



## HISTORICAL THINKING AND WRITING PROMPTS

Below are a bunch of writing or question prompts. You can encourage kids/students to build in accurate historical details through research or let their imaginations run wild! For prompts involving local history, you might consider searching for information in the Museum of Dufferin's online database, Dufferin Genealogy - <http://geneology.dufferinmuseum.com/>



### TIMETRAVEL

- If I were someone from the past transported to today's world, I would [be]...
  - Who would you be? Why?
  - What would you do?
- I'm going to travel back in time to the year...
  - What will your life be like when you get there?
  - What would you see and do?
  - Who would you meet?
- You find a time machine. Where do you go and why?
- If I lived in England during the Victorian Era (or other time period), I would be...
  - What would be your social status?
  - What would be your job or occupation?
- If you could speak to one of your ancestors, who would it be? What would you ask them?
- If you could change any part of history, what would it be?
- How do you think people in the past celebrated holidays?
- What was life like before TV was invented? What about before cars were invented?



### MYSTERIES AND DISCOVERIES

- You are an Early Settler in Dufferin County. One day while plowing your field, you hit something stuck in the ground. You dig it up and discover it is a giant mammoth bone. What do you do?



- Rumour has it that notorious outlaw Jesse James has come to Dufferin County and has hidden gold somewhere in Mulmur. What do you do?
- You find a hidden bunker full of artifacts. What is inside?
- One night, everything in the Museum of Dufferin comes to life. What happens?
- The year is 1894 and Orangeville citizens have reported ghost sightings near the railway tracks? What do you think? What do you do?
- You go for a walk and come across an old abandoned house. What happens next?
  - Do you go inside?
  - What is inside?



## **MAKING CHOICES**

- The year is 1914, and the government is calling for women and men to join the war effort. You are of age to serve. What do you do?
- You are a prisoner in the Orangeville Gaol (Jail). One day while walking in the exercise yard, you notice that the stones in the wall are sticking out, almost like steps on a ladder. What do you do?
- A grandparent tells you a shocking secret about your family history. How do you react?
- You have to leave home and can only take one family heirloom with you. What do you take?
- The best symbol or emblem of Canada is...because...