

KEIKO MARGARET LYONS (INOUYE)

Pronunciation: Kay-koh Mahr-gahr-reh-t Lie-ons / Ee-no-oo-eh

ANSWER KEY:

■ WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

1942: Leaves family to work as a live-in cook and maid. Learns how to cook Western-style food on the job, including how to gut and stuff a chicken.

■ HAMILTON, ONTARIO

1945: After working as a chambermaid for a year and studying at night school, enrolls in McMaster University to study economics.

■ LONDON, ENGLAND

1950s: Works as a producer for the British Broadcasting Corporation, interviewing world leaders such as Bertrand Russell and Lester B. Pearson.

CHECK IT OUT:

■ UBC'S INTERVIEW WITH MITS SUMIYA

Read Margaret's story as part of the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre's 5 Generations exhibit.

<http://fivegenerations,jccc.on.ca/stories.php>

FURTHER READING:

- Lyons, Margaret. "My Share of Good Luck". *Nikkei Images* Volume 18.1: Spring 2013. [http://centre.nikkeiplace.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/ NI2013_ Spring-FINAL-small-size.pdf](http://centre.nikkeiplace.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/NI2013_Spring-FINAL-small-size.pdf)



Photo courtesy McMaster University Alumni.

MARGARET LYONS

Pronunciation:
Mahr-gahr-reh-t Lie-ons

UNFOLD FOR ANSWER KEY

KEIKO MARGARET LYONS (INOUE)

Margaret Lyons was born Keiko Margaret Inouye in 1923 in Mission, BC. Her mother's family had immigrated from Shiga prefecture in Japan, and at home Margaret spoke the Shiga dialect of Japanese with them, although she only went to Japanese language school for two years. Growing up, Margaret loved Japanese kabuki theatre and traditional odori dance. As a teenager, she also competed in regional public speaking contests, making speeches in English with other young Japanese Canadians. While she enjoyed discussing and debating current events with her father and dreamed of becoming a journalist, Margaret's mother carefully trained her in sewing and Japanese-style cooking to prepare her to be a good wife.

In 1942, Margaret's family was forced to leave their berry farm in Mission and move east. Like many Japanese Canadian farming families, they moved to Manitoba to work on a sugar beet farm in order to stay together. This didn't work out as planned because Margaret's brothers were all very young, and her father had stayed behind to work in Hope, BC. Farmers in Manitoba did not think the family would be good workers. Margaret and one of her sisters ended up moving to Winnipeg to work as live-in servants. **They were able to work in the same house, with Margaret working as a cook and downstairs maid, and her sister working as a nanny and upstairs maid. Margaret had to learn how to cook Western-style food as she went along, including how to remove a chicken's feet and innards before roasting it.**

Margaret worked as a cook for almost two years before moving to Hamilton, Ontario to go to university. Hamilton was one of the few cities at the time that didn't have any restrictions on Japanese Canadians coming to live or work there. Luckily for Margaret, Hamilton was also home to McMaster University. Margaret had finished high school in BC, but although she had done well and received a good education there, she had to take extra classes to meet Ontario university requirements. **She studied at night school and worked as a chambermaid for a women's residence at McMaster for one year before she had the money and the qualifications to enrol as a university student.**

Margaret graduated from McMaster with a degree in economics in 1949, and married her classmate and "best friend for life", Ed Lyons. Together, the two of them moved to England, where Margaret got a job at the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). **She worked for the BBC for eleven years, starting as a typist and working her way up to becoming a producer.** With two years of university French classes and two years at Japanese language school as a child in Mission, Margaret worked in both French and Japanese sections of the BBC on her way to becoming a producer for the Overseas Service in English for Asia division.

Margaret and her husband returned to Canada in 1960, and Margaret got a job with the CBC as a radio producer. She had a long and successful career at the CBC. She broke down many barriers for women as she was promoted higher and higher, and eventually became the head of English radio. In 1986 she returned to London to be the CBC's Director of European Operations.

Margaret left the CBC in 1991 to enjoy retirement in Toronto with her husband. Since then, she has studied Japanese and Mandarin, taught English as a second language and beginner's Japanese, volunteered for the William Lyon Mackenzie House museum, and worked to preserve historic buildings in Toronto. She has also been active with her alma mater McMaster, serving in their Senate for six years. In 2010, Margaret was awarded a Member of the Order of Canada for her career in broadcast journalism and her extensive volunteer work for the community.

HANAKO SATO (AWAKA)

Pronunciation: Hah-nah-koh Sah-toh (Ah-wah-kah)

ANSWER KEY:

■ TASHME, BC

1944: Travels with husband from farm where they live in Alberta to visit their former students in Tashme internment camp.

■ VANCOUVER, BC

1947: Travels to from Lacombe, Alberta with husband to try to get back control of the Japanese Language School's property (buildings).

■ VANCOUVER, BC

1953: Helps to reopen the Japanese Language School after the building is returned to the community from the Canadian government.

CHECK IT OUT:

■ NIKKEI STORIES

Go to <http://nikkeistories.com/> and watch the video "Vancouver Japanese Language School"

FURTHER READING:

- Vancouver Japanese Language School & Japanese Hall. *Centennial Memories: Celebrating 100 years of Education & Community Spirit*. Coquitlam: Fraser Journal Publishing, 2006.



Canadian Centennial project fonds.
NMM 2010.23.2.4.472

HANAKO SATO

Pronunciation:

Hah-nah-koh Sah-toh

UNFOLD FOR ANSWER KEY

HANAKO SATO (AWAKA)

Hanako Sato was born Hanako Awaka in 1901 in Wakayama prefecture, Japan. Her family moved around Japan frequently when she was young and eventually settled in Tokyo. Hanako graduated from Aoyama Normal College, a teachers' training school, and immigrated to Canada in 1921 to teach at the Vancouver Japanese Language School. She married Tsutae Sato, the principal of the school. Tsutae had graduated from Aoyama Normal College just like Hanako, and he had immigrated to Canada four years before.

The Vancouver Japanese Language School was originally meant to teach Japanese immigrants' children all school subjects in Japanese, just as if they were in a school in Japan. This was because a lot of Japanese immigrant families planned to move back to Japan after a few years. But by the time Hanako arrived, more families were choosing to stay in Canada permanently. Their children went to Canadian public schools, and the Japanese Language School changed so that it only taught Japanese language. It had classes after the regular school day and on weekends. The school served an important role in the community, helping educate both children and adults as well as promoting understanding between Japanese Canadians and their non-Japanese neighbours. The Japanese Language School building, which included a Japanese Hall, was a centre for community events, such as plays and performances. Hanako and Tsutae established the Japanese Canadian Language Schools Federation to create connections with different Japanese language schools, and helped support Japanese language schools in remote areas.

In 1941, after Canada declared war on Japan, the Canadian government shut down all the Japanese language schools in Vancouver. In 1942, Hanako and Tsutae were forced to leave Vancouver and go work on a farm in Lacombe, Alberta, where they lived for ten years. Their former students were scattered across Canada, mostly in internment camps in the interior of BC. And the school they had run for over twenty years was held in trust by the government, along with all other property in Vancouver that was owned by Japanese Canadians. In 1943, the government began to sell these properties without their owners' permission.

Even though they lived in Alberta, Hanako and Tsutae travelled to internment camps in BC to visit their former students, who were happy to see them again. Many photographs commemorate their visit to Tashme internment camp in 1944. They also travelled to Vancouver during that time to try to get the building of the Japanese Language School and Japanese Hall back from the government. They finally succeeded in getting the building back in 1952, and were able re-open the school in its original location in Vancouver in 1953. The Vancouver Japanese Language School was the only building from the formerly bustling Powell Street area that was returned to its original owners after Japanese Canadian property had been confiscated.

Hanako and Tsutae retired in 1966, after almost fifty years of teaching. They wrote several books together in Japanese about their experiences, including Building the Bridge: Teaching Japanese Canadians for 50 Years. Hanako died in Vancouver in 1983, and Tsutae followed her less than three weeks later. They are buried together at Mountain View Cemetery in Vancouver.

THOMAS KUNITO SHOYAMA

Pronunciation: Taw-mah-s Koo-nee-toe Show-yah-mah

ANSWER KEY:

■ KASLO, BC

1942: Moves, with *The New Canadian* offices, to the Kaslo internment camp, as the Japanese Canadian community disperses to different sites. *The New Canadian* is now the primary source of news for Japanese Canadians in both Japanese and English.

■ VANCOUVER, BC

1945: Returns to the West Coast after leaving Kaslo as a volunteer for the Canadian army. Completes basic training in Simcoe, Ontario, and then joins the Canadian Army Japanese Language School to train as part of the S-20 Intelligence Corps.

■ OTTAWA, ONTARIO

1975: Becomes Deputy Minister of Finance for the federal government. This is after helping to establish public healthcare while working as an economic advisor for the provincial government in Saskatchewan.

CHECK IT OUT:

■ NIKKEI STORIES

Go to <http://nikkeistories.com/> and watch the video “Thomas Shoyama”

- Cartoon: “Thomas Shoyama - A Great Canadian”
<http://www.discovernikkei.org/en/journal/2013/12/11/thomas-shoyama/>

FURTHER INFO:

- “Thomas Shoyama”: *Sounds Japanese Canadian to Me*. Nikkei National Museum. Podcast. <http://centre.nikkeiplace.org/sjctm-podcast/episode-4/>

Ayukawa, Midge. “Thomas Kunito Shoyama: My Mentor, My Friend”. *Nikkei Images* 12.1: Spring 2007. Nikkei National Museum. <http://centre.nikkeiplace.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/Volume12-Number01.pdf>



Thomas Shoyama collection, NNM 2010.79.10.15.3

TOM SHOYAMA

Pronunciation:
Taw-m Show-yah-mah

UNFOLD FOR ANSWER KEY

THOMAS “TOM” KUNITO SHOYAMA

Thomas Kunito Shoyama was born in Kamloops, BC on September 24, 1916, the third of six children. His father had emigrated from Kumamoto, Japan to work for the Canadian Pacific Railway as a cook and his mother had immigrated to join him as a picture bride. Tom left Kamloops in 1934 to go to university in Vancouver. He stayed with an acquaintance of the family and earning his keep by performing chores around the house. He also worked summers at a pulp and paper mill in Woodfibre, BC to earn enough money to support himself. He graduated from the University of British Columbia and earned his honours degree in commerce and economics in 1938. However, he was unable to get a job in his field of expertise due to racist hiring practices, and had to keep working at the pulp and paper mill in Woodfibre.

In 1938, Tom became a founding member of *The New Canadian*, an English-language newspaper formed to advocate for the political rights of Japanese Canadians and Canadian immigrants. *The New Canadian* was written by and for the younger generation of Canadian-born Japanese Canadians. In 1939, Tom became the editor after the original editor, Shinobu Higashi, accepted a job for a Japanese-run newspaper in Manchuria. In 1941, after Canada declared war on Japan, the Canadian government shut down all Japanese Canadian community newspapers. But they soon allowed *The New Canadian*, the only English-language paper among them, to reopen, with censorship, as a bilingual newspaper. As part of this agreement, *The New Canadian* printed notices from the BC Security Commission, becoming the primary source of news and government communications for a community that was becoming dispersed across internment camps and more widely across the country. *The New Canadian continued to publish out of Kaslo internment camp, where Tom and other staff had moved, from 1942-1945.*

In 1945, Tom left *The New Canadian* to volunteer for the Canadian army. Like many young Japanese Canadian men, he had first applied to serve his country before Japan's attack on Pearl Harbour in 1941. But only a small number of Japanese Canadians were accepted into the army because of racist politics. 1945 was when Canada finally gave in to pressure from its allied countries, who wanted the help of Japanese Canadians to translate and interpret information from Japanese prisoners. *This is how Tom, and several other Japanese Canadians, joined the S-20 intelligence corps.* However, Tom, along with many of his fellow recruits, didn't speak Japanese. They found the intensive language courses at the S-20 training school extremely challenging, and Tom never mastered the language.

After leaving the army in 1946 with the rank of sergeant, Tom went to Regina, Saskatchewan, where he worked for the provincial government under Premier Tommy Douglas. Tom became a key economic advisor to Premier Douglas while the government worked to introduce a public healthcare system. In 1964, Tom moved to Ottawa with his wife and daughter to work for the Economic Council of Canada. *He eventually rose to the rank of Deputy Minister of Finance in the federal government, one of the top public service positions in the country.* In 1978, Tom was made an officer of the Order of Canada for over thirty years of outstanding public service.

In 1980, Tom retired from government, and became a professor in public administration and Asia and Pacific studies at the University of Victoria, where he was liked and admired by his students. He provided his support and expertise for causes in the Japanese Canadian community. This included contributing to the struggle for redress, acting as an advisor for Midge Ayukawa's

TATSURO “BUCK” SUZUKI

Pronunciation: Tah-tsoo-roe Buh-k Soo-zoo-kee

ANSWER KEY:

■ VANCOUVER, BC

1941: Backs a message of protest sent from the Japanese Canadian Citizens' League to Ottawa asking that Japanese Canadians be allowed to join the Canadian army.

■ BRANTFORD, ONTARIO

1944: Joins the British army and serves overseas in the hopes of proving that Japanese Canadians are worthy of receiving equal rights to white Canadians.

■ BRITISH COLUMBIA

1948: Negotiates with the United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union to gain their support for Japanese Canadian fishermen to return to the coast and the fishing industry.

CHECK IT OUT:

■ WORKING PEOPLE: A HISTORY OF LABOUR IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

www.knowledge.ca/program/working-people-history-labour-british-columbia

Go to the webpage and scroll right to find and watch the video on Buck Suzuki.

FURTHER READING:

■ T. Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation website. <http://www.bucksuzuki.org>

Spirit of the Nikkei Fleet: BC's Japanese Canadian Fishermen. By Masako Fukawa, with Stanley Fukawa and the Nikkei Fishermen's History Book Committee. Madeira Park: Harbour Publishing, 2009.

UNFOLD FOR ANSWER KEY

BUCK SUZUKI

Pronunciation:
Buh-k Soo-zoo-kee



Nikkei Fishermen's Project Committee fonds.
NNM 2010.11.3.3.692

TATSURO “BUCK” SUZUKI

Tatsuro “Buck” Suzuki was born in 1915 to a fishing family in Don Island, BC. He was the eldest son of thirteen children, and started his career in the fishing industry after finishing grade eight, leaving school to work in a cannery. He got his fishing license at the age of 16, and joined the Fraser River Japanese Fishermen’s Association in Steveston. Buck was a leader among the Canadian-born generation of Nikkei fishermen. In 1938, at the age of only 22, he started a partnership with the white-dominated fishermen’s union, laying the foundation for Japanese Canadian fishermen to join the union as equal partners. He also helped found the Japanese Canadian Citizens’ League in 1936, an organization to lobby for Japanese Canadians’ right to vote. At the time, even Canadian-born people with Japanese heritage were not allowed to vote in BC.

Buck was a proud Canadian, and wanted to show it: when the Second World War broke out, he tried to enlist in the army, but was rejected due to racism. [In 1941, he supported an official message from the Japanese Canadian Citizens’ League to the government. The message protested against the army’s rejection of Japanese Canadians who wanted to help Canada in the war.](#) But worse was still to come: after Canada declared war on Japan in 1941, all Japanese Canadian owned fishing boats were confiscated by the government. Over 1000 boats were later sold to other people without their owners’ permission. Buck, along with the rest of his family and community, was forced to leave his entire life and livelihood behind on the coast. He ended up living in the Kaslo internment camp, where he worked as an advisor to the BC Security Commission and a go-between with the Japanese Canadian community. Because he was working with the government at a time when the government was making life very difficult for Japanese Canadians, many people in Kaslo didn’t trust Buck, even though he was trying to help them.

In 1944, the RCMP asked Buck to volunteer for the British Army. The Allied Forces needed Japanese speakers as translators, but Japanese Canadians were still not allowed to join the Canadian army. [Buck signed up for the British army, hoping to show that he was loyal to Canada and that Japanese Canadians deserved the same rights as all Canadians.](#) By the time he was discharged from the army in 1946, he had become a sergeant.

In 1949, Japanese Canadians were finally allowed to return to the west coast of Canada, four years after the end of the war. But even before the restrictions were lifted, Buck had started negotiations to help himself and other Japanese Canadian fishermen by contacting the president of the fishermen’s union. [Buck managed to get support from them for Japanese Canadians to come back to the coast, return to the fishing industry, and join the fishermen’s union in 1948.](#)

In 1951, Buck was elected to the executive board of the fishermen’s union. This was at the same time when the union adopted an anti-discrimination policy that required the branches of the union to actively oppose anything racist that happened among the union and its members. He continued to play an active role in the leadership of the union, even for some time after he had to retire from fishing in 1969 due to health problems. He passed away in 1977.

Buck was not just a union activist, but a strong advocate for the environment during his lifetime. He was a founding member of the Society Promoting Environmental Co-operation and active in the Pacific Salmon Society. In 1987, the fishermen’s union formed a new foundation to advocate for the protection of fish habitats by promoting research and education. They named it the T. Buck Suzuki Foundation in honour of Buck’s legacy.

VIOLET SHIZUYE TAKASHIMA

Pronunciation: V-eye-oh-let She-zoo-eh Tah-kah-she-mah

ANSWER KEY:

■ NEW DENVER, BC

1942: Father and four older brothers are taken away from the family to work in road camps. Moves to internment camp with mother and older sister, where school doesn't start until the last week of October and is only for grades one to eight.

■ HAMILTON, ONTARIO

1945: Tries to join brothers in Toronto after four years of separation, but the city won't let any more Japanese Canadians in. Is sent to live with sister in a rooming house in Hamilton while parents go to work as live-in servants in Oakville.

■ TORONTO, ONTARIO

1953: After reuniting with family and finishing high school in Toronto, graduates from Ontario College of Art with a degree in Fine Art. Saves money to keep studying art in Europe.

CHECK IT OUT:

■ BURNABY ART GALLERY

See images of a painting by Shizuye, and read about how the Burnaby Art Gallery donated it to the Nikkei National Museum, on the Burnaby Art Gallery's Tumblr page.

<http://burnabyartgallery.tumblr.com/post/112626675345/shizuye-takashima-donation-to-the-nikkei-national>

FURTHER READING:

■ Takashima, Shizuye. *A child in prison camp*. Montreal: Tundra Books, 1971.

■ *Learning to See: Shizuye Takashima in Retrospect*. Toronto: Gendai Gallery, 2008.



Takashima collection: NNMW.2017.16.1.1

**SHIZUYE
TAKASHIMA**
Pronunciation:
She-zoo-eh Tah-kah-she-mah

UNFOLD FOR ANSWER KEY

VIOLET SHIZUYE TAKASHIMA

Violet Shizuye “Shichan” Takashima was born on June 12, 1928 in Vancouver. She lived with her family in the neighbourhood of Kitsilano, where many other Japanese Canadians lived. She was born three months premature, so she was a small, delicate child who was prone to sickness and had a slight limp. Shizuye had an older sister, Mary, and four older brothers. In the book she later wrote as an adult, *A Child in Prison Camp*, she fictionalizes some details of her life, combining her four brothers into one character, “David”, to keep the story as simple as possible, and making herself two years younger, to match more closely how she felt at the time.

In 1942, Shizuye’s father was taken away from the family to build internment camps in the interior of BC, and her brothers were sent to build roads in Ontario, leaving her with her mother and sister alone in Vancouver. *Shizuye’s father rejoined them after they moved to the New Denver internment camp, but the government didn’t allow her brothers to be with them. Shizuye went to a makeshift elementary school in New Denver set up by other Japanese Canadians, but there was no high school for her older sister Mary until a year later.* In 1943, some nuns opened a high school that Mary and later Shizuye could attend. Shizuye and Mary’s brothers eventually moved to Toronto, and asked for Mary to come join them after she finished high school.

After the war ended, in 1945, Shizuye and her parents planned to join Shizuye’s brothers in Toronto, but by the time they went to Ontario, racist policies in Toronto were not allowing any more Japanese Canadians into the city. *Needing to find work, Shizuye’s parents got jobs in Oakville, Ontario, but could not take Shizuye with them. Instead, Shizuye was sent to live in Hamilton, where Mary was, and she worked as a domestic servant while going to high school.*

Shizuye’s family was finally reunited in fall of 1946, when the entire family had saved up enough money to buy a house together in Toronto. *Shizuye finished high school in Toronto, and went on to study at the Ontario College of Art.* She used her savings from working as a map drawer and an art teacher, and help from her family, to travel to Europe and continue her art studies there for two and a half years. She was eventually able to travel to many other places around the world, including Mexico, India, and Japan.

In 1971, Shizuye combined her painting skills with her memories of the internment years to publish *A Child in Prison Camp*, an illustrated, autobiographical account of the Japanese Canadian internment. Shizuye’s book, which went on to be published internationally and win many awards, was one of the first to talk about what had happened to Japanese Canadians in the 1940s from their own point of view. She continued to travel, paint, show her artwork in galleries, and teach painting and creative writing until she retired in 1994 and moved to Vancouver, where she passed away in 2005.