

Fifth Grade Social Studies Unit of Study on Canada

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Core Content Addressed:

- II.A (2.2.1) All cultures develop institutions, customs, beliefs, and holidays, situations, and perspectives.
1. Describe how Canada is a multicultural society
- III.C (3.1.3) Every time a choice is made, an opportunity cost is incurred. Opportunity cost refers to what is given up when an economic choice is made.
1. Evaluate situations containing economic choices. Identify the opportunity cost and speculate about why the choice was made.
- IV.D (4.1.4) After looking at spatial factors, decisions, (e.g., where to locate a store, house, playground, or equipment on a playground) are made about where to locate human activities on Earth's surface.
1. Explain how geographic factors affect human settlement patterns in Canada.
- IV.F (4.2.1) Every place is unique and can be described by its human (e.g., language, religion, housing) and physical characteristic (e.g., landforms, climates, water).
1. Recognize unique places in Canada
- IV.G (4.2.2) Regions are areas that have one or more physical or human characteristics in common (e.g., physical: geographical regions of Kentucky, South, Midwest, Western Hemisphere; human: Appalachia, Amish country).
1. Identify a region and describe its physical and/or human characteristics.
- IV.I (4.3.3) Humans usually settle where there are adequate resources to meet their needs (e.g., areas with water, fertile land, protected land, different modes of transportation).
1. Explain how landforms, climate, natural vegetation and other resources can influence ways of life.
- IV.N (4.4.4) People may have different perspectives concerning the use of land (e.g., building developments, cutting down rain forest for farming).
1. Give examples of situations where people have different perspectives concerning the use of land .
- V.H (5.2.5) Symbols are used to describe or illustrate important ideas and events in Ky and American history.
1. recognize the significance of important symbols and songs in Canadian history.
- V.I (5.2.6) Internet sources where students can get information about the provinces and territories
Oh Canada
The Washington Post International / Canada
The World Fact Book
Yahoo Canada
An American's Guide to Canada
Canadian Cool Site of the Week
Search individual cities by name most have web page

Expected time length of unit: two weeks

1. Where is Canada? (Geography)

Background: Canada is located on the continent of North America. It is directly north of the United States. It is the second largest country in the world. It has the longest coastline of any country in the world, 56,453 miles of water's edge. About 30 million people live in Canada. Of that 30 million, nearly 80% live within 200 miles of Canada's southern

border. Canada is the most sparsely settled land on earth after Antarctica. The rugged terrain and extreme climate in northern Canada make most of this area uninhabitable. It is so big that it has six time zones. The Atlantic Ocean is to the east, the Arctic Ocean to the north and the Pacific Ocean to the west. Other important bodies of water include the Hudson Bay, the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Davis Strait.

In class: Students will identify on a map the location of the Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Arctic Ocean, Rocky Mountains, the Canadian Shield.

Map Source: <http://www.canadainfolink.ca>

2. What is Canada? (Government)

Background: Canada is a democracy. It has a parliamentary system of government. A form of government borrowed from the British. The legislative body is called the House of Commons. The members vote along party lines. The members of the House of Commons select a leader who is called the Prime Minister. The current Prime Minister of Canada is Paul Martin. In the United States the legislative body is Congress. The head of government is the President. He is elected independently of Congress and must work with Congress to create laws. He can veto (forbid) congressional laws but congress can override him by a 2/3's vote. Ottawa is the capitol city. Canada is comprised of ten provinces and three territories. The provinces are: New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. The territories are the Yukon Territory, the Northwest Territory and Nunavut.

In Class: Using a map, students will identify the ten provinces and three territories.

Map Source: <http://www.canadainfolink.ca>

Research and Presentation: Students will be divided into groups. Each group will draw the name of one province or territory. They will be asked to create a poster about that province or territory. Information must include the following: name of province or territory, the capital, area, population, population density, major industries, major natural resources, major geographic features and a map of the region. They may also include anything they think is unique to this area as well as any interesting facts that they find..

3. How did Canada come into being? (History)

Background: The first Canadians migrated to North America at least 12,000 years ago. They came across a "land bridge", a narrow passage that once connected Siberia and Alaska. The land bridge no longer exists. These people fanned out across North and South America. The first Europeans to reach Canada were probably the Vikings. In 1497 John Cabot, an explorer from Italy, sailing under the British flag, reached America and discovered rich fishing grounds along the coast of Canada. This voyage allowed England to claim Canada as a British colony. A Frenchman, Jacques Cartier, explored the St. Lawrence River to the site where Montreal now stands. He claimed the entire area for France, and referred to it by the Algonquin name for settlement "Kannata".

Samuel de Champlain founded the first permanent European settlement in Canada at Port Royal, Nova Scotia in 1605. Three years later he founded Quebec and began trading furs with the Indians who lived nearby. Seeking a northwest passage to Asia, in 1610 Henry Hudson explored the large bay that now bears his name. Sixty years later, the Hudson Bay Company was founded by British fur traders as an alternative outlet for the fur trade. Rivalry grew between England and France over control of the land. The Peace of Paris in 1763 gave most of the land to England. The Dominion of Canada was formed on July 1, 1867. John A. Macdonald became its first prime minister. A transcontinental railroad was constructed and began carrying passengers from coast to coast in 1886. This helped develop the western lands. Canada has two official languages English and French.

About one-third of Canada's population uses French as a first language. About 80 percent of these Canadians live in the province of Quebec, but there are significant numbers of French-speaking citizens in other provinces as well. Both languages are used by the federal government. All signs in Canada are posted in English and French. Due to Quebec's strong French heritage, a movement grew in the 1970's that was in favor of the political separation of Quebec from the rest of Canada. In 1980 a referendum was

held to allow the people of Quebec to vote on this issue. However, 60 percent of the voters rejected the proposition.

In Class: Students will create a time line of some of the events in Canada's history.

4. How do Canadians make their livings? (Economics)

Background: Major industries include: petroleum and natural gas, mining, farming, tourism, wheat and cattle, manufacturing, lumber and paper and fishing. The United States is Canada's biggest trading partner. Canada is divided into six cultural and economic regions. The Atlantic Provinces include Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. Quebec is considered a separate Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The Territories are the Northwest Territory, the Yukon Territory and Nunavet.

In Class: Students will complete a map showing the location of the major industries in Canada. Source of map is: Frank Schaffer's CLASSMATE, Sept./Oct. 1989. Research and present: Students will be divided into groups to research specific cities: Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Halifax, Calgary, Whitehorse, Quebec City, Regina. Find out about the people that live there where are they from. What do they do? Are there any special customs and/or festivals? What would you recommend a visitor see and do?

5. Why these particular symbols?

Beaver.

Background: Europeans began coming to Canada for plentiful fish that were available off the coast. When they came ashore to dry the fish, the Indians offered to trade them furs in exchange for metals and cloth goods. The furs were sent back to Europe and the clothing made from them became very popular. Beaver hats became very fashionable. Soon fur trading overtook fishing and large parts of Canada were explored and mapped as trappers searched for furs. Most of the first towns were built as trading posts. Today the beaver is recognized as a Canadian symbol because of the important role it played in Canada's history.

Maple Leaf

Background: Early Explorers traveling the waterways of Canada began their journeys on the St. Lawrence River. These explorers were amazed to see the beautiful trees that grew along the banks of the river. They were interested in the shape of the leaf it was unusual to them and some were very large. In autumn the leaves changed colors yellow, brown, gold and red. Early in its history the maple leaf became a symbol of the beauty and richness of this land. Canadians who travel to different parts of the world usually wear a red maple pin so that they can be identified as Canadians.

Canadian Flag

Background: In 1964, with the centennial of Confederation approaching, Prime Minister Pearson wanted Canada to create and adopt its own distinct flag.

In Class: Students will be given a picture of the Canadian flag and ask to fill in the correct colors.

Posters and Presentations: At this time we will look at similarities between provinces and place them according to regions. We will also look at differences. We will also address concerns environmental and economic. Posters and presentations will add depth to the material introduced the week before. They will also be used as a review. This should be a means to address different learning styles audio, visual and kinetic.

Searchwork Sheet: The final classroom activity will be a word searchwork sheet. The source is: <http://www.kidsomain.com/holiday/canada/word/word2.gif>.

Classroom Discussion: The final wrap up will include a classroom discussion resulting in a chart that identifies similarities and differences between the United States and Canada.

Final Assessment: Clearly Canadian

1. Name the two colors in Canada's flag. (4 pts.)
2. What symbol is in the center of Canada's national flag? (4 pts.)
3. What is the capital of Canada? (6 pts.)
4. What is the highest point in Canada? (6 pts.)
5. Name Canada's national anthem? (6 pts.)
6. List the two official languages of Canada? (6 pts.)
7. When do Canadians observe Canada Day? (6 pts.)
8. Name Canada's three territories. (6 pts.)
9. When was Canada's national flag adopted? (6 pts.)
10. What is the legal system of measurement used in Canada? (8 pts.)
11. Name the type of government Canada has. (8 pts.)
12. To the nearest million, what is the area of Canada in square miles? (8 pts.)
13. Name three products of Canada's fishing industry. (8 pts.)
14. Name three minerals that are mined in Canada. (8 pts.)
15. List Canada's ten provinces. (10 pts.)

For each correct answer, you'll earn the number of points listed. Add to find your total score.

What kind of an expert are you?

90-100 Magnificent Mountie

80-89 Clever Canadian

70-79 Knowledgeable Northerner

Calculation of Final Grade:

- Complete all worksheet activities (100 points)
- Independent activities complete one (100 points)
- Write and illustrate a French/English dictionary. Include at least 20 words.
- Find two news items about Canada. Write a paragraph summarizing each.
- Design a set of five stamps using Canadian people, events, scenery, or symbols.
- Participate in both group activities: (200 points)
- Complete assigned poster
- Make presentation about a city in Canada
- Final exam (100 points)
 - * extra credit is available

Grade: 90-100% = A / 80-89% = B / 70-79% = C / 60-60%= D