

# Our Families, Our Homes

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**Word count: 158**

(pp. 2–7, not including the labels)

## Overview

Three children from different regions of Canada describe their families, family activities, and communities.

<b>Genre/Text Types</b> Non-fiction/Retell, Description	<b>Text Features</b> Caption, coloured type, fact boxes, headings, labels, map, photos
<b>Connection</b> <b>Social Studies</b> Relationships; Significant People and Places; Natural and Built Features of a Community	<b>Vocabulary</b> Words that might require clarification include <i>blended family</i> , <i>community</i> , <i>festival</i> , <i>Jamaica/Jamaican</i> , <i>stepbrother</i> , <i>stepsister</i> , <i>tea parties</i> , and <i>trout</i> .
	<b>Words for Family Members</b> Before reading, invite children to brainstorm a list of <b>words that describe family members</b> (e.g., <i>sister</i> , <i>parent</i> , <i>stepmother</i> , <i>grandfather</i> ). For specific examples, discuss other words or names sometimes used (e.g., for <i>mother</i> : <i>mom</i> , <i>mommy</i> , <i>mum</i> , <i>mama</i> ). Encourage children to watch, as they read, for words that describe or name a family member.

## eBook Activities

**Predicting** (title page); **Inferring** (page 10); **Analyzing and Evaluating** (page 15)

## Extensions

**Using Text Features:** While looking at the map on pages 2–3, point out the location of your community. Then ask: *Which family lives the closest to us? Which family lives the farthest away from us?*

**Analyzing and Evaluating:** Invite students to identify how the families in the book are the same and different. Consider using a Venn diagram to organize information about two of the families.

**Making Connections:** **AT HOME** Who is in your family? Draw a picture of your family. Add labels such as *brother* or *nana* to tell about each person. Or, you could write the person's name. Ask someone to help you write a sentence telling one thing you like to do with a family member or with your whole family.

**Asking Questions:** Choose one of the children in the book. Think of two questions to ask them about their family, where they live, or what they like to do. Share your questions with a partner.

