



21st Century Toolkit: History of Canada-US Relations

An Important Middle – High School Curriculum and Resource Project in Development

Canada and the United States are intricately linked historically, economically, politically, and socially. It is vital that this important partnership is understood by students today as they learn to become effective citizens of the 21st Century.

According to the US Embassy at http://canada.usembassy.gov/content/textonly.asp?section=can_usa&document=trade, the following are just a few of the reasons why Americans should know more about Canada:

- We proudly share the world's longest land border (5,552 miles) without active patrols along its full length.
- We are NAFTA partners and members of multilateral organizations such as the UN, G7/8, NATO, OAS and APEC.
- We hold the world's largest trade relationship with Canada as the leading export market for 36 of 50 states (2008).
- Canada is the #1 US supplier of imported energy (oil, petroleum products, natural gas, electricity and uranium).
- Canada and the US are political allies and have stood side-by-side during two World Wars, Korea, the Persian Gulf, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Haiti.

...YET, in the United States, surprisingly little is taught about the importance of our relationship with Canada.

To ensure that today's students are in a better position to effectively participate in future developments of this uniquely important relationship, the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) and several of its state affiliates are collaborating with the U.S. Department of Education's National Resource Centers on Canada, Canadian educational organizations and sponsors to produce a suite of educational resources that address this serious educational gap.

21st Century Toolkit Description

- Two 30-minute video programs that document the history of Canada-US relations from World War II to the present.
 1. **Friends in the Nuclear Age: Canada-US Relations 1939-1980**
 2. **A Continent Shared: Canada-US Relations 1981-2010**
- Six interactive eScrapbooks that allow students to experience history through role-playing activities set in critical periods of Canada-US relations and designed to specifically engage student in building historical thinking skills.
 1. **It's 1776: Should I Stay or Should I Go?**
 2. **It's 1812: Who Won the War?**
 3. **It's 1845: Is Westward Expansion a Right or Reason to Fear?**
 4. **It's 1962: Is Cuba Worth the Risk of Nuclear War?**
 5. **It's 2010: Has NAFTA Been Good for North America?**
 6. **It's 2026: Have Canada-US Relations Remained Friendly?**
- A Teacher's Guide that provides outlines, methodologies and evaluation instruments necessary to teach the history of Canada-US relations and demonstrates ways of incorporating the video programs and eScrapbooks into lesson plans.

For more details, visit: <http://www.socialstudies.org/about/endorsements/current>

EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS WHO SUPPORT THIS PROJECT:



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