

the FACTS don't lie

Canada is NOT "just like the United States"

A COMPARISON OF WORLD RANKINGS of Canada & the United States in a variety of categories reveals some surprising differences. Before showing your students this page, give them a list of the sources of comparison and have them speculate about where each country will rank. Then ask them to explore the possible explanations for the disparities below.

G.S.

population

UNITED STATES 3
CANADA 33

life expectancy

CANADA 1 (78.9)
UNITED STATES 24 (76.7)

per capita GDP

UNITED STATES 9
CANADA 18

% of GDP from agriculture

CANADA 2.8
UNITED STATES 1.7

wheat production

UNITED STATES 4
CANADA 6

live births

per 1,000 population
CANADA 26
UNITED STATES 40

purchasing power

UNITED STATES 2
CANADA 12

lowest population density

CANADA 3
UNITED STATES not in top 22

car accident injuries

per 100 million vehicle km
UNITED STATES 14
CANADA not in top 49

most tourist arrivals

FRANCE
UNITED STATES 2
SPAIN
ITALY
CHINA
UK
MEXICO
HUNGARY
POLAND
CANADA 10

quality of life

UN Development Program Index
CANADA 1
UNITED STATES 2

cities quality of life

VANCOUVER 1
TORONTO 2
MONTREAL 15
SAN FRANCISCO 25 (first in US)

education spending as % of GDP

CANADA 13
UNITED STATES not in top 25

serious assault

REPORTED per 100,000 population
SWAZILAND 1 (631)
BOTSWANA 2 (519)
UNITED STATES 3 (442)
CANADA 14 (160)

caloric intake

per person per day
UNITED STATES 4 (3,732)
CANADA 36 (3,094)

beer drinking per capita*

UNITED STATES 12 (88 liters)
CANADA 17 (70 liters)

smoking

per capita
UNITED STATES 14
CANADA not on list of 20

marriage rate

per 1,000 population
UNITED STATES 10 (9.1)
CANADA 35 (7.0)

divorce rate

per 1,000 population
UNITED STATES 1 (4.6)
CANADA 18 (2.9)

dishwashers

per 1,000 households
UNITED STATES 1 (35)
CANADA not on list of 19

microwave ovens

per 1,000 households
UNITED STATES 1 (84)
CANADA not on list of 19

home computers

per 1,000 households
UNITED STATES 1 (35)
CANADA 2 (25)

*neither country was in the top 20 rankings for consumption of either wine or hard spirits