

HISTORY AT HOME:



THE HUBLE DIARIES

The Huble Diaries span the period of 1909 to 1919. They were originally written by Albert Huble during his days of homesteading at the Giscome Portage. Though Mr. Huble wrote almost every single day, his entries were short, and you might think his diaries look very different from what you imagine a diary to be. Rather than writing down his thoughts and feelings, Mr. Huble used his diary as a record of his personal daily life. He almost always comments on the weather, and mostly documents the work he did each day.

Even though you won't find any scandalous gossip in Mr. Huble's diaries, reading them now, over 100 years after they were written, we can learn a great deal about what life was like at the Huble Homestead in the early 1900s. We can see what types of things Mr. Huble was doing day-to-day and season-to-season, we can find evidence that supports family stories or clarifies other historical sources like photos or letters, and we can see what types of events happening around him he thought were important enough to write down. To learn more about Mr. Huble's diaries and how they are used at Huble Homestead Historic Site, visit www.hublehomestead.ca/hublediaries.

Keeping a diary or a journal is a great habit to have. It probably won't last 100 years and provide information for the establishment of an historic site, but it can be a great tool for mental health and personal growth. And if your diary *does* survive for your descendants or future historians to find, it will show how you – and many people like you – were feeling and reacting to the world as it is now, and that's a personal and important way we learn about history.

If you want to use the Huble Diaries to inspire at-home learning:

- 1. Discuss what a diary is. Some ideas to get you started:**
 - a. A place to record events, thoughts, feelings, experiences, and other personal things that interest you.
 - b. A great way to record your experiences and learn from them.
 - c. A record of things that matter to you.
 - d. What else?



2. **Talk about what we can learn from a diary.**
 - a. What a person did every day.
 - b. How a person felt about things happening around them.
 - c. How events around them affected the person writing the diary.
 - d. Answers to specific questions we might have about the people and places around the writer.
 - e. What else?

3. **Have your children make their own diaries. Here are two ideas you might explore:**
 - a. Record what's happening around you now, during this important moment in history. What are you doing to keep yourself busy? How do you feel? What do you think would be important to remember later (or for future readers to know about)?
 - i. Find or make a booklet where you can write your personal journal.
 - b. Spark historical imagination by writing a fictional diary of a person your age, either in the early 1900s when Albert Huble was writing, or from any historical period in which you and your children are interested, or are already studying.
 - i. Use the activity on the next page, or tailor it to your imagination!

Historians on keeping records during the pandemic:

<https://news.virginia.edu/content/write-it-down-historian-suggests-keeping-record-life-during-pandemic>

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/03/22/metro/journaling-during-pandemic-yourself-historians/>

ACTIVITY: CREATE AN HISTORICAL DIARY

Make your own historical journal, just like Mr. Huble's!

You will need:

- ~ Large paper bag
- ~ Yarn or twine
- ~ Scissors
- ~ Lined or unlined paper
- ~ Hole punch

Optional:

- ~ Oval shaped stencil
- ~ Masking tape
- ~ Old-fashioned portraits



Instructions:

1. Get your child to cut out the sides and bottom of the large paper bag. Take the cut out section and crumple it until the paper becomes softer and wrinkled, which gives it a vintage look. Be careful not to rip holes when crumpling the bag.
2. Measure out the desired cover size for the journal, making sure that the section of paper bag is large enough to double that size. The bag will be cut in one piece that will fold in half to cover the back and the front of the diary.
3. Insert the desired amount of paper inside the cover and then hole punch 4-5 holes along the side.
4. Once the holes have been punched, weave the twine or yarn through the holes and tie at the top to fasten it all together.
5. If you want to get creative, take a picture of your child to add to the cover of their journal. Print the photos in black & white or sepia tones to give it an old-fashioned look. If you really want to get creative, wear a costume reflecting the time period of your fictional diary!
6. Use an oval shaped stencil to cut a hole in the cover of the diary and then use masking tape to attach the photo over the hole from the back side.
7. Lastly, the child can add their name to the cover and decorate!