

# AGRICULTURE

Dear Diary,...

**Student's Workbook**  
For Highschool



**ARCHIVES: A WINDOW INTO THE PAST**

Every day, wherever we go, we leave different traces behind us. Be it a postcard that was sent during a holiday, a picture taken during an event, a report card or a voice mail, these different types of documents are traces that serve to locate us in time and space. Some of these documents are ordinary and quickly forgotten, even deleted or destroyed. However, they may become, in the future, archives of significant historical value. Archives are primary sources that come to us directly from the past.

1. Take a moment to think about the different traces that you have left behind you over the past few weeks. Make a list.

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2. If you had to write a diary describing your daily life, what would you write about what you did yesterday?

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3. Do some elements of your diary give us information about the period in which you are living? Explain.

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## In the Footsteps of a Lacolle Farmer and of an Inhabitant of Farnham



The ETRC archives hold several diaries. These contain personal information relating to farmers, to women, and to settlers in general. Although the descriptions of an individual's day are often very brief, and although the authors write about things that might appear mundane, these diaries cover many topics and provide valuable windows into life in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The Documentary Record contains excerpts of a diary written by a Lacolle farmer (1836) and excerpts of a diary held by William James Douglas, a resident of Farnham (1885). Each of the pages bring us to an exact moment in the lives of these individuals.

Your job is to highlight the sections of the diaries that provide information on the way people lived their daily lives. You will need to explain how these elements teach us about the daily realities of these individuals.

Here is an example: *William James Douglas, April 1<sup>st</sup> 1885: Fine day to village very bad roads*

The roads are in terrible shape. Consequence: transportation has slowed down and is taking a great deal of time. The trip is taking place in the spring, during the thaw, which might explain the terrible state of roads.

Excerpts	Explanations



## Dear Diary,...

Now that you have read the diaries belonging to different 19<sup>th</sup> century individuals, it is your turn to step into the shoes of an inhabitant of the Eastern Townships in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and to write a diary describing your daily life. The different documents contained in the Documentary Record will help you give certain elements of context.

Here is a table that will help you organize the information you will need to write your diary. Each of the documents (1 to 5) contains elements of context related to the life of a farmer, be it in Lower Canada (United Canada or Quebec) or in the Eastern Townships.

### Here are the different requirements that must be met when writing your diary.

1. Give your historical character a name.
2. Include the date of the day you are writing about. This day must be in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (temporal context). Watch out for anachronisms (chronological errors). For example, Lower Canada became United Canada in 1840 and Quebec in 1867).
3. Include the location of your character (spatial context)
4. Include some kind of relationship with the economic/agricultural context of Lower Canada (Quebec)
5. Include an element of geographical context in the description of your day.
6. Include the type of crop that your character is growing.

	Information
Document 1	
Document 2	
Document 3	
Document 4	
Document 5	





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and



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