

## Madame La Bolduc

*These questions can help to guide a student's viewing of the Mary Travers biography.*

1. Describe Mary's childhood.
2. What instruments did Mary know how to play? How did she learn?
3. Why did Mary leave home when she was thirteen years old? Where did she go?
4. Describe Mary's lifestyle soon after her marriage to Edouard La Bolduc in 1914.
5. Did Mary always hope to become a musician?
6. What did Mary's daughter mean when she said, "Mama doesn't know where her children are."?
7. How did Mary's career as a musician start?
8. Did Mary's first record bring her instant success?
9. Why did Mary turn to public musical performances? When did she do so? What significant event was happening in society at this time?
10. When did Mary become known as La Bolduc? Why?
11. What were common themes in La Bolduc's songs?
12. "Tourlutage" is a unique element of La Bolduc's music. What does it mean? What was its purpose?
13. How long did it typically take La Bolduc to compose a song? Explain why.
14. What can we learn about La Bolduc's personality from the lyrics of her songs?
15. What event at St. Hubert did Madame Bolduc wrote a song about? Why?
16. How did the public respond to the "taboo" subjects often featured in La Bolduc's songs?
17. Why did the clergy think about her lyrics?
18. Québécois were not La Bolduc's only audience. Who else enjoyed her music and concerts?

19. Mary Travers Bolduc was called “La Bolduc” by her public. Who was the term “La \_\_\_\_\_” usually reserved for?
20. There were many imitators of La Bolduc in Québec. Name some of them. Why did so many people want to follow in her footsteps?
21. What happened to Mary (on her way home from a tour) that changed her life dramatically?
22. What were Mary’s two dying wishes?
23. Why do you think that Madame La Bolduc was such a success?