



Name: _____

Date: _____

Finding a *Secret Path*: Mapping Activity

Introduction

In *Secret Path*, Chanie couldn't read the map he took with him on his journey. His first language was not English, and he did not know where he was or where he was going.

Using only the map on the next page and your knowledge of Canadian geography, complete the following tasks:

- 1) Mark your current location with a circle. This will be your starting point.
- 2) Mark the capital of your province with an X. If you live in the capital, mark the capital of the province next to you. This will be your destination.
- 3) Answer the following questions to the best of your ability:
 - a) How far are you from your destination?

- b) What is the terrain like between you and your destination? What do you know about mountains, rivers, lakes, valleys, prairies, and other geographical features in the area?

- c) Estimate: How long would it take to reach your destination on foot? What about by car?

- d) What supplies do you think you would need for your journey? If you were to leave right now, would you have all of the supplies you need?

- e) Where can you stop along the way to eat, sleep, and find shelter?

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Discussion Questions

With your teacher and classmates, discuss:

- 1) If places on the map had been marked in your first language, how would this exercise have been different?
- 2) How did you find your current location on the map? How close were you?
- 3) How did you find the capital city on the map? How close were you?
- 4) What was it like trying to guess how long the walk would take you, without knowing the terrain?
- 5) After this experience, how do you think Chanie might have felt on his walk along the train tracks?

Reflection Questions

On this handout or on a separate sheet of paper, write a short reflection (250 words) on one of the following prompts:

- 1) Think of (or imagine) a time when you were in a place where no one spoke your first language. How did this feel? How did you communicate with people around you? What are some of the challenges that you faced?
- 2) If you lost the ability to communicate with family and friends, how might life be different? Think of your relationships with parents, siblings, grandparents, cousins, etc. What would this feel like? What challenges would this create in your daily life?
