faith, kept since 1785” or “the first of three promises”. Then fill in the table.

Claim	Evidence	Reasoning

Answer

1. **Historical significance.** Why do the Queen Anne silver and Bible matter so much?

2. **Evidence.** What does the three-language plaque tell us about whose chapel it is?

3. **Cause and consequence.** How did the American Revolution bring the chapel to the Grand River?

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4. **Continuity and change.** What has changed in the chapel since 1785? What has stayed the same?

5. **Historical perspective.** Why might the Crown have made it a Chapel Royal in 1904?

6. **Ethical dimension.** Who should decide what happens to a building like this?

> **Think about it.** What is the oldest building in your community? Who decides what happens to it?

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Performance task: A visitor’s guide to the Royal Chapel

Show what you have learned by explaining it to someone else. Your work should help a reader who has never seen the poster understand it.

Choose one

A letter	Write a one-page letter to your Member of Parliament or to the King explaining the Royal Chapel: its story from Queen Anne to today, the Crown’s marks inside it, and what the Nation says it is.
An infographic	Design a one-page poster that explains the Royal Chapel: its story from Queen Anne to today, the Crown’s marks inside it, and what the Nation says it is, with a drawing that puts a person in the picture.
A short talk or podcast	Record or give a two-to-three-minute talk explaining the Royal Chapel: its story from Queen Anne to today, the Crown’s marks inside it, and what the Nation says it is to someone your age.

What your work must include

- At least three facts with their dates.
- One quotation from the primary source, The title of the federal plaque, unveiled by the Queen on 1 October 1984, in quotation marks.
- At least three of the “Words to know”, used correctly.
- One point of view other than the Mohawk Nation of Grand River’s, explained fairly (Canada, Its keepers).
- Your own claim, with the evidence and reasoning behind it.
- A list of the sources you used.

Steps

- Day 1: reread the poster and this sheet; choose your format; write your claim in one sentence.
- Day 2: gather your facts, your quotation and the other point of view; plan your work.
- Day 3: make a first draft; trade with a partner and give each other one compliment and one suggestion.
- Day 4: improve your draft, check the success criteria, and hand it in.

Success criteria: check before you hand it in

☐	My claim is clear.
☐	My facts and dates are correct.
☐	I quoted the source exactly and said where it is from.
☐	I explained another point of view fairly.
☐	I used at least three new words correctly.
☐	I listed my sources.

Due: About four class days from the start. Marked with the Achievement Chart on the teacher’s page.

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For the teacher: standards met

Universal competencies	Identify key facts and claims; Understand perspective and point of view; Make connections, personal to community to larger systems; Analyse and evaluate evidence. The same everywhere, whatever the curriculum.
Curriculum	Ontario History, Grade 7, Strand A, and Grade 10 Civics (CHV2O).
Specific expectations	Teachers choose which specific expectations to assess. The sheet supports the overall expectations named above.
Historical thinking	Each question names its concept: significance, evidence, cause and consequence, continuity and change, perspective, ethical dimension.
Reading level	Flesch–Kincaid grade 6.2 (reading ease 78)
Plain language	Written to ISO 24495-1; new words taught in “Words to know”.
Balance	Three views of the chapel, side by side.
Time and materials	Two periods of 40 to 50 minutes. A visit to the chapel is ideal.
Accommodations	Read aloud; show photographs of the silver, the plaque and the windows.

Assessment: the Achievement Chart

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Knowledge and Understanding	Names some facts with help	Names the main facts and dates	Explains them accurately	Explains them and how they connect
Thinking	Answers with little use of the source	Uses the source in part	Uses the source to support answers	Weighs the points of view against the source
Communication	Ideas are unclear	Some ideas are clear	Clear, with the new words	Clear, precise, new words used well
Application	Makes few connections	A simple connection to today	Connects the past to today	Explains why it still matters

Answer key

	A good answer includes
1	They were the Crown’s gifts of 1712, kept through war and carried to the Grand: the link from Queen Anne to today.
2	That it belongs to the Mohawks, and to the Crown (“Her Majesty’s”), in three languages.
3	The Mohawks, loyal to the Crown, left the Mohawk Valley and settled on the Grand, bringing the gifts.
4	The door, windows and keepers changed; the gifts, the tomb, the Crown’s marks and the faith remained.
5	To honour the Mohawks’ loyalty and the chapel’s link to the Crown.
6	A reasoned view.

Sources: the chapel’s plaques; the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada; the chapel’s grant of arms, 2023. This sheet explains the Mohawk Nation of Grand River’s position beside others.

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