



### ***Dr. Alfred Schmitz Shadd*** **Virtual Exhibit Reflection Questions**

Dr. Alfred Shadd was the first documented person of African descent to live in what is now Saskatchewan. The WDM has developed an exhibit in partnership with the Melfort and District Museum and the Saskatchewan African Canadian Heritage Museum honouring him and his legacy.

Visit the *Dr. Alfred Schmitz Shadd* virtual exhibit ([wdm.ca/exhibits/drshadd](http://wdm.ca/exhibits/drshadd)) before completing the questions below.

#### **Reflection Questions**

1. What year did Dr. Shadd first come to the Carrot River Settlement, Northwest Territories (present-day Kinistino, SK)? (1896)
2. How old was Dr. Shadd when he first moved to the Carrot River Settlement? (27)
3. When Dr. Shadd arrived in the Carrot River Settlement to teach, the family he was to live with refused to allow him in their home and at first many parents were opposed him teaching their children. Why? (They were uncomfortable with him being Black due to prejudice and racism.)
4. How do you think Dr. Shadd's family's history influenced his career? (Various, from the Conclusion: "Having grown up in a family so dedicated to helping others and fighting injustice, it's not surprising that Dr. Shadd was so dedicated to providing assistance to others.")
5. Dr. Shadd was an early adopter of new technologies to help him serve his medical patients. What are two technologies he used and why? (phone to contact people quickly, automobile to get to them quickly)
6. What parts of Dr. Shadd's story do you relate to? What parts are different from your experiences?
7. Were there parts of Dr. Shadd's story that surprised you? Why?



8. What parts of Dr. Shadd's life do you wish you knew more about?  
How do you think you could find more information on that topic? What types of sources would you use?
  
9. Dr. Shadd was born in Canada, but his family also had roots in the United States and he had family members who still resided there. What are some ways that policy and politics in the United States impacted the Shadd family?  
(His grandfather Abraham Doras Shadd came to Canada after the US passed the Fugitive Slave Act, his family was involved in the Anti-Slavery movement and the Underground Railroad.)
  
10. Events, people, or developments are said to have historical significance if:
  - they **resulted in change**, "That is, they had deep consequences, for many people, over a long period of time,"<sup>i</sup>
  - or because they are **revealing**, "That is, they shed light on enduring or emerging issues in history or contemporary light."<sup>ii</sup>

Using this criteria, do you think Dr. Shadd and his experiences in Saskatchewan have historical significance? Why/why not?
  
11. This virtual exhibit was created by the WDM in partnership with the Melfort and District Museum and the Saskatchewan African Canadian Heritage Museum (SACHM). Why do you think it's important to organizations like the WDM to work with community and other organizations when creating exhibits like this?



EDUCATION  
PROGRAMS



## More Resources

“Alfred Schmitz Shadd” Canadian Encyclopedia  
[thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/alfred-schmitz-shadd](https://thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/alfred-schmitz-shadd)

“Dr. Shadd’s Two Room Office” Melfort Museum  
[melfortmuseum.org/medicine.htm](https://melfortmuseum.org/medicine.htm)

“Historical Significance” Historical Thinking Project  
[historicalthinking.ca/historical-significance](https://historicalthinking.ca/historical-significance)

Saskatchewan African Canadian Heritage Museum

- “Alfred Schmitz Shadd” [sachm.org/virtual-museum/category/alfred-schmitz-shadd](https://sachm.org/virtual-museum/category/alfred-schmitz-shadd)
- “Early Homesteaders and Settlers” [sachm.org/virtual-museum/early-pioneers](https://sachm.org/virtual-museum/early-pioneers)

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<sup>i</sup> Dr. Peter Sexias and Tom Morton, *The Big Six Historical Thinking Concepts* (Toronto: Nelson Education Ltf., 2013), 12.

<sup>ii</sup> Ibid.