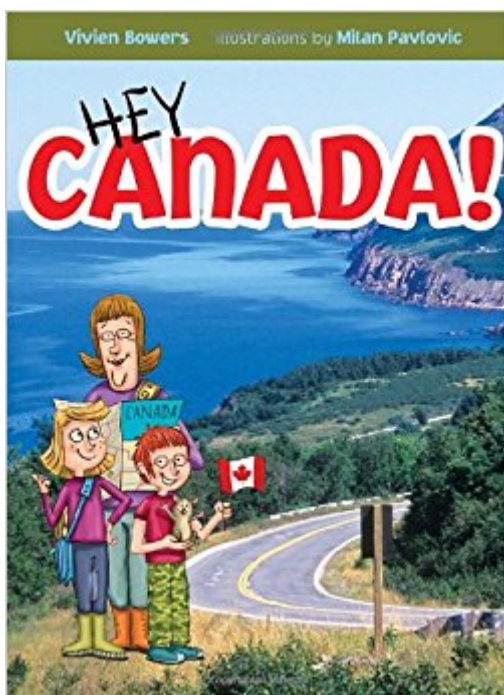


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# Hey Canada!



## Synopsis

Gran has decided that she is taking nine-year-old Alice and eight-year-old Cal on a road trip across Canada — before she's old and creaky. • With a sparkling combination of poems, silly songs, tweets and blogs, the trio records the trip for readers everywhere to share. Starting in St. John's Newfoundland, where they have a "find-it" list that includes a moose and an iceberg and going all the way to the Pacific Ocean, the gang in Hey Canada! offers a delightful way to learn about vast, varied, and surprising Canada. The book combines narrative, poems, photos, comics about historical events such as the battle at Fortress Louisburg, maps (including provincial flags, birds, and flowers), in a lively, easily accessible format. Not only great fun to read, this is a valuable resource for young Canadians and for visitors across the country.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 72 pages

Publisher: Tundra Books (May 8, 2012)

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Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #304,255 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #17 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Canada #26 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Canada

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## Customer Reviews

FINALIST, BC Book Prizes™ Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Literature Prize "This is probably the best Canadian travel book written for pre-teens.... Filled with facts, simply related history, engaging tales and colour illustrations presented as souvenirs, postcards and slides, Hey Canada! is guaranteed to stimulate a youngster's urge to explore the country." —The Globe and Mail  
| Observations about capital cities and tourist attractions are captured in Alice's blog, Cal's tweets, and their grandmother's poetry |. Full-page comic strips interspersed throughout and the hamster updates keep the tone of the narration light. Color photographs, cartoon

illustrations, and interactive sidebars entitled "Find It" add visual appeal. Bowers gives readers an honest, attractive, and interesting glimpse into this nation's geography and culture by highlighting the unique aspects of each province and territory. "School Library Journal

"[Hey Canada!] aims to both entertain and inform. A smattering of information about the country's history, nature, landmarks, and geography is interspersed with the repartee of the three human travelers and reports on the shenanigans of the constantly escaping hamster. Illustrations depict the travelers as cartoon characters and frequently insert them into the abundant small photos and drawings of locations. Students looking for an overview of Canada will find this useful.

"Booklist | Geared for a younger audience, Hey Canada! is easier to read and will be enjoyed by boys and girls alike. The text flows with facts as well as humorous anecdotes made by the two kids and Gran. Bowers has done a wonderful job of keeping the story flowing with information that could have become boring, but that stays alive because of the kids' quips.

"Recommended, CM Magazine | With poems, silly songs, tweets and blogs, the trio records the trip and offers a delightful way to learn about vast, varied, and surprising Canada.

"The Calgary Sun

Vivien Bowers was born in Vancouver, Canada, and was a grade five teacher. She has been a freelance writer for more than twenty-five years, writing elementary and secondary school materials, as well as non-fiction books and magazine articles for both adults and children. She has garnered many awards for her work, including the Canadian Science Association "Science in Society" journalism award, the Red Cedar Book Award, the Hackmatack Children's Choice Award, and the BC Book Prize. Bowers has two grown sons and lives at the base of the mountains outside Nelson, BC.

Milan Pavlovic holds a Master's degree in Illustration and is an award-winning illustrator for children. His work has been regularly published in Europe, in forms of children's and educational books, kids' reviews, daily newspapers, and comic magazines.

Reason for Reading: Always on the lookout for good books about Canadian geography. There are plenty around these days, but not many I'd label much better than just OK. This book's format and artwork attracted me. I've read several children's Canadian geography books and while they get the job done, dull is usually the optimum word. Either that, or they become pages of factoids with no narrative to carry the book. Bowers' "Hey Canada!" manages to avoid these pitfalls and brings to elementary children an interesting, entertaining and educational tour of our country province by province. Divided into chapters which each are devoted to a province or territory, the story is told in

a narrative from the girl, Alice's point of view. She is purportedly recording all this on a blog of their adventure. Her cousin Cal, who is younger than her, but also the brainy one, will come up with interesting factoids to Tweet as he is the official Twitter poster of the group. In this way the journey across each province is told in a fictional story of the family, with humour, Gran is a fun young grandmother and they've got their pet hamster traveling with them by supposed accident. As the story is told the facts are presented about each province and area concentrating on all things a tourist would like to know about: the wildlife, the land, the history, the peoples, the customs and specifics unusual to each area. Some provinces are given more page space than others; of course Ontario has the most pages devoted to it and Saskatchewan is lucky to get three but I think a fair shake has been given to all the p's and t's outside of over-represented Ontario and Quebec. Plenty of interesting, positive information has been given leaving the reader with a sense of wanting to really visit these places. While the main characters are 8 and 9, I think the book will hold the interest across the elementary grades of 1-6, certainly as an introduction to Canada as a whole and the provinces/territories singularly. I'd recommend this as a quick brush through the topic or as a starting point, using other books to branch out into deeper study. The most entertaining Canadian geography book out there at the moment, that I've seen.

Gran has decided that she is taking nine-year-old Alice and eight-year-old Cal on a road trip across Canada "before she's old and creaky." With a sparkling combination of poems, silly songs, tweets and blogs, the trio records the trip for readers everywhere to share. Starting in St. John's Newfoundland, where they have a "find-it" list that includes a moose and an iceberg and going all the way to the Pacific Ocean, the gang in Hey Canada! offers a delightful way to learn about vast, varied, and surprising Canada. The book combines narrative, poems, photos, comics about historical events such as the battle at Fortress Louisburg, maps (including provincial flags, birds, and flowers), in a lively, easily accessible format. Not only great fun to read, this is a valuable resource for young Canadians and for visitors across the country. This book is full of amazing pictures, fun facts, games, and much more. My three year old really loves to look at the pictures, point out the animals, and search for the "clue's". My husband being american, thought it was an interesting read. I want to keep this book for when my kids are in school. Social studies homework has this book written all over it.

Review originally published on my blog: [...]Book provided by publisher for review. Nine year old Alice is the narrator for Hey Canada!, and she and her cousin Cal (who is 8) are taking a

cross-country camping trip with Gran. To record their adventures and what they learn, Alice writes a blog - which is the main text of the book. But there are also tweets (factoids of Cal, who is apparently quite the trivia expert!), poems, and some great illustrations. Featuring a mix of actual photographs and quirky illustrations, Hey Canada! has something of a scrapbook feel to it - something I really appreciated. Since Alice and Cal are taking this trip with Gran to learn about Canada, visiting every province and capital city (as well as a few other adventures along the way), readers learn about Canada alongside them. In keeping with the scrapbooky vibe, the information is broken down into newsy bits that give tantalizing introductions to all aspects of Canadian life: the history, the trivia, the flora and fauna. Presented in such a way, readers learn a ton of information, without feeling like they're being lectured. It's what I like to call "sneaky learning," if you know what I mean. But seriously: the story itself is fun, and the narrative linking all the "educational stuff" is a little hilarious at times. A Houdini-wannabe hamster, encounters with wildlife and local foods, and a really great family chemistry between Gran, Alice and Cal all make for a thoroughly enjoyable read.

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