

ACTIVITY TWELVE: POINTS OF VIEW

Objectives:

- To realize the different points of view that exist about Canadian life
- To suggest reasons why different outlooks of Canada exist

Materials:

- Reading Five: VIEWS OF CANADA

Procedures:

1. Have students express orally their own view of Canada. Discuss viewpoints.
2. Distribute some or all of the readings, VIEWS OF CANADA. There is no order in the readings. In most cases, it would be desirable to begin with the First View.
3. Students read each view and complete the following:
 - a. Underline key words that illustrate the view.
 - b. Identify the viewpoint as Canadian or American.
 - c. Identify the context or situation in which the view is expressed.
4. Discuss with the class reasons why there are many different views of Canada.

Notes for Teaching:

This open-ended activity allows students and teachers to examine some American and Canadian views of Canada. The source of each viewpoint is listed.

The First View is Canada's national anthem. "O Canada" was proclaimed the national anthem on July 1, 1980, 100 years after it was first sung. Although the original English version was changed, the French lyrics remain unchanged. Included is an English translation of the French lyrics.

The Second View is from ON BEING A CANADIAN, by Vincent Massey, Toronto: J.M. Dent & Sons, 1948, p.31. Vincent Massey was the first Canadian-born Governor General of Canada.

The Third View is from a travel column in HARPER'S, April, 1982. HARPER'S is an American monthly magazine.

The Fourth View is from "Who Killed Canadian Hockey?" in THE GLOBE AND MAIL, February 28, 1998 (a Canadian national newspaper). The article refers to the Canadian hockey team's loss of the gold medal in the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan.

The Fifth View is from an interview with former U.S. Ambassador to Canada James Blanchard. The statement appears in “Advice for the Next U.S. Envoy” by Andrew Phillips, from MACLEAN’S, January 27, 1997 (a Canadian weekly magazine). Blanchard is offering advice to his successor in Ottawa.

The Sixth View is the first paragraph of Andrew Malcolm's book, THE CANADIANS, New York, Times Books, 1985. Mr. Malcolm is an American and the Toronto correspondent for The New York Times.

The Seventh View is from the introduction of Pierre Berton's book, WHY WE ACT LIKE CANADIANS, Toronto, Penguin Books, 1987. Mr. Berton is a popular writer and commentator who has written over twenty books on Canadian life.

Students can write their own view:

1. As a written assignment following discussion of the viewpoint.
2. As an expression of views before and after a unit of Canada.
3. As a follow-up to Activity One: Brainstorm Canada, and then compare with the six viewpoints.

READING FIVE: VIEWS OF CANADA

First View

O CANADA!
(English version)

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, we stand on guard
for thee.

O CANADA!
(French version)

O Canada!
Terre de nos aïeux,
Ton front est ceint de fleurons
glorieux!

Car ton bras sait porter l'épée,
Il sait porter la croix!
Ton histoire est une épopée
Des plus brillants exploits.

Et ta valeur, de foi trempée,
Protégera nos foyers et nos
droits.

Protégera nos foyers et nos
droits.

O CANADA!
(Translation of French
version)

O Canada!
Land of our ancestors,
Your forehead is crowned
with glorious jewels!

Because your arm knows how
to bear a sword,
It knows how to bear a cross!

Your history is an epic poem
Of the most brilliant of
exploits.

And your valor steeped in
faith,
Will protect our hearths and
our rights!

Will protect our hearths and
our rights!

Second View

It has been said that Canada is a patch-work of imported ideas—French, English, Scottish or American; that we possess little or nothing which cannot be found elsewhere. There are Canadian customs, if we choose to find them; Canadian things which are very much our own, suggesting this country and no other. It is perhaps not too juvenile to try to make a list of some of these—a catalogue of 'Canadiana' to form a composite picture. What might be included? A constable of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police—and Canada has no better symbol; a sheaf of Marquis wheat; a Canadian landscape painting; a beaver-pelt; a silvered church spire in French Canada; a bar of nickel; a bush-pilot; a pair of moccasins; the Wolfe-Montcalm monument at Quebec; a tube of insulin; a totem pole; a caleche; a cake of maple sugar; a Hudson's Bay blanket; the song 'Alouette'; a hockey stick; the Canadian Boat Song; a pair of snow-shoes; a roll

of birchbark; a silver fox; a canoe; a Canada goose; a grain elevator; a lacrosse stick; a boom of logs; a buffalo; the Quebec Citadel; a maple tree; the opening of Parliament in winter.

Third View

Travellers from all over the world are exploring Quebec City's crannied lanes, riding horse-drawn caleches through old Montreal, sipping aperitifs in the cafes of Toronto's chic Yorkville, crowding Victoria's dowager Empress Hotel for high tea, and enjoying all that is best in the nation's great outdoors:

- Canoeing in the waters of Ontario's vast Canadian Shield country, or in the bare, beautiful barren grounds of the Arctic, often by the eerie half-light of the midnight sun.
- Raft trips down British Columbia's wild Chilcotin River.
- Hikes through remote regions of the nation's fabulous national parks, or along the 45 mile-long rock-bound West Coast Trail, hacked into the cliffs as an escape route for shipwrecked sailors, or in utterly wild Auyuittuq National Park on Baffin Island, polka dotted with bright blossoms during June and July.
- Sailing off Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, all scattered with picturesque fishing villages.

Fourth View

Canadians were so distraught over the loss in Nagano because we are, secretly, a nation of deep passions. Hockey is our passion, a place where a quiet people reveals its fire. This is our game. If we want it back, we are going to have to fight for it—with our hearts, but above all with our heads.

Fifth View

Number 1: understand that our political systems are totally different.

Number 2: recognize that our cultures are somewhat different.

Number 3: don't ever assume that Canadians will look at the world the same way we do.

Number 4: don't ever project our history on them.

Sixth View

It sits atop the Western Hemisphere, a brooding geographic colossus, immense, hostile, forbidding, and unforgiving of those who ignore its natural rules of survival. Canada's population of more than 25 million is puny by most international standards. The wild country Canadians inhabit is not. It is the second largest in the world, a distorted parallelogram of almost 4 million square miles of land and water stretching far beyond the average citizen's scale of belief. East to west, it spans 4,545 miles and one-quarter of the world's time zones. Scattered across this area

like a few specks of pepper on a huge freezer-room floor are the people, huddling together along the porous border with the United States. Looking to the south, always the south, Canadians rarely see or even think of what lies behind their thin line of population. But like some unseen, dark, powerful presence in a midnight dream, it is felt.

Seventh View

Dear Sam:

It's been awhile since you and I have exchanged letters. But now that my correspondence with you is to be published in a new edition, I really must reply to your most recent query about free trade. You sound puzzled, Sam. You tell me you haven't been able to get a handle on the free trade issue. I don't doubt it since your own newspapers haven't given much more space to the subject than they've given to trade relations with Albania.

You're puzzled, Sam? We're puzzled! Even if you were a constant reader of The (Toronto) Globe and Mail—the Bible of the Ottawa movers and shakers—you'd be puzzled. The whole country is puzzled because nobody, including the Prime Minister himself, knows what "free trade" actually means.