O Canada!
The True North Strong and Free!

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Legend of Glooscap

The Micmac people were a tribe of hunter-gatherers who lived in clans in northeastern North America. Although each clan had its own religious leader (sachem), the Grand Sachem, who usually lived on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, regularly hosted council meetings of band chiefs to assign hunting and fishing territories. Such occasions also offered opportunities to celebrate Micmac culture and share stories in the oral tradition.

The Legend of Glooscap is a written version of their creation story. It reveals that the Micmac believed in one Great Spirit but had lesser gods, including Glooscap, a cultural hero that some think is modeled on Henry Sinclair, a Scotch captain who may have reached Nova Scotia in the 14th Century.

A long time ago, the Great Spirit who lived in the Happy Hunting Grounds created the universe and all life. The Wise One enjoyed his creation in the twinkling lights of thousands of stars, the sun and the many galaxies in the universe.

After creating the universe, the Great Spirit sat down to rest. Then he created Glooscap and gave him special spiritual and physical powers. He called Glooscap to share the sacred pipe and said, “Glooscap, I am going to create people in my own image. I will call them Micmac.”

The Great Spirit was pleased with this creation. He took out his sacred pipe and again called Glooscap. As the Great Spirit was smoking he noticed a large amount of dark red clay left over. “Glooscap, look at this large piece of clay, the same color as my Micmac people. I will shape this clay into a crescent form and it will be the most beautiful of all places on Mother Earth. It will become the home of my Micmac people.”

The Great Spirit fashioned an enchanting island and called it Minegoo. He dressed her dark red skin with green grass and lush forests of many different kinds of trees, and sprinkled her with many brightly colored flowers. Her forest floors were like deep soft carpets, which would cushion the moccasined feet of the Micmac people.

Minegoo was so beautiful that it made the Great Spirit extremely happy - so happy that he thought about placing Minegoo among the stars. After considering this for a short time, the Wise One decided that Minegoo should be placed in the middle of the singing waters, now known as the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

First Voices: Aboriginal Peoples of Canada

Today, Aboriginal Peoples have the fastest growing population in Canada. They are highly organized, they have articulate leadership, and they are making progress with both land claims and self-government. Their story, though often tragic, is an important part of Canada’s history.

Exactly when and how Aboriginal peoples reached North America is still unknown. A very gradual migration across Beringia (a landbridge now under the Bering Sea) is thought to have taken place over thousands of years beginning as far back as 23,000 BC. Every Canadian Aboriginal nation has its own creation story that tells of its origins in the land from the beginning of time. For Aboriginal people, the traditional stories told by the elders have more credibility than archeologists’ theories about their arrival. By 4,000 BC, when the first city-states were forming in the Middle East, Aboriginal nations began to form distinct tribal boundaries and cultures in Canada (in Newfoundland, Ontario, and along the Pacific coast).

By 2,000 BC, the Aboriginal nations of the Canadian plains were trading dentilium marine shells for wampum (money) as far as the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic. By 1,000 BC, in the Great Lakes basin, pottery was being produced and tobacco grown and wampum-trading had reached British Columbia, evidence of a transcontinental trade system.

The people of the Old World (Europe) and the New World (the Americas) were isolated from each other until about one thousand years ago. When Europeans began to search westward for new lands or ways to China, this contact brought dramatic change and much sorrow for the Inuit and Aboriginal Peoples.

The first contact between the Vikings and the Dorset (or Beothuk) people is shrouded in mystery. Vikings briefly settled at L’Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland but chose not to stay. Much more is known about John Cabot, who arrived off the coast of Newfoundland 500 years later, on June 24, 1497. This was the beginning of continuous contact with Aboriginals. Other explorers such as Sebastian Cabot (John’s son), Martin Frobisher, Jacques Cartier, and Henry Hudson would soon follow in hopes of finding the Northwest Passage to the Orient.

European Exploration led the way for the English and French to claim Aboriginal land with total disregard for the people who lived there and entrepreneurs and settlers from the “old world” were attracted by the possibility of riches to be made in Canada. In the 16th Century, when Europeans began arriving in greater numbers, they inadvertently brought death with them in the form of smallpox, measles, influenza, diphtheria, typhus, tuberculosis, and mumps. It is now estimated that between 90 and 93 percent of the North American Aboriginal population was killed by imported diseases. Sadly for the Aboriginal Peoples, the process of colonization had begun and a new chapter in Canada’s history was beginning.

Henry Hudson

In 1610, Henry Hudson, the best-known northern adventurer, sailed with a crew of twenty-two on the Discovery. He was one of the great navigators of his age. He was the first person to successfully navigate the 700-kilometre strait between Baffin Island and Quebec.

He journeyed into a huge open sea which now bears his name, Hudson Bay. He sailed south into warmer temperatures, all the while thinking that he had discovered the passage to the Far East. However, as he became trapped in James Bay, his crew grew concerned. The summer was fading, their provisions were disappearing, and they searched frantically for a way out.

When winter set in, Hudson decided to try to survive the winter on land. Totally unprepared, trapped in the ice, in frigid arctic temperatures and, with only starvation rations, they barely survived. When spring thankfully arrived, rather than returning straight to England, Hudson decided to continue his quest. That was too much for most of his crew. They mutinied. Hudson, a few crewmates, and his son, Jack, were bound and cast adrift without food or water.

He was never heard of again. The search for the mysterious Northwest Passage would continue more than three hundred years, costing hundreds of lives and millions of pounds (English currency). It would not be until the 1903-1906 voyage of Norwegian navigator Roald Amundsen, captaining the Gjoa, that the passage was finally conquered.

L’Anse aux Meadows

In 1008 AD, 160 Vikings built a permanent settlement at L’Anse aux Meadows, located on the tip of what is now the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. They remained there for three years with assorted livestock and supplies. During their time, the Norse explored inland and traded with the Aboriginal people. However, the relations between the two people were strained and confusing, often breaking out in violence.

The isolation, distance, harsh conditions, bad weather, and constant fear of attack, forced the Norse to soon abandon their settlement. They did, however, make occasional journeys to the new land, trading fairly peaceably with the Aboriginal peoples. For a variety of reasons, the Vikings suffered a series of serious setbacks back home that diminished their power and influence and, as a result, North America remained largely unknown, forgotten or ignored by Europe for the next several centuries.
Canadian history often parallels American history and Canada’s development as a nation has often been impacted by events in the United States.

In the early 1600s, both the French and English established permanent settlements in North America. By 1750, the thirteen colonies along the Atlantic coastline were the heart of English settlement in North America. During the same time, the colony of New France began in what is now New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, although Samuel de Champlain later established a more successful settlement near the present location of Quebec City.

Isolation, harsh winters and threats of Iroquois attacks made life difficult in New France. One result was slower growth than in the more prosperous English colonies. To encourage settlement, French leaders established a “seigniorial” land system in which the King’s land was distributed in parcels to important people (“seigneurs”) in exchange for obligations. They would then assign single plots of land for settlers (“habitants”) to work on. Filles du roi (“daughters of the King”) were also sent to the new colony so that men would settle down and start families. France attempted to control settlement in these ways.

The Roman Catholic Church also played a major role in the society of New France. The bishop was active in the government and the church looked after education and hospitals. The church also conducted missionary work among the Aboriginal Peoples.

Although there were French adventurers called coureurs de bois (“runners in the woods”) who sought riches by venturing inland and trading with the natives for beaver pelts, it was the English who were most interested in establishing forts for fur trading. In 1670, the Hudson’s Bay Company was chartered and began to establish forts in the vast northern area called Rupert’s Land. However, the English presence on Hudson Bay and to the south soon led to competition in the fur trade and to conflict.

By the mid-1700s, the war between England and France in Europe spread to the colonies. The French-English Wars continued for years until 1759 when British forces, led by General Wolfe defeated General Montcalm’s forces on the Plains of Abraham outside Quebec’s Citadel. “The Conquest”, as the victory came to be known, gave Britain control of North America.

The English conflict with France influenced events leading to the American Revolution. The English taxed the colonies to pay for the war with France and passed the Quebec Act of 1774 which, by enlarging the boundaries of the Quebec colony, closed off the Ohio-Mississippi Valley to the thirteen colonies. The restrictions increased anti-English feelings in the American colonies, the colonists revolted, and the United States was born.

However, the revolution also gave birth to Canada. With British North America now split, Americans who were loyal to the British king fled to Canada and settled in what are now the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec. These Loyalists brought a strong pro-English viewpoint to Canada.

Even as a British colony, Canada contained a distinct French-speaking population. To minimize the threat of disruption from the conquered French Canadians, the Quebec Act also allowed the French to keep their language, religion, civil law and education. This ensured that French Canadian culture and language would endure and form an important part of Canada’s national identity.

Still, the French and English peoples found it difficult to live together. The problems were partly solved in 1791 by dividing Canada into two colonies: Lower Canada, the part inhabited by most French Canadians (now the southern part of Quebec) and Upper Canada, the area settled by Loyalists (now the southern part of Ontario). Each colony was given its own legislature and legal system.

Discontent was still widespread, however. Claims by the French of unfair treatment, economic troubles and pressure for independence led to a series of rebellions and riots. In 1840, the Durham Report recommended both the union of Upper and Lower Canada and that French Canadians be absorbed into British culture. Although the two colonies were officially joined in 1841, the proposal to "anglicize" French Canadians made them even more determined to maintain their culture and identity.

Trade disputes, poor transportation and debt plagued the British colonies and led to calls for further unification. Canadians feared the growing power of the U.S. and worry increased when American forces invaded Canada during the War of 1812. After a series of battles, the Americans withdrew but, in later years, Canadians again became uneasy when the large Union Army was idled by peace and when Alaska was purchased.

In 1867, the British government passed the British North America (BNA) Act, which split the united colony into the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, and added the colonies of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to form a federal union of four provinces with a strong central government. The name given to the new country was the Dominion of Canada and the BNA Act served as the founding constitution of the nation. After 1867, other colonies gradually became Canadian provinces. Manitoba joined in 1870, British Columbia in 1871, Prince Edward Island in 1873, Alberta and Saskatchewan in 1905 and Newfoundland became the tenth and last province in 1949.

Canada has long been America’s closest friend and ally. We share a continent with the United States and our histories, cultures, and values are closely intertwined. Our countries have a unique and vital relationship, and the links between us are deep, diverse and complex. We share:

• A long tradition of cooperation in defending our continent and fighting for freedom.
• The world’s largest trading relationship.
• A common border that stretches across 5,526 miles of land and we share three oceans.
• Stewardship of a rich and diverse environment that encompasses 20 percent of the world’s supply of fresh water in the Great Lakes.

I hope that reading all of these fascinating stories about Canada will give you the urge to visit Canada soon.

Yours sincerely,
Michael Kergin, Ambassador

Did You Know?

About 8,250 years ago, a Paleolithic hunter was buried by a mudslide near the present day city of Kamloops, BC. His skeleton is the earliest clearly dated human remains found in Canada.

Explorer John Cabot told of codfish so thick in the waters off these “Newe Found Isles” that they could be scooped up in baskets let down from the ship’s side. The result was a steady stream of Basque, Spanish, Portuguese, and English fishermen to the Grand Banks and coasts of Newfoundland.

The only other ship to make the journey through the Northwest Passage was the 1940-1942 expedition of the RCMP schooner, the St. Roch. It also went through the Panama Canal, making it the first ship to circumnavigate North America.

Canada’s first successful colony at Quebec City was established in 1608, only one year after the English founded Jamestown, Virginia.
Birth of the Hudson’s Bay Company

On August 6, 1654, two fur traders, Pierre-Esprit Radisson and his brother-in-law, Médard Chouart des Groseilliers, left New France with canoes filled with trade goods for the tribes of the far west and spent the winter by Lake Michigan. While there, natives told them about large lakes to the northwest, and rivers that flowed to the salt water. Radisson & Groseilliers returned to Montreal with a rich cargo of furs the following autumn and dreams of wealth.

Meanwhile, the rich profits they and other groups of coureurs des bois had made caught the attention of the Governor and Intendant (Governor sent from France) of New France. He was determined to license and tax the fur trade.

In 1660, when Radisson and Groseilliers returned to Montreal with an even bigger load of furs, they were fined and the furs were confiscated for trading without a license. Disgusted by this treatment, they eventually left New France for London to form a trading company with the English.

On May 2, 1670, King Charles II granted a Royal charter to his cousin Prince Rupert and a group of investors called The Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson’s Bay (today’s Hudson’s Bay Company). It gave them an exclusive monopoly to trade in lands flowing into Hudson Bay, and required them to search for mines, and a route to the South Seas. Forts were established on major rivers as trading posts for natives and shipping points for HBC people. Many of them later became the locations of modern day cities. For example, Fort Garry is now Winnipeg, the capital of Manitoba.

By 1859, however, the exclusive trade license expired and, in 1869, the Company agreed to surrender its Rupert’s Land rights to the Crown. In 1870, Manitoba and later the North-West Territories became part of the new country of Canada. Despite these changes, the Hudson’s Bay Company still thrived. Today, “the Bay” is the world’s oldest continuously operating joint stock company. The capital invested in the company by Prince Rupert and the King in 1670 is still held by the company, still returns a profit, and still has royal investors.

Les Filles du Roi (Daughters of the King)

In 1665, Jean Talon, the Great Intendent of New France, set about converting the colony into one of the most thriving, vibrant, and diversified properties of his King’s Empire. He immediately improved the state of the colony’s defenses by welcoming 1100 officers and soldiers and by improving relations with all the aboriginal tribes. However, his most significant contribution was in conducting the first census in Canadian history and then actively responding to its results.

In 1665, there were only 3,215 people living in New France with a gross imbalance of men to women (with over 700 bachelors, there were less than 50 single females.) To institute a self-sufficient colony with a diversified economy, more people were desperately needed – especially women.

In the following decade, more than 800 young women called filles du roi arrived in New France. The Crown paid for their transportation and many were provided with a dowry. Most were married almost immediately upon arrival. Talon, a decisive man of action, left little to chance. He provided financial rewards for marrying early and for having many – more than ten – children. There were also penalties for anyone who remained unmarried at age twenty and for parents with unmarried daughters of sixteen. Not surprisingly, the population more than doubled to over 7,600 by 1673.

Exile of the Acadians

Along the eastern seaboard, in what is now Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the small French colony of Acadia took firm root. The colony changed hands between France and England fourteen times before the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713 gave the English permanent control over most of the region. Built after the treaty, the great fortresses of Louisbourg (French) and Halifax (English) kept the animosity alive between the two powers.

Through all the turmoil, the Acadians tended their farms, fished for cod and maintained close family ties and their loyalty to the Catholic Church. The English, however, could not convince the Acadians to take an unconditional oath of allegiance to the English king. On July 28, 1755, the acting governor of Nova Scotia and his English council decided they could no longer put up with their refusal. Ignoring any considerations of their property or citizenship rights, the British secretly decided that the Acadians “shall be removed out of the Country, as soon as possible” to prevent them from trying to escape with their livestock and other belongings. All their possessions were forfeited and applied towards expenses for their own expulsion!

During 1755, approximately 7,000 Acadians were sent into exile. 10,000 Acadians had been deported by 1763. Many of them died of typhoid, smallpox and yellow fever on their journey. Some of the ships transporting them to American colonies from Massachusetts to the Carolinas, to French and even English seaports, sank with the loss of all on board. Some arrived safely in the Thirteen Colonies, where they were not particularly welcome, not only because they were poor refugees but also because they were Roman Catholics in a Protestant country. Fewer than 1,000 French Acadians remained in Nova Scotia.

Despite all, the exiled held tenaciously to their Acadian identity. About 2,000 Acadians managed to escape to Canada and several hundred trekked overland from the southern coastal colonies to the lower Mississippi and Louisiana. The Acadians in the south became known as “Cajuns” and they continue to form a sizeable portion of Louisiana’s population.

War of 1812

The War of 1812 was the North American offshoot of the British-French wars fought between 1803 and 1809 in Europe. For Canadians, the War of 1812 saw a sense of nationalism emerge when the young British colony—with the assistance of French Canadians and Aboriginal Peoples—threw back American invaders. When President James Madison declared war on June 18, 1812, General Isaac Brock, the British military commander, had the task of defending Canada. He had a very limited force of 5,000 regular troops, combined with local militia and aboriginal allies to defend 19,000 km of border. He was convinced that the best strategy was to take the offensive. He captured Fort Michilimackinac without firing a shot. That led many of the aboriginal tribes to see him as a winner and to align themselves with him. Next, despite being badly outnumbered, he tricked American General Hull to surrender Detroit by issuing a fake communiqué and making Hull believe that his aboriginal allies, led by Tecumseh, were much larger than they were.

However, when Americans had crossed the Niagara River, Brock was fatally wounded. He nonetheless emerged as the enduring hero of the Battle of Queenston Heights even though another general had arrived with 650 British troops, Mohawk allies, and militiamen. During the battle, 300 Americans were killed or wounded and 1,000 taken prisoner while the Canadians suffered only 14 killed and 57 wounded.

American forces attacked and burned York (present-day Toronto) and won the Battle of Lake Erie, but met defeat at Stoney Creek and Beaver Dam (a battle in which Laura Secord emerged as a heroine). Charles de Salaberry, along with a small band of French-Canadians, militia, and aboriginal allies, turned back a major American invasion force of 4,000 at Chateauguay.

The Battle of Lundy’s Lane was the bloodiest of the war though both sides claimed victory. On the American side, there were 740 casualties; 640 British and Canadian - a high cost for an inconclusive battle. In August 1814, however, Americans defended Fort Erie with more than 900 British-Canadians killed, wounded, or missing. In the same month, British General Robert Ross landed an army and marched on Washington, the American capital. Seeking revenge for the American torching of York, they burned the government buildings, including the President’s mansion. Later, when Americans repainted it white, it acquired its modern name, the White House.

Ultimately, both sides were tired of the war so on Christmas Day, 1814, in the Belgian city of Ghent, a peace treaty was signed. Ironically, the final battle of the war, the Battle of New Orleans, was won by American forces after the signing because it took some time for word to get across the Atlantic Ocean.

Both sides could claim, legitimately, that they had won. The Treaty of Ghent put matters back the way they had been prior to the war. No territory changed hands and no compensation, reparations, or...
damages were paid; yet the war had its own unique significances.

On the American side, it produced two future presidents, William Henry Harrison and Andrew Jackson, and gave the young United States confidence now that they had faced the British a second time. On the other hand, for British North America (Canada), it was important that they had *not* been taken over. Taking over the nation had not been “a matter of mere marching” as Jefferson and most Americans thought on the eve of war. Heroes, such as Brock, de Salaberry, Laura Secord, and Tecumseh, were created and became a vital element of the burgeoning sense of nationalism. There was a new sense of pride and unity. Relations with Aboriginal Peoples were improved as they fought side by side with the British and Canadians. Maritime economic prosperity was increased as they continued a lucrative trade with New England states. However, a sense of anti-Americanism in Upper Canada was also solidified.

Settlement of the West

Like Americans, Canadians looked west for new opportunities: land, wealth and a new way of life. On the prairies, residents of the Red River Colony demanded their own terms for agreeing to join Canada. Further west, fear of American influence in the colony of British Columbia and of land takeover on the prairies, led Canada to promise a transcontinental railroad to link the Pacific Ocean with Canada. The railroad provided an incentive for B.C. to join Canada but was not completed until fifteen years later.

Before settlers began to move to the west, the Canadian government established the North-West Mounted Police to protect native peoples from American whiskey traders, to patrol the border, and to ensure law and order before the arrival of settlers. As a result, settlement was orderly and peaceful in Canada. Although pioneer life was still fraught with many hardships, there was little frontier violence and there were no “Indian Wars” as in the American west.

The Canadian government encouraged immigrants from the British Isles, the U.S. and Europe to settle on the vast western lands and become farmers. At first, settlers were slow to come, so people whose religion and cultures were different from that of most Canadians were invited. Mennonites, Hutterites, Ice-landers and Ukrainians moved to the prairies and established distinctive communities there. More and more immigrants from Europe, Great Britain, and many parts of the U.S. joined them. By 1905 there were enough settlers to create the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

The Transcontinental Railroad

As in the United States, the construction of a transcontinental railroad was vital to the nation. It was an engineering miracle, praised in Gordon Lightfoot’s song “The Canadian Railroad Trilogy” and in Pierre Berton’s books *The National Dream* and *The Last Spike*.

The man principally responsible for building the 5,000 kilometers marvel was American-born William Van Horne, the Canadian Pacific Railroad’s general manager. Workers contended with miles and miles of muskeg swamp, immense granite, and forest. Arguably even worse was the dangerous work in British Columbia. It called for the blasting of tunnels through mountains as well as the building of six hundred bridges and trestles. Finding an insufficient number of workers, seven thousand Chinese laborers were paid only a dollar a day for backbreaking and dangerous work.

American engineer Andrew Onderdonk admitted that three Chinese workers were killed for every kilometer of track laid.

On November 7, 1885, high in the Selkirk Mountains of British Columbia at Craigellachie, the “last spike” was hammered in. The longest railway in the world would link the fledging nation together and serve as a testament to a national dream. The Transcontinental Railroad was a symbol of national progress and economic prosperity. It called for the blasting of tunnels through mountains as well as the building of six hundred bridges and trestles. Finding an insufficient number of workers, seven thousand Chinese laborers were paid only a dollar a day for backbreaking and dangerous work. American engineer Andrew Onderdonk admitted that three Chinese workers were killed for every kilometer of track laid.

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Did You Know?

The name Canada was derived from the Huron-Iroquois word “kanata” meaning settlement.

It was decreed that only Roman Catholics could immigrate to New France. While that may have limited population growth, it produced religious conformity. In 1793, Quebec’s first Anglican Bishop was appointed. The first Jewish rabbi in Canada opened a synagogue in Montreal that year and the first Baptist Association in Canada was founded in Lower Canada. 1808 saw the opening of the first Methodist church in Montreal.

10-15% of the population of the Thirteen Colonies (about 250,000 people) opposed the American Revolution. Half of them returned to England while the other half migrated to Canada. Of those, the largest migration went to Nova Scotia.

More than one-third of New Brunswick’s population is French-speaking today, most of them descended from the Acadians.

Although a 1793 British decree abolished slavery in Canada and importing slaves into Lower Canada was prohibited, the last slave transaction occurred in Montreal on August 23, 1797, when Emanuel Allen was sold at public auction. In 1807, the British Parliament abolished the slave trade entirely in the Empire.

Francis Scott Key wrote “The Star Spangled Banner” while imprisoned on board a British frigate in Baltimore harbor during the War of 1812.
Canada – After Confederation

By the early 1900s, the Canadian Confederation extended across the continent and the Canadian Pacific Railroad (CPR) provided an east-west transportation system to ship goods throughout the country and to export minerals, timber, fish and grain to the United States and the rest of the world. Lured by generous land and travel assistance offers, thousands of immigrants from Europe and the United States settled in the prairie west. Canada’s plentiful natural resources became the backbone of the nation’s growing economy and hydropower, lumber, pulp, newpaper and mineral products became the leading industries. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, a French-Canadian who became prime minister in 1896, pleased both French and English Canada with his leadership and ability to compromise. So, with the establishment of a national economy, an expanding population and a strong central government, Canada took its place among the world’s prosperous nations.

When Britain declared war on Germany in 1914, Canada went to war, too. Canada proved itself a formidable foe and a reliable ally by playing a critical role in Allied victories that won the war. Of the over 600,000 Canadians who served, over 61,000 died and another 172,000 were wounded. With a population of only eight million, Canada had made a major contribution but paid an enormous price. However, Canada’s involvement cultivated a new relationship with Britain and won the young country a greater voice on the global stage. The war also greatly divided the country, however. Many French Canadians weren’t eager to support Britain and Canadians across the country were upset when Prime Minister Robert Borden passed a conscription law forcing men to join the armed services. Many French Canadians, like enforced residential internment of Japanese-Canadians, like enforced residential schooling of Aboriginal Peoples, has cast a dark shadow on the period.

After WWI, Canada sought peace and prosperity. Newfoundland and Labrador joined the Confederation and the nation’s focus was to develop an independent peacekeeping role in a nuclear-armed world and, to avoid the horrors of another Depression, to create social programs—especially universal health care, pensions, and unemployment insurance. Although the 1950s and 1960s saw a revived spirit in Canadian culture and renewed pride in Canada’s multi-ethnic population, regional discontent was growing as the nation celebrated its centennial anniversary in 1967.

Keeping such a diverse country united was a significant problem for Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau in the 1970s. In the speech below, Trudeau outlined his plans for a Canada with increased government protections and controls:

A national image must be created that will have such an appeal as to make any image of a separatist group unattractive. Resources must be diverted into such things as national flags, anthems, education, art councils, broadcasting corporations, film boards; the territory must be bound together by a network of railways, highways, airlines; the national culture and national economy must be protected by taxes and tariffs; ownership of resources and industry by nationals must be made a matter of policy. In short, the whole of the citizenry must be made to feel that it is only within the federal state that their language, culture, institutions, sacred traditions, and standard of living can be protected from external attack and international strife.

Shortly after a referendum favoring Quebec separation was held and lost, Trudeau worked to achieve Canada’s Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the repatriation of its Constitution without rebellion, revolution or bloodshed—which was signed into action on April 1982 by Queen Elizabeth II.

In 1984, the Liberal Party’s replacement for Trudeau, John Turner, only stayed 78 days in office before being replaced by Conservative Party leader, Brian Mulroney, for the next nine years. Jean Chrétien, Canada’s twentieth prime minister, enjoyed three terms as leader of the Liberal Party and the country. During his tenure, Chrétien led Canada through another referendum on Quebec separatism in 1995, directed Canada’s role in international conflicts, and forged new economic ties using a foreign policy based on trade such as 1994’s North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). His replacement, current Liberal Party leader, Prime Minister Paul Martin Jr., took office in December 2003.

It is most interesting that, as Canada has moved into the 21st Century, issues that have been part of its history for more one hundred years continue to be important concerns: regional economic differences; independent foreign policy; protection of culture; trade and political relations with the United States.

Did You Know?

During the Klondike Gold Rush (1897-99), more than 100,000 people flocked to the Yukon. Because of the surge in population, the Yukon was made into a separate territory in 1898. The rest of the old North-West was renamed the Northwest Territories.

John McCrae, from Guelph, Ontario wrote the famous WWI poem “In Flanders Fields” in 1915 while serving in France. He died in the last year of the war.

The Canadian Corps, without any other nations helping, were victorious over the Germans in the Battle of Vimy Ridge during WWI; however, over 10,000 Canadians were killed or wounded.

In 1921, Canadian scientists Frederick Banting and Charles Best discovered how to produce insulin as a drug which helps prevent death from diabetes. The St. Lawrence Seaway opened in 1959 and was made jointly by Canada and the United States. Its system of canals and locks allowed ships to travel from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean. Canada has two official languages — English and French. Canada converted to the metric system in the 1970s.

Activities

Create a poster inviting immigrants to settle in Canada or announcing the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway or other Canadian achievement. Alternatively, write a “hard news” story.

In the business section of the newspaper, there are often “news releases” that announce corporate news and achievements. Examine examples and write a news release about the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway or other Canadian achievement.

Research “the Quiet Revolution” and write an essay describing how it resulted in the modernization of Quebec and the steady growth of the separatarist movement.

Look at history and both sides of the issue of Quebec separation. Have a classroom debate or write a position paper on the topic. Study a political cartoon in the editorial section of the newspaper. Now select one of Canada’s prime ministers and create a political editorial cartoon on an important issue that was faced by him/her.

Canada and the Constitution

The British government created Canada when it passed the British North America (BNA) Act in 1867. This act brought together the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to form the Dominion of Canada and served as the founding constitution. It established a federal system, which divided powers between the national government and the provinces. Heavily influenced by the U.S. Civil War, which many believed was the result of states having too much power, the political leaders of Canada gave the national government strong powers in such areas as taxation, defense and banking. Over the years, however, the proper “distribution” of powers between the national and provincial governments has been debated to the point that, today, provinces are more powerful than states in the U.S.

Protection of issues such as special status for Quebec, language rights, financial support for regional economic growth, protection of Canadian industries and government support for transportation led to Canada’s need to establish its own Constitution in 1982, separate from the British Act of Parliament. A Charter of Rights and Freedoms was included which serves like the U.S. Bill of Rights. Quebec was the only province that refused to sign the Constitution when it went into effect. Efforts were made in the 1980s to accommodate Quebec’s demands to better protect its language and culture, most notably the failed Meech Lake Accord that would have offered Quebec the status of a “distinct society.” First Nations (Aboriginal People) also strive for constitutional guarantees to protect their way of life.

Canada’s Parliamentary System

Canada’s parliamentary system of government consists of three branches: the executive, legislative, and judicial. The executive branch is made up of the Governor General (representative of the British monarch, currently Queen Elizabeth II of England, Canada’s formal head of state), the Prime Minister, and the Cabinet. The legislative branch is called the Parliament and is divided into two houses: an elected House of Commons and an appointed Senate. The judiciary is made up of both federal and provincial courts and appointed judges.

The Canadian parliamentary system is very different from the U.S. governmental structure, which is based on separation of powers. In Canada, there is no sharp division between the executive and legislative branches. The Prime Minister and the Cabinet are elected members of the House of Commons which has the effect of “fusing” the two branches.

The House of Commons is the focus of government—passing legislation and, through debate, informing Canadians about government actions. 301 Members of Parliament (MPs) are elected from different districts, called ridings, based on population. This means the more populated provinces have more MPs than smaller ones. Ontario and Quebec combined hold 178 seats (60% of the total). Unlike the two political party system in the U.S with Democrats and Republicans, there are multiple parties in Canada. Each MP is a member of a particular political party, such as the Liberal Party, Progressive-Conservative (PC), the Canadian Alliance, the Bloc Québécois (BQ) or New Democratic Party (NDP).

After an election, the party that wins the most seats in the House of Commons becomes the governing party. (The party with the second-most MPs forms the Official Opposition and that party’s leader selects a shadow cabinet.) The winning party leader (chosen at a party convention at least every five years) becomes the Prime Minister who, in turn, appoints fellow party members who hold seats in the House of Commons to the Cabinet.

The Cabinet is made up of 20-30 Ministers of government departments who function like U.S. Cabinet Secretaries. As head of the governing party, the Prime Minister...
### Similarities & Differences between Canada & the United States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Area</th>
<th>Population (July 2003)</th>
<th>Net Migration Rate (/1,000 population)</th>
<th>Life Expectancy</th>
<th>Language (spoken as %)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Canada</strong></td>
<td>9,976,140 sq km / 3,851,788 sq mi</td>
<td>32,207,113</td>
<td>6.0 migrants</td>
<td>79.8 years</td>
<td>English: 95% French: 5% Spanish: 0.1% Other: 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>United States</strong></td>
<td>9,629,091 sq km / 3,717,992 sq mi</td>
<td>290,342,554</td>
<td>3.5 migrants</td>
<td>77.1 years</td>
<td>English: 95% Spanish: 1.8% French: 0.3% Other: 0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Legend**
- National Capital
- Provincial Capital
- Other Cities or Towns
- Mountain
- International Boundary
- Provincial & Territorial Boundaries

**Map Symbols**
- Artic Circle
- Arctic Ocean
- Bering Sea
- Alaska
- Yukon R.
- Resolution
- James Cook 1778
- Alaska
- Bodega v. Quadra 1775
- Spain
- Golden Hind
- Francis Drake 1577
- England
- Alaska
- Yukon R.
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- Bodega v. Quadra 1775
- Spain
- Golden Hind
- Francis Drake 1577
- England
Canada is divided into political divisions of 10 provinces and 3 territories. Provinces are similar to states—each has its own government to handle local and regional affairs. A territory is an area with less self-government than a province. In 1999, Nunavut was formed by dividing the Northwest Territories.

To understand the diversity of people and places in Canada, it is useful to view the country in terms of regions. The term "region" is used to identify areas with common physical characteristics and economic activities. No matter how the country is divided, regional divisions are important in shaping Canadian outlooks. It has been said, "a traveler crossing Canada sees not one land but many" and that "the geography does not divide Canada from the U.S. nearly as much as it divides sections of the country from one another." Consider these statements when you look at the six regions used in the study of Canada's geography:

**Appalachian Highlands** — Extending from Newfoundland in the north to the state of Georgia in the southern US, this region consists of low rounded mountains, wide valleys and rugged coastline. These physical characteristics serve to separate the Atlantic Provinces from the rest of Canada. The economy is based on fishing, forestry, and agriculture and is similar to that of the New England states.

**St. Lawrence and Great Lakes Lowlands** — The area surrounding the St. Lawrence River Valley in Quebec and the Great Lakes lowlands in southern Ontario is called "the heartland" of Canada because the major portion of Canada's population, industry, economic and financial activity occur in this area. Its fertile soil and moderate climate are suitable for growing soybeans, corn, tobacco, and tree fruits. The natural water systems and the St. Lawrence Seaway, a series of canals and locks connecting the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean, provide excellent transportation routes in the region.

**The Canadian Shield** — This is the largest physical region of Canada, covering almost half its land area. It is a huge area of ancient rock, dotted by thousands of lakes and muskeg swamps, surrounding Hudson Bay and extending from Minnesota and the St. Lawrence lowlands north beyond the Arctic Circle. There is little soil for farming due to glacial erosion but there is a wealth of industrial metals, including uranium, gold, nickel, and iron ore. The region provides hydroelectric power for the central provinces and the northeastern US. It is a natural barrier between eastern and western Canada, resulting in their sharp cultural and economic differences.

**Interior Plains** — The Interior Plains are bordered by the Rocky Mountains in the west and the Canadian Shield on the east and north. In the US, the region is called the Great Plains, while it is known as the Prairies, in Canada. Fertile soil and warm summers make the three Prairie Provinces—Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta—important producers of grains such as wheat, oats, barley and rapeseed. Large deposits of natural gas, oil, potash and coal are in the region's layers of sedimentary rock.

**Western Cordillera** — Spanish for "parallel mountain ranges," cordillerarefers to the mountainous area extending from Mexico to Alaska. In Canada, the spectacular mountain ranges of the Rockies, the British Columbia Coast Mountains and other ranges are features of this region. The area is densely forested by trees important to the forest industry. Only a small amount of land is suitable for settlement and agriculture. Rivers, glaciers and lakes are major tourist attractions and sites for hydroelectric power generation. The salmon-rich Fraser River flows southward through B.C. and empties into the Pacific Ocean near the Canada-US border. With close economic and environmental ties to the US, the cross-border region is also called "Cascadia".

**The Arctic Islands** — This region covers the many islands located in northern Canada. The largest of these is Baffin Island, larger than the states of Washington and Oregon combined. Permanently frozen ground called permafrost is found throughout the area. With mountainous peaks, permanent ice sheets and extremely cold weather, the Arctic Islands form one of the most severe physical environments in the world. It is an area of unspoiled beauty that has sought-after deposits of copper, lead, gold, natural gas and petroleum.
Did You Know?

About 75% of Canada’s population lives within 100 miles of the U.S. border. The magnetic North Pole is within Nunavut, Canada’s newest territory.

Canada’s tallest mountain is Yukon’s Mount Logan at 19,850 feet (6050m) tall.

Canada has about two million lakes. Besides the US-shared Great Lakes, the biggest lakes are: Great Bear Lake, Great Slave Lake (also the deepest lake), and Lake Winnipeg.

Canada’s longest river is the Mackenzie River, which is 2,635 miles (4241 km) long. Other large and important rivers are the St. Lawrence River, the Yukon River, the Columbia River, the Nelson River, the Churchill River, and the Fraser River.

Two-thirds of Canadians live in the central provinces—Ontario and Quebec—although, culturally, the two provinces are very different. The corridor of “Main Street, Canada” extends in a northeast direction from Windsor, Ontario, to Quebec City, Quebec.

Montreal, Quebec’s largest city, is the second largest French-speaking city in the world.

The combined population of the Maritime Provinces (Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island (PEI)) makes up only 10% of Canada’s population; and although Canada’s territories make up 40% of its land area, they have less than 1% of its people (100,000 people in 2003).

Prince Edward Island is Canada’s smallest province (smaller than Connecticut) but is famous to many Americans as the setting for the “Anne of Green Gables” books by Lucy Maud Montgomery.

Canada-US Relations: Economic Partnership

Canada and the United States share strong economic ties. In fact, the two nations represent the world’s largest two-way trading relationship. Many Americans do not know that the U.S. buys more goods and services from Canada than it does from any other nation and that it also sells more goods and services to Canada than to any other nation.

Historically, the Canadian economy has depended on natural resources (such as fish, furs, lumber, grain and minerals), market interest and an adequate transportation system. During the last century, however, Canada’s economy saw several changes. From 1900 to 1929, the Prairie Provinces enjoyed huge growth in the wheat economy. Wheat sales supported expansion of the railways and development of a network of cities and towns. In turn, these lead to coal mining and ranching. Winnipeg rapidly became a thriving rail center, financial capital, and base for industry. Railway transportation also opened the door for British Columbia’s forest industry, mining, fruit production and ranching. Vancouver became an important port for grain transported west from the prairies for shipping worldwide.

From 1914 to the 1940s, conditions were often difficult in B.C. and the Prairie Provinces. All four provinces felt they were victims of policies that favored Ontario and Quebec. Prairie drought, falling wheat prices and the Great Depression hit western Canada very hard. Meanwhile, in the Atlantic Provinces, manufacturers found it hard to compete with rivals in Ontario and Quebec, except for the iron and steel industry. Following WWII, manufacturing expanded further in southern Ontario and Quebec due to high tariffs against international competition. North American automotive companies have maintained plants in both the U.S. and Canada since the 1950s. During the 1980s, new Canadian industries began to focus on technologies for transportation and communication (e.g., the Canadarm used in U.S. space missions and Bombardier-built subway cars sold to the New York transit system).

In 1989, Canada negotiated a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the U.S., which enabled the auto industry, in particular, to thrive because vehicles and automotive parts could now move across the border without restriction.

In 1994, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) eliminated nearly all trade restrictions on goods and services and established procedures to deal with trade disputes. For Canada, one-tenth the size of the U.S., the agreement was attractive because of direct access to the larger American market. However, the U.S. has occasionally restricted Canadian imports such as softwood lumber and not everyone favors the agreement. In the U.S., Atlantic fishermen, steel producers and cattle ranchers oppose free trade because it

Activities

Discover what provinces share a border with one or more U.S. states. Consider differences and similarities to create a Venn diagram that considers the five themes of geography: location, place, human-environment interaction, movement and regions.

Look at the weather section of the newspaper. What is the climate like where most Canadians live?

Choose a province to research online and visit its tourist board for information on its geography and climate, history, provincial symbols, provincial government, economy/manufacturing/natural resources, population and tourist sites (See Resources on last page).

Create a brochure or poster of a Canadian city or province that highlights its natural beauty, unique character, major tourist attractions and recreational activities.

After learning about Canada’s geography, students can test their knowledge online at <www.statcan.ca/english/edu/canquiz2.htm> or <http://atlas.gc.ca/site/english/quiz/index_html> and explore more geographic facts and maps at <http://atlas.gc.ca/site/english/index.html>
Canada's climate change plan outlines reductions of annual greenhouse gas emissions in its provinces. It remains to be seen if reductions are met in Canada and if the US—also the world's largest investor in climate change research—will favor environment over economics.

Canada as Peacekeeper

After WWII, fifty countries around the world—including Canada and the United States—decided to form the United Nations as an organization that could prevent another world war. 191 countries currently have a representative at the UN's General Assembly not only to maintain world peace but also to promote cooperation among nations to help solve economic, cultural, social, and humanitarian problems. Since 1947, the UN has arranged peacekeeping operations when both sides agree they need help with the conflict. Although over seventy countries have sent men and women on UN peacekeeping missions, no single nation has participated in more missions than Canada.

Today, most Canadian soldiers, sailors and aviators work to stop wars from developing. One of the most important ways they do this is by serving the United Nations as peacekeepers wherever nations or groups of people cannot solve problems peacefully. The peacekeeping soldier patrols borders, watches for illegal troop movements, and helps protect the people who might be caught in a battle if the peacekeepers were not there. Canada feels great pride in its efforts to help warring parties find peaceful solutions.

Maintaining world peace comes with a hefty price tag—over 2 billion dollars in 2000. This money comes from all member countries. Unfortunately, not every country pays its full share, nor does it pay on time. Canada is the fifteenth largest nation in population and the fourth largest contributor to the United Nations. Canada always pays its full share, nor does it pay on time. The peacekeeping soldier patrols borders, helps protect the people who might be caught in a battle if the peacekeepers were not there. Canada feels great pride in its efforts to help warring parties find peaceful solutions.

Canada's population has doubled and its economy has increased sevenfold in the last 50 years.

US-Canada trade has more than doubled under the FTA and NAFTA.

Canada is the leading foreign source of energy to the US, including oil. Although goods-producing industries account for 33% of Canada's economy, the services sector is much larger, employing 3 out of 4 Canadians and generating two-thirds of the gross domestic product (GDP).

GDP measures both income and expenditure and, in 2002, the Canadian economy posted the strongest GDP growth of all G7 countries.

In 2003, Canada suffered drops in tourism and US exports due to the appearance of SARS, a ban on Canadian beef, and the rapid rise of the Canadian dollar after years of decline against its American counterpart.

On September 11, 2001, Canada was a compassionate and grieving neighbor. Twenty-four Canadians were killed in the terrorist attacks and, when all US airports closed, 136 plane loads of people were welcomed at five Canadian airports. There were 17,000 people cared for in Newfoundland alone.

The first curbside recycling began in the early 1970s and that Ontario's blue box program won a United Nations award in 1989.

Discuss the following topics:
1. Why do you think so much of Canada's trade is with the US?
2. What does it mean to say that the US invests heavily in Canadian industries?
3. Can you explain why trade expanded even more after passage of NAFTA in 1994?
4. Canadians do value their trade with the US but they also worry about it. A key fear has to do with the fact that free-market economies go through cycles when they grow rapidly and then stop growing for a while. Can you explain why this fact might worry Canadians so much?

Collect several news reports on Canada's economy at the current time. Look in the newspaper, on the Internet and in news magazines such as The Economist and Maclean's. Choose two or three articles that best show the connections between Canada's current economic condition and the state of the US economy. Summarize the views in these articles by explaining why they do or do not prove the point made by the cartoon on page 10.

Form small groups where each group member learns more about one of the following key industries in Canada: autos and auto parts; forestry; agriculture; oil and natural gas. Find out not only how this industry is organized but also what impact the US economy has on it. In groups, report findings to the class.

Explore economic issues that Canada and the US continue struggling with: softwood lumber, agricultural trade and border security impacts on transportation of goods.

Explore the currency of the two countries. Check in the newspaper for the current exchange rate for Canadian currency in the US and vice versa. How does the difference in value affect business between the two countries? Why might the Canadian government subsidize some exports?
**Did You Know?**

Canada’s national sport is lacrosse. Hockey and basketball are two other sports invented by Canadians.

Nova Scotia’s *Bluenose* (on the back of the Canadian dime) was the fastest schooner ever built.

A few Canadian inventions include AM radio (G. Marconi); television (R. Fessenden), insulin (Banting & Best), the Canadarm (Spar Aerospace Ltd.), the Ski-Doo (J. A. Bombardier), IMAX film technology, and the zipper (G. Sundback).

Benjamin Franklin founded the Montreal Gazette, Canada’s oldest continuously running paper, in 1775 when Americans occupied the city for eight months.

*Winnie the Pooh* is based on a real bear cub from Winnipeg that author A.A. Milne and his son visited at the London Zoo.

Toronto’s CN Tower is the world’s tallest freestanding tower and the West Edmonton Mall in Alberta is the world’s largest shopping center. It has held seven world records of its own ranging from largest indoor man-made lake to the highest triple-loop roller coaster.

Pharmacist John J. McLaughlin, invented non-alcoholic ginger beer in 1917 when the temperance movement was popular in Toronto. His invention, *Canada Dry Ginger Ale*, is now popular worldwide.

**Activities**

Develop a postcard exchange with a Canadian class. Visit <www.epals.com> or <www.oise.utoronto.ca/~mpress/eduweb/eduweb.html> to establish school connections. Students can display their cards in class and establish new friendships.

Research a famous Canadian and write a short biography for the entertainment section of a newspaper.

Surf your way through the Virtual Museum Tour at <www.virtualmuseum.ca>, and search through Inuit links to write a travel story about their lifestyle and connections. Students can display their cards in class and establish new friendships.

Visit Montreal’s newspaper *The Gazette* (in English) at <www.canada.com/montreal/montrealgazette> and Quebec City’s *Le Soleil* (in French) at <http://lesoleil.cyberpresse.ca> to see all that is available culturally. Then select an artist, such as singer Roch Voisine, or cultural group, such as Montreal Danse, to research. In brief oral presentations, share news with the class of their accomplishments and renown. Consider their fame in Canada, the U.S., and in France.

Tom Thompson, said, “The great purpose of landscape art is to make us at home in our own country.” Look at the art of the Group of Seven at www.groupofsevenart.com and then, taking inspiration from their work, draw your own landscape picture with chalk or colored pencils.

Visit <www.mcmichael.com/quiz.htm> for the McMichael Canadian Art Collection’s Learning Through Art quiz, which also teaches students about Group of Seven artworks.

**Canadian Culture**

Long recognized for its natural beauty and vast territory, Canada is increasingly being recognized internationally for artistic and cultural achievements. When defined in terms of the TV shows and movies produced and watched, the radio programs and music broadcast and enjoyed, as well as the books, magazines and newspapers published and read, Canadian culture shares much in common with Americans. The influx of U.S. media, however, is seen by many as the “Americanization” of Canada. In order to protect and promote Canadian culture and Canadian points of view, government policies to control broadcasting (CBC radio and television) and to mandate Canadian content have been established. The government also established a National Film Board to promote Canadian film production and provides grants to support Canadian artists and musicians. However, protecting Canadian culture in a world of increasing global communication continues to prove a challenge for many Canadians.

**Canada’s People: A Cultural Mosaic**

Although the first Europeans to settle in Canada were the French and the English, the profile of Canada at the start of the 21st Century shows an increasingly multi-ethnic and multi-cultural nation. This portrait is diverse and varies from province to territory, city-to-city, and community-to-community. Canada continues to celebrate its diversity and considers itself a cultural mosaic rather than a melting pot for ethnicity.

Immigration to Canada over the past 100 years has shaped Canada, with each new wave of immigrants adding to the nation’s ethnic and cultural make-up. Fifty years ago, most immigrants came from Eu-
Europe. Most new newcomers are from Asia. As a result, the number of visible minorities in Canada is growing and Canadians listed more than 200 ethnic groups in answering the 2001 Census question on ethnic ancestry.

The changing sources of immigration have resulted in Canadians with ethnic origins from Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Central and South America.

The three largest visible minority groups in 2001 – Chinese, South Asians and Blacks – account for two-thirds of the visible minority population. They are followed by Filipinos, Arabs and West Asians, Latin Americans, Southeast Asians, Koreans and Japanese.

Chinese, the largest visible minority group in Canada, account for 3.5% of the total national population and 26% of the visible minority population. The first major wave of Chinese immigration to Canada occurred during the late 1800s when Chinese laborers arrived in western Canada to build the Canadian Pacific Railway. For decades afterwards, Chinese immigration was discouraged. Until the 1960s, restrictions on immigration kept the Chinese population in Canada fairly small. Since then, however, waves of Chinese immigrants, largely from Hong Kong and the People’s Republic of China, have made Chinese one of Canada’s fastest growing immigrant populations. Between 1996 and 2001, the number of Chinese in Canada increased 20%.

The number of South Asians, the second largest visible minority group, rose even faster (37%).

Black Canadians are a proportionally large component of the visible minority population in all Atlantic provinces and Quebec. Although Black Canadian history dates back several centuries, with the passage of a new Immigration Act in 1962, Blacks from the Caribbean, Guyana and Africa began arriving in Canada. Black History month is now celebrated across Canada each February, as in the US, and organizations such as the Black Cultural Center in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, and celebrations like Caribana help keep Black Canadian heritage alive.

The Inuit of Nunavut

The Inuit have inhabited the northern regions of Canada for thousands of years. Today, most Inuit people live in small coastal villages in the Arctic. Although native peoples, including the Inuit, make up only two percent of the Canadian population, the Inuit comprise nearly 80% of the population of the territory of Nunavut (established in 1999) and have a dominant influence on the new government. Nunavut’s form of self-government is a mix of native and non-native institutions and traditions and the languages spoken are Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, and English.

Nunavut, which means “our land”, had a population of only 27,000 in 2001 in an area approximately 20% of Canada’s total land mass. The capital of Nunavut is Iqaluit—its largest community with a population of 6,200.

Inuit culture has fascinated more southerly North Americans for many years and Nanook of the North, the story of a Canadian Inuit directed by American Robert Flaherty, was the first documentary film ever made. Interest in recent years can be seen in the popularity of inuksuk symbols, the music of Susan Aglukark, and the awards won by the first Aboriginal language Canadian feature film The Fast Runner (Atanarjuat) by Zacharias Kunuk.

A Portrait of Quebec

Quebec’s more than 7 million inhabitants make up a mainly French-speaking society. Many of the roughly 6 million French-speakers (francophones) are descended from colonists who came from France in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Today, Quebeckers are meeting the challenge of living in French and maintaining a French-speaking society in North America, which is home to 250 million English-speakers (anglophones). English-speaking Quebeckers are descended mainly from British immigrants or Loyalists, but also from other ethnic groups seeking a better life in North America. At present, there are more than 590,000 English-speakers in Quebec, who live primarily in the Montreal area.

The population of Quebec also includes about 600,000 immigrants (allophones – Canadian term to describe people whose language is neither English nor French; the term is derived from Greek and simply means ‘other languages’) from Europe, Africa, Latin America and Asia and about 75,000 Native peoples, descendants of North America’s first inhabitants (including 8,625 Inuit). All have contributed significantly to Quebec’s cultural diversity and vitality. Diversity is especially visible in the Greater Montreal region, where nearly half of all Quebeckers live. 67% of the people are francophone, 14.3% are anglophone and Italian, Spanish and Greek are the other main languages spoken. Millions of Quebecers, however, are bilingual and even trilingual.

Quebec’s unique position between European and North American culture is a constant source of inspiration for its artists. Although the Quebec cultural market is small, it is lovingly nurtured and rich. A special creativity is fostered there and best recognized by young Americans in the Cirque de Soleil, founded in Quebec in 1984. The music scene, particularly jazz and pop, modern dance, literature, theater and cinema also have strong reputations. The range of talent can be seen in the 2004 Oscar nominations, which recognized Quebeckers in the Best Foreign Film (Les Invasions barbares), Best Original Screenplay, Best Animated Short Film, and Best Original Song categories. Canadians are proud of the cultural character Quebec brings to the nation and of the acclaim Quebec has gained around the world in its cultural endeavors.

Louis Riel

Historical Cultural Figure

Louis Riel, one of the Canada’s most controversial historical figures. To the Métis and French Canadians, he is a hero. Early Canada and the majority of settlers in the Canadian west in 1885 regarded him a villain; although today he is seen as an early protestor of central Canadian political and economic power.

Riel, like most of the 12,000 inhabitants of the Red River area [now Manitoba], was Métis—the offspring of French fur traders and their aboriginal wives. The Métis had a distinctive culture based on hunting buffalo and were concerned about protecting it since they were nomadic and had no paper title to their land. Declining buffalo herds, increasing smallpox epidemics, and the threat of further white settlement raised their fears.

When Rupert’s Land was bought from the Hudson’s Bay Company and no provision was made for the natives, Riel led a successful rebellion that eventually resulted in the Manitoba Act. The region joined Canada as the bilingual, bi-educational, and bicultural province of Manitoba on July 15, 1870. A full amnesty was extended to all rebels except three Métis leaders, including Riel. He was given a five-year term of exile, but was quietly allowed to return after he promised to keep the peace.

However, Métis rights continued to pose a challenge. After Manitoba entered Confederation, many Métis traveled westward into present-day Saskatchewan and Alberta. Although promised their distinctive way of life would be preserved there, buffalo herds were disappearing and no Métis outside of Manitoba had legal title to their land. In 1884, a new threat arose—the transcontinental railway. The Métis turned to the one man they believed could save them.

Riel sent a petition to Prime Minister John A. Macdonald asking for provincial status, an elected government, and control over natural resources. Although Macdonald promised to investigate the requests, no government policies came forward. Riel took action and, in March 1885, he declared a provisional government at Batoche, promising to arm his followers. This threat of violence lost him the support of the Roman Catholic Church and many settlers who favored change by legal and peaceful means. Riel had only the backing of the Métis and some of the aboriginal tribes in the region. Standing against them were the Canadian government, the Mounted Police, and the railway. Battles began in April 1885 but Riel was overwhelmed and surrendered by May 15.

Riel’s trial in Regina created tremendous interest throughout Canada. He refused a plea of insanity (although he had spent several years in asylums convinced that he was a prophet of God), and, after brief deliberation, a jury of six white males found Riel guilty of high treason. Although the jury recommended mercy, the judge in the case could not decide the sentence and passed the decision on to the Prime Minister.

It was reputed Prime Minister Macdonald said, “He shall hang, though every dog in Quebec bark in his favor.” On November 16th, the execution was carried out.

The hanging of Riel changed the political landscape of Canada. French Canada erupted in fury and Honoré Mercier, founder of the Parti National in Quebec, became premier within two years. Wilfrid Laurier, largely supported by the Quebec vote, became the first French-Canadian Prime Minister from 1896 to 1911. It would be over seventy years before a Conservative, the party of Macdonald and Cartier, would win a majority of the federal seats in Quebec.
Symbols of Canada

The Flag of Canada
The official ceremony inaugurating the new Canadian flag was held on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on February 15, 1965, with Governor General Georges Vanier, Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson, the members of the Cabinet and thousands of Canadians in attendance.

The Canadian Red Ensign, bearing the Union Jack and the shield of the royal arms of Canada, was lowered and then, on the stroke of noon, the new maple leaf flag was raised. The crowd sang the national anthem, God Save the Queen.

“The flag is the symbol of the nation’s unity, for it, beyond any doubt, represents all the citizens of Canada without distinction of race, language, belief or opinion.”—Honorable Maurice Bourget, Speaker of the Senate, December 15, 1965.

The National Anthem

O Canada!

O Canada! Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all thy sons command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
The True North strong and free!
From far and wide,
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

O Canada! was proclaimed Canada’s national anthem on July 1, 1980, 190 years after it was first sung on June 24, 1880. Calixa Lavallée, a well-known composer, composed the music; French lyrics to accompany the music were written by Sir Adolphe-Basile Routhier. The song gained steadily in popularity. Many English versions have appeared over the years. Mr. Justice Robert Stanley Weir wrote the version on which the official English lyrics are based in 1908. The official English version includes changes recommended in 1968 by a Special Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Commons. The French lyrics remain unaltered.

Holidays & Festivals

Canada Day is celebrated every year on July 1 in honor of the formation of the Canadian federal government on July 1, 1867 (the British North America Act). This holiday was called Dominion Day until 1982.

Victoria Day (sometimes called Firecracker Day) is observed in Canada on the Monday before May 25 each year. This holiday celebrates Queen Victoria’s birthday (she was born on May 24, 1819).

St. Jean Baptiste Day, a traditional summer solstice celebration was brought to Quebec from France 400 years ago. It used to be observed on June 21 but was changed to June 24 to honor St. John the Baptist. This day is a Fête Nationale for French Canadians with parades and celebrations that continue throughout the day.

The Beaver

The beaver was close to extinction by the mid-19th century. There were an estimated six million beavers in Canada before the start of the fur trade. During its peak, 100,000 pelts were shipped to Europe each year; the Canadian beaver was in danger of being wiped out. Luckily, about that time, Europeans took a liking to silk hats and the demand for beaver pelts all but disappeared.

The beaver attained official status as an emblem of Canada when an “act to provide for the recognition of the beaver (castor canadensis) as a symbol of the sovereignty of Canada” received royal assent on March 24, 1975. Today, thanks to conservation and silk hats, the beaver - the largest rodent in Canada - is alive and well all over the country.

The Maple Tree

Trees have played a meaningful role in the historical development of Canada and continue to be of commercial, environmental and aesthetic importance to all Canadians. Maples contribute valuable wood products, sustain the maple sugar industry and help to beautify the landscape. Maple wood, which varies in hardness, toughness and other properties, is in demand for flooring, furniture, interior woodwork, veneer, small woodenware, and supports several flourishing industries in eastern Canada. Maple is also highly prized in furniture building and cabinet-making.

Since 1965, the maple leaf has been the centerpiece of the National Flag of Canada and the maple tree bears the leaves that have become the most prominent Canadian symbol, nationally and internationally. Maple leaf pins and badges are proudly worn by Canadians abroad, and are recognized around the world. According to many historians, the maple leaf began to serve as a Canadian symbol as early as 1700. Although the maple leaf is closely associated with Canada, the maple tree was never officially recognized as Canada’s arboreal emblem until 1996.

The Origin of the Name “Canada”
In 1535, two Indian youths told Jacques Cartier about the route to “kanata.” They were referring to the village of Stadacona; “kanata” was simply the Huron-Iroquois word for “village” or “settlement.” But for want of another name, Cartier used “Canada” to refer not only to Stadacona (the site of present day Quebec City), but also to the entire area subject to its chief, Donnacona. The name was soon applied to a much larger area: maps in 1547 designated everything north of the St. Lawrence River as Canada.

In the early 1700s, the name referred to all lands in what is now the American Midwest and as far south as the present day Louisiana. The first use of “Canada” as an official name came in 1791 when the Province of Quebec was divided into the colonies of Upper and Lower Canada. In 1841, the two Canadas were again united under one name, the Province of Canada. At the time of Confederation, the new country assumed the name of Canada.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Options</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. In relation to U.S. population size, the Canadian population is</td>
<td>a. one half</td>
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<td>approximately</td>
<td>b. one third</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. one fifth</td>
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<td>d. one tenth</td>
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<td>2. Which province is the industrial and commercial center of Canada?</td>
<td>a. Quebec</td>
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<td></td>
<td>b. Ontario</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. Alberta</td>
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<td></td>
<td>d. British Columbia</td>
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<td>3. The province of British Columbia is separated from the rest of Canada</td>
<td>a. The Rockies</td>
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<td>by:</td>
<td>b. Plains</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. Arctic Islands</td>
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<td>d. Appalachian Mountains</td>
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<td>4. A province that is not a part of the Atlantic region of Canada is:</td>
<td>a. Newfoundland</td>
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<td>b. Nova Scotia</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. Saskatchewan</td>
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<td>d. Prince Edward Island</td>
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<td>5. In land area, the largest Canadian province is:</td>
<td>a. Alberta</td>
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<td></td>
<td>b. Quebec</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. British Columbia</td>
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<td>d. Newfoundland</td>
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<td>6. The Canadian Shield is:</td>
<td>a. a large rocky area noted for its</td>
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<tr>
<td>minerals</td>
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<td>b. an area of flat land noted for</td>
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<td>growing wheat</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. an award for ice hockey</td>
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<td>d. a trade agreement signed by</td>
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<td>Canada and the U.S.</td>
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<td>7. Which city has the most southerly location?</td>
<td>a. Seattle, WA</td>
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<td>b. Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. Portland, OR</td>
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<td></td>
<td>d. Toronto, ON</td>
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<td>8. The second largest French-speaking city in the world is:</td>
<td>a. Paris</td>
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<td>b. Toronto</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. Montreal</td>
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<td>d. New Orleans</td>
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<td>9. Most Canadians live:</td>
<td>a. within 150 miles of the</td>
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<td>US-Canadian border</td>
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<td>b. in the Prairie Provinces</td>
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<td>c. in the province of Ontario</td>
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<td>d. in the Atlantic Provinces</td>
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<td>10. Which of the following recording artists is a Canadian?</td>
<td>a. Garth Brooks</td>
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<td>b. Mandy Moore</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. Avril Lavigne</td>
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<td>d. Mariah Carey</td>
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<td>11. Canadian society differs from the U.S. in that various cultural</td>
<td>a. regionalism</td>
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<td>groups have been encouraged to keep their unique characteristics.</td>
<td>b. multiculturalism</td>
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<td>This is known as:</td>
<td>c. protectionism</td>
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<td>d. bilingualism</td>
<td></td>
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<td>12. Most of Canadian wheat farming is in:</td>
<td>a. Ontario and Quebec</td>
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<td></td>
<td>b. Prairies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. British Columbia</td>
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<td>d. Atlantic Provinces</td>
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<td>13. The Canada-United States free trade agreement and NAFTA are</td>
<td>a. increase opportunities for</td>
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<td>important to Canada because they:</td>
<td>Canadian athletes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>b. allow companies access to a</td>
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<td></td>
<td>larger market</td>
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<td>c. provide better North American</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>defense</td>
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<td>d. solve the acid rain problem</td>
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<td>14. Which Canadian minority has the least number of people:</td>
<td>a. Blacks</td>
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<td>b. Ukrainians</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. Japanese</td>
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<td>d. Chinese</td>
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<td>15. Canada’s major city on the Pacific Rim is:</td>
<td>a. Vancouver</td>
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<td>b. Halifax</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. Winnipeg</td>
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<td></td>
<td>d. Victoria</td>
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<td>16. Most Canadian laws originate with:</td>
<td>a. the Senate</td>
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<td>b. the Opposition</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. the Governor General</td>
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<td>d. the Prime Minister and Cabinet</td>
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<td>17. A major difference between the Canadian Prime Minister and the U.S.</td>
<td>a. is not elected by the whole</td>
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<td>President is that the Prime Minister:</td>
<td>country</td>
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<td></td>
<td>b. must serve for five years</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. cannot run for re-election</td>
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<td>d. must be at least 50 years old</td>
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<td>18. The highest law-making authority in the Canadian government is:</td>
<td>a. the Senate</td>
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<td>b. the Governor General</td>
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<td>c. the Queen of England</td>
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<td>d. the House of Commons</td>
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<td>19. Loyalists were:</td>
<td>a. members of the Sons of Liberty</td>
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<td>b. writers of the American Constitution</td>
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<td>c. early Canadian settlers who fled</td>
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<td>the American Revolution</td>
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<td>d. farmers with a French Canadian</td>
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<td>background</td>
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<td>20. Canadians obtained their own Constitution in:</td>
<td>a. the 1740s</td>
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<td>b. the 1860s</td>
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<td>c. the 1950s</td>
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<td>d. the 1980s</td>
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<td>21. The United States' largest trading partner today is:</td>
<td>a. Japan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>b. Great Britain</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. West Germany</td>
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<td>d. Canada</td>
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<td>22. Which North American sports league does not have a Canadian team?</td>
<td>a. National Hockey League</td>
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<td></td>
<td>b. American Football League</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. National (Basketball) League</td>
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<td></td>
<td>d. National Football League</td>
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<td>23. The 2010 Winter Olympics will be held in:</td>
<td>a. Vancouver</td>
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<td></td>
<td>b. Montreal</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. Calgary</td>
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<td>d. Toronto</td>
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<td>24. Which is NOT a continuing issue between Americans and Canadians?</td>
<td>a. industrial emission</td>
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<td>b. fishing rights</td>
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<td>c. language rights</td>
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<td>d. trade protection</td>
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<td>25. What new territory was formed in 1999?</td>
<td>a. Yukon</td>
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<td>b. Nunavut</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. Greenland</td>
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<td>d. laquist</td>
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**FOR TEACHERS**

**Objective:** To evaluate student understanding of Canada and measure how much was learned from this supplement.

**Procedures:** Have students answer the 15-20 minute quiz. After it is marked, discuss their responses to the test items. A second way of using the quiz is to also offer it as a pre-test to find out how much students know about Canada from the outset as well as after they have studied the unit.

**Teaching Canada** - Center for the Study of Canada (Plattsburgh SUNY) publication

Email: <canada@plattsburgh.edu>

**Brain Quest Canada - New Edition** (Gr. 4-8) - hinged quiz cards  [<www.brainquest.com>]

**Cards E/H** - unique Canada geography cards

[<www.uniquelycanada.com/playwithinproduct.html?product_id=09J529>]

**Ismaa Inuit Culture Kit** - includes film: *Anuyarjar* (The Fast Runner) -  <http://isuma.ca/kit>

**Sources**

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The Group of Seven (Owen Sound, ON: Tom Thompson Memorial Art Gallery, 2001)  [<www.tomthompson.org>]


[<http://www.otteryjr.ca/1950/index.html>]

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[<http://www.parl.gc.ca>]

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[<www.mcmichael.com>]


[<http://www.nlc-enc.ca/2/12/h12-304-e.html>]


[<http://www.sadlierro.com>]


[<http://142.206.72.67/03/03b/03b_000_e.htm>]

Canada–United States
A Strong Partnership

Pop Quiz:

What is it about Canada, eh?

☐ a) Ally at home & abroad
☐ b) Cool neighbor
☐ c) #1 trading partner
☐ d) Secure source of comedy & pop divas
☐ e) Largest energy supplier
☒ f) ALL OF THE ABOVE

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