

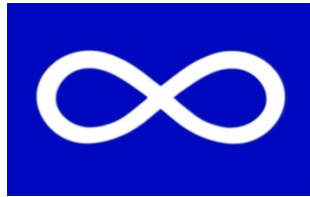
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please read the following selection taken from **Voices of Alberta** (page 140) and answer the questions below in **full sentences**:

Many nations have symbols. When you see the symbols, you think of that nation. The **Métis** Nation like many others, has a flag as one symbol. Another symbol of the Métis is the colourful sash. Sashes were worn around the waist. They were woven in beautiful colours, but they had very practical uses. Traders were away from home for a long time. There were no suitcases or backpacks. What did they use? One of the things they used on their travels was a sash:



Traders carried belongings in a **sash**, just as you put yours in a backpack. On the trails, sashes were used in many ways – as a scarf, a washcloth or towel, a saddle blanket, or a rope. When clothing tore, the long fringe could be used as a thread! Sashes were also used by the East Woodland First Nation and by Canadiens. Each group made its own particular kind of sash. Métis sashes are used today in Métis games and other ceremonies. Below is the Métis flag that shows the **infinity** symbol:



The Métis flag

1. What are the symbols of the Métis Nation?

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2. How were sashes worn?


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3. How did the Métis traders use the sashes?

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4. In addition to the Métis Nation which other groups used sashes?

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5. Explain about the upside down eight symbol →  on the Métis flag. In your opinion what do you think it means?

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**Glossary:**

**Métis:** A person of European and First Nations ancestry.

**infinity:** never ending / eternal

**sash:** a long strip or loop of cloth worn over one shoulder or around the waist