

Alexander MacArthur: suggested questions and activities

The following activities will help you to explore the topic of emigration from Scotland in more depth using the sources provided.

Albumen prints from 'Sports, pastimes and pursuits of Canada', 1866

- How useful is this source for providing information about life in Canada during the 1860s? Give reasons for your answer.
- Compare these pictures with the photographic portrait of Alexander MacArthur. Do you notice any similarities?

Photographic portrait of Alexander MacArthur and business partner, circa 1868

- What does the photograph convey about Alexander MacArthur?
- In your opinion, what is the purpose of this source?

Letter written by Alexander MacArthur, 1864

- What reasons does Alexander give for wanting to leave his job at the Bank of Toronto to join the Hudson's Bay Company?
- How confident does Alexander feel about his future employment prospects with the Company?

View of Fort Garry, circa 1870s

- How useful is this image for providing information about life in Fort Garry in the 1870s?