

Selected Brief Activities

The selected brief activities are in addition to the wealth of interactive, hands-on activities available at the websites listed under “Education”. These brief activities may be modified for upper elementary through high school.

Activity: Site Location: The New Hockey Team!

Canada’s number one sport is hockey, which has produced famous hockey players including Wayne Gretzky, Gordie Howe, Maurice Richard, Bobby Orr, and Mario Lemieux. In addition, Canadian teams play against U.S. teams in the National Hockey League. Complete a site location to determine the best location for another team. Students may be provided with possible cities, data, and criteria.

Extension: Find evidence supporting the statement “Hockey is the number one sport in Canada!”

Activity: The Sweater

Read The Hockey Sweater by Roch Carrier and watch the ten minutes video, “The Sweater”. This classic story explains the importance of hockey. It also can be used in a lesson on Quebec’s identity and quest for separatism.

Discussion Questions:

- Why is the story titled The Hockey Sweater?
- How did the author, Roch Carrier, emphasize the importance of hockey in his childhood?
- What does the author mean when he says, “Real battles were won on the skating-rink. Real strength appeared on the skating-rink. The real leaders showed themselves on the skating-rink.”
- What images, written or illustrated, are used to describe Quebec’s physical and human landscape?
- Compare the book and the movie. How were they similar? How were they different?
- Why is the boy’s solution to his dilemma particularly enjoyable?
- What is the author’s purpose in writing this story?
- Have you ever been in a similar situation? If you wrote a similar story, what topic might it be?

Activity: The Olympics

The Olympics have been held in Canada twice and will be held in 2010 in Vancouver.

- 1975 Summer Olympics--Montreal
- 1988 Winter Olympics --Calgary

Use the websites to investigate the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver and their representation of Canada at: <http://www.vancouver2010.com/en> and <http://www.olympic.org/uk/gaves/vancouver/> What countries will participate? What sports will be included? How will these Olympics be “Green” Olympics?

Activity: Comparing Currency

Compare the currency of Canada and the U.S. Use the list or gather coins and banknotes to examine the similarities and differences between the two countries. Discuss: What does the selection of symbols for the coins and banknotes indicate about what’s important in their history? Their landscape? Their values? Discuss other characteristics of the currency including: Why are Canada’s banknotes different colors? Why do Canadian coins have Queen Elizabeth II on them? Why are the coins and banknotes in similar denominations? Why doesn’t Canada have a province coin as the U.S. has a state quarter? What national symbols could Canada include on its coins? Why does Canada have quotes on its banknotes?

Activity: Canada ABCs

Give students the ABCs list and ask them to name something associated with Canada. As an alternative the list may be topical with only items related to a particular topic such as: Geography, History, Celebrities, Nature, Inventions, Culture, or People. Possible answers include the following:

A: Anne of Green Gables, Arctic Char, Amethyst

B: Bay of Fundy, Birchbark Canoe, Beaver, Bluenose

C: CN Tower, Canada Dry Ginger Ale, Confederation, Canada Goose, Canoe, Chilkoot Pass, Caribou

D: Celine Dion, Dog Sledding

E: Elk, Electric Light Bulb, Edmund Fitzgerald

F: Fraser River, Fox

G: Gold Rush, Glacier, Grizzly Bear, Great Lakes, Wayne Gretzky

H: Hockey, Harp Seal

I: IMAX, Inukshuk

J: Juno Computer Programming, Jaspur, Jack Pine

K: Kayak, Klondike

L: Lacrosse, Lake Agassiz

M: Marconi, Musk Ox, Farley Mowat, Maple Syrup, Muskol

N: Northern Lights, Narwhal, Niagara Falls

O: Olympics, Ottawa, Oil, Osprey

P: Pronghorn, Polar Bear, Potlatch

Q: Queen Elizabeth II, Quebec, Quahog (Cherrystone Clams)

R: Rocky Mountains, Rideau Canal, Royal Canadian Mounted Police

S: Robert Service, Stampede, Ski-Doo Snowmobile, Salmon, St. Lawrence Seaway

T: Tundra, Toboggan, Trivial Pursuit, Totem Poles, Trans-Canada Highway

U: Underground Railroad, Uranium, Ulu knife

V: Voyageurs, Vancouver Island

W: West Edmonton Mall, Winnie the Pooh, Whaling, Walrus, Winnipeg Folk Festival

X: X-country Skiing, Xenon Gas

Y: Yukon River, Yellowknife

Z: Zipper, Zamboni

Extension: Compare the students' list with Eh? To Zed: a Canadian Abecedarium by Kevin Major. Let students make an ABC book for elementary children.

Activity: Comparisons

Students work in small groups to compare Canada and the U.S. by listing their similarities or differences. Students highlight the differences using a highlighter or marker. Discuss similarities and differences. Canada's proximity to the U.S. and fluid borders with the U.S. has given the countries similar geographies, histories, governments, economies, and cultures, but they are clearly separate countries. Identify other countries with a similar pattern, such as Norway and Sweden, Spain and Portugal, Colombia and Venezuela. Explain how language and ethnic identity are determining factors in national identity, which are not as clearly evident in Canada and the U.S. with cultures of immigrants and common colonial settlements.

Activity: Populations

Use the Population Data to answer questions and solve problems such as: Why is the population of Canada only 1/10 the population of the U.S.? Why can Canada be called a cultural mosaic? What evidence supports the conclusion that Canada and the U.S. have similar cultures?

Activity: Line Up!

Place the name of each province and territory and their capitals on separate pieces of paper. Give each student one of the names of a province/territory or capital. Students will be given time (3-5 minutes) to locate the corresponding match. Next, students will line up in order from west to east correctly with the label. Students will compare their matches and line-up with a map of Canada when completed. The correct order is provided in the Population Data.

Discuss: Why are the territories in the north? Why are the provinces smaller and more numerous in the east? Why is Quebec so large?

Activity: Venn Diagrams

Students will compare and contrast Canada and the U.S. using Venn Diagrams. Give students cards with terms associated with Canada, the U.S., and both Canada and the U.S. Have students work in pairs or small groups and do a card sort to identify the terms that are unique to Canada, unique to the U.S., and common to both Canada and the U.S. Discuss the results.

Activity: Discussion Questions

Use one of the following questions as a class discussion or debate. Students may also develop a position paper, power point, or collage for their response.

- Why is it difficult to answer the question: “What is a Canadian?”
- Compare the history of Louis Riel’s rebellion with the U.S. human rights movement and the Zapatista Movement in Chiapas. How did time and place affect the outcomes?
- Circumstances in the U.S. led to the push for Confederation, including Minnesota’s quest for control of Rupert’s Land and the American Civil War. Debate the question: “The American Civil War was a primary cause of Canadian Confederation.”
- Using the Internet, research a current concern between Canada and the U.S. such as the softwood lumber dispute. Analyze the issue taking a Canadian or a U.S. position and defend the position.
- Conduct a survey on U.S. perceptions of Canada and Canadians and discuss the results
- Create a collage or powerpoint of representations of Canadian culture and defend the selected items
- Compare the ways in which a newsworthy event is covered by the Canadian media & the U.S. media. Examples include the London bombing, the Iraq Wars, and relationship with Cuba.
- How has Canada’s physical geography affected the locations and sizes of its population centers?
- What would have happened if Canada were settled west to east instead of east to west?
- The 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 is approaching. How should this event be celebrated?

The New Hockey Team!

Directions: Hockey is Canada's number one sport and it continues to expand. You are to determine the next possible location of a Canadian hockey team. Use the criteria to determine the best location. When you have selected a site, give the new team an appropriate team name and symbol which reflects the location and place.

Use the following information and your atlas to assist you on the quest to identify the best site.

Criteria:

- Criteria #1: The city must be avid supporters of hockey.
- Criteria #2: The climate and topography must be conducive to building an indoor hockey rink.
- Criteria #3: The city must be a population center of at least 100,000 people to support a professional hockey team.
- Criteria #4: The city must have a major airport nearby for visiting teams to arrive easily
- Criteria #5: The city must be at least 300 miles from another city with a professional hockey team.

Canada's Professional Hockey Teams:

- Toronto Maple Leaf
- Vancouver Canucks
- Edmonton Oilers
- Calgary Flames
- Ottawa Senators
- Montreal Canadiens

| City | Population | City | Population |
|-----------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| Toronto | 5,202,000 | Halifax | 379,000 |
| Montreal | 3,607,000 | Windsor | 330,000 |
| Vancouver | 2,173,000 | Victoria | 330,000 |
| Ottawa | 1,145,000 | Saskatoon | 234,000 |
| Calgary | 1,037,000 | Regina | 198,000 |
| Edmonton | 1,001,000 | St. John's | 179,000 |
| Quebec | 710,000 | Fredericton | 74,000 |
| Hamilton | 710,000 | Charlottetown | 58,000 |
| Winnipeg | 702,000 | Yellowknife | 37,000 |
| London | 459,000 | Whitehorse | 28,000 |
| Kitchener | 450,000 | Inqaluit | 26,000 |
| St. Catharine's | 394,000 | Churchill | 800 |

Possible Sites:

| Cities | Criteria #1: Avid Hockey Supporters | Criteria #2: Topography & Climate for Indoor Hockey Rink | Criteria #3: Population over 100,000 | Criteria #4: Major Airport Nearby | Criteria #5: Over 300 mi. from another Hockey Team |
|-----------------|---|--|--|---|---|
| Charlottetown | | | | | |
| Churchill | | | | | |
| Fredericton | | | | | |
| Halifax | | | | | |
| Hamilton | | | | | |
| Iqaluit | | | | | |
| Kitchener | | | | | |
| London | | | | | |
| Quebec | | | | | |
| Regina | | | | | |
| St. Catharine's | | | | | |
| St. John's | | | | | |
| Saskatoon | | | | | |
| Victoria | | | | | |
| Whitehorse | | | | | |
| Windsor | | | | | |
| Winnipeg | | | | | |
| Yellowknife | | | | | |

What city would be the best location for a new hockey team? _____

What team name would be appropriate for the hockey team that reflects its location and place?

Sketch the symbol that could represent the new hockey team:

Currency

| Coins | Names | Canada | | United States | |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | Front | Back | Front | Back |
| One Cent | Penny | Queen Elizabeth II | Maple Leaf | President Lincoln | Lincoln Memorial |
| Five Cents | Nickel | Queen Elizabeth II | Beaver | President Jefferson | Monticello |
| Ten Cents | Dime | Queen Elizabeth II | The Schooner 'Bluenose' | President FD Roosevelt | Torch, Oak & Olive Branches |
| Twenty-Five Cents | Quarter | Queen Elizabeth II | Caribou | President Washington | Eagle or State Symbols |
| Fifty Cents | Half-Dollar | Queen Elizabeth II | Coat of Arms | Diplomat Franklin | Liberty Bell |
| One Dollar | 'Loonie' | Queen Elizabeth II | Loon | Statue of Liberty | Presidents |
| Two Dollars | 'Toonie' | Queen Elizabeth II | Polar Bear | | |

| Banknotes* | Colors+ | Canada | | United States | |
|---------------------|---------|---|--|--|--------------------|
| | | Front | Back | Front | Back |
| One Dollar | | | | President George Washington | Great Seal of U.S. |
| Five Dollars | Blue | Sir Wilfrid Laurier & West Block of Parliament | Children playing hockey & other winter sports; excerpt from "The Hockey Sweater" by Roch Carrier | President Abraham Lincoln | Lincoln Memorial |
| Ten Dollars | Purple | Sir John Macdonald & Library of Parliament | Peacekeeping forces & war memorial; excerpt from "In Flanders Fields" by John McCrae | Secretary of Treasure Alexander Hamilton | U.S. Treasury |
| Twenty Dollars | Green | Queen Elizabeth II & Centre Block of Parliament | Artwork of Bill Reid; excerpt from Gabrielle Roy's <u>Hidden Mountain</u> | President Andrew Jackson | White House |
| Fifty Dollars | Red | William Lyon Mackenzie King & the Peace Tower | The Famous Five & Therese Casgrain; excerpt from Universal Declaration of Human Rights | President Ulysses S. Grant | U.S. Capitol |
| One Hundred Dollars | Brown | Sir Robert Borden & East Block of Parliament | Maps of Canada; excerpt from Miriam Waddington's "Jacques Cartier in Toronto" | Diplomat Benjamin Franklin | Independence Hall |

| Coins | Names | Canada | | United States | |
|-------------------|-------|--------|------|---------------|------|
| | | Front | Back | Front | Back |
| One Cent | | | | | |
| Five Cents | | | | | |
| Ten Cents | | | | | |
| Twenty-Five Cents | | | | | |
| Fifty Cents | | | | | |
| One Dollar | | | | | |
| Two Dollars | | | | | |

| Banknotes* | Colors+ | Canada | | United States | |
|---------------------|---------|--------|------|---------------|------|
| | | Front | Back | Front | Back |
| One Dollar | | | | | |
| Five Dollars | | | | | |
| Ten Dollars | | | | | |
| Twenty Dollars | | | | | |
| Fifty Dollars | | | | | |
| One Hundred Dollars | | | | | |

*Canadian dollars and United States dollars

+ Canadian dollars have various colors and United States dollars are green

From: <http://www.mint.ca/royalcanadianmint>

Canadian ABCs

A: _____

B: _____

C: _____

D: _____

E: _____

F: _____

G: _____

H: _____

I: _____

J: _____

K: _____

L: _____

M: _____

N: _____

O: _____

P: _____

Q: _____

R: _____

S: _____

T: _____

U: _____

V: _____

W: _____

X: _____

Y: _____

Z: _____

Comparisons

Directions: The following chart shows some of the similarities and differences between Canada and the United States. Use your highlighter or marker to highlight the differences. Working with a partner, add to the list with similarities and differences. When you have finished, highlight the differences and answer the two questions at the bottom.

| Canada | United States |
|---|--|
| 2 nd largest country | 3 rd largest country |
| 30 million people | 300 million people |
| 10 provinces & 3 territories Nunavut largest in Canada & U.S. Prince Edward's Island smallest | 50 states and over a dozen territories Alaska largest Rhode Island smallest in U.S. & Canada |
| Developed | Developed |
| Born of Evolution | Born of Revolution |
| Invaded only by neighbor—U.S. | Invaded only by former Colonial Power |
| Symbol Beaver--industrious | Symbol Eagle--majestic |
| 4 political parties | 2 political parties |
| Prime Minister head of majority political party determined by popular vote | President elected by people through popular vote and electoral college |
| Parliament has parties sitting on opposite sides | Congress has parties mixed together |
| Early Explorers | Early Explorers |
| Chinese helped build transcontinental railroad | Chinese & Irish built transcontinental railroad |
| Japanese came as farmers & fishermen; interned during WWII | Japanese came as farmers & fishermen; interned during WWII |
| Mined uranium used to build the atomic bombs | Built & detonated the atomic bombs |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

1. Are there more similarities or differences between Canada and the U.S.? _____

2. What qualities make Canada a unique country so Canadians are proud of their country? _____

Population Data

Populations

| Place | Population | % Of National Population |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------|
| World | 6,579,943,615 | |
| U.S. (3rd in world) | 301,297,287 | |
| California (1 st in U.S.) | 33,871,648 | |
| Canada (35th in world) | 32,805,041 | |
| Ontario | 12,450,000 | 40% |
| Quebec | 7,569,000 | 24% |
| Minnesota | 4,919,479 | |
| British Columbia | 4,220,000 | 13% |
| Alberta | 3,223,000 | 10% |
| Manitoba | 1,174,000 | 4% |
| Saskatchewan | 995,000 | 3% |
| Nova Scotia | 937,000 | 3% |
| New Brunswick | 751,000 | 2% |
| Newfoundland & Labrador | 517,000 | 2% |
| Prince Edward Island | 137,000 | <1% |
| Northwest Territories | 43,000 | 1/10 th % |
| Yukon | 31,000 | 1/10 th % |
| Nunavut | 30,000 | 1/10 th % |

Capitals

| Province/Territory | Capital |
|------------------------|---------------|
| British Columbia | Victoria |
| Alberta | Edmonton |
| Saskatchewan | Regina |
| Manitoba | Winnipeg |
| Ontario | Toronto |
| Quebec | Quebec |
| New Brunswick | Fredericton |
| Nova Scotia | Halifax |
| Prince Edward's Island | Charlottetown |
| Newfoundland | St. John's |
| Yukon Territory | Whitehorse |
| Northwest Territories | Yellowknife |
| Nunavut Territory | Iqaluit |

City Populations

| City | Population |
|-----------|------------|
| Toronto | 5,101,000 |
| Montreal | 3,574,000 |
| Vancouver | 2,134,000 |
| Ottawa | 1,132,000 |
| Calgary | 1,016,000 |
| Edmonton | 990,000 |
| Quebec | 705,000 |
| Hamilton | 702,000 |
| Winnipeg | 698,000 |
| London | 457,000 |

Ethnic Composition

| Ethnic Orientation* | Respondents |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Canadian | 11,682,000 |
| English | 5,978,000 |
| French | 4,668,000 |
| Scottish | 4,157,000 |
| Irish | 3,822,000 |
| German | 2,742,000 |
| Italian | 1,270,000 |
| Chinese | 1,094,000 |
| Ukrainian | 1,071,000 |
| North American Indian | 1,000,000 |
| Dutch | 923,000 |
| Polish | 817,000 |
| East Indian | 713,000 |
| Norwegian | 363,000 |

*2001 Census Responses as reported in Statistics Canada at <http://www.40statcan.ca>

Visitors

| 2002 Visitors to Canada Ranked in Number of Visitors |
|---|
| United States |
| United Kingdom |
| Japan |
| France |
| Germany |
| Mexico |
| Australia |
| South Korea |
| Hong Kong |
| Netherlands |

Venn Diagram Words

Great Lakes
Urban Population
Anne of Green Gables
Territories
High Standard of Living
States
Provinces
Bilingual
Democracy
Congress
Parliament
Nuclear Power
Japanese Internment
Mineral Wealth
Oil Resources
Bears
Hockey
Loon
Baseball
Lobsters
BWCA
Pine Trees
Fur Trade
Logging
Wheat
NAFTA
Red River Valley
Multicultural
Monarchy
Indigenous People
NAFTA
Skiing
Rockies
Canadian Shield
Mississippi River
Skiing
War of 1812
Underground Railroad

Minnesota Questions

1. What country borders Minnesota? (Canada)
2. To what body of salt water is Minnesota closest? (Hudson Bay)
3. What is Minnesota's northernmost point? (Northwest Angle in Lake of the Woods)
4. How long did it take oxcarts to travel the Red River Valley to St. Paul? (30-40 days)
5. What Canadian provinces border Minnesota? (Manitoba & Ontario)
6. What national park lies near International Falls? (Voyageurs National Park)
7. What is the state motto? (L'Etoile du Nord--French for "Star of the North")
8. What was the original name of the settlement that became St. Paul? (Pig's Eye—for the French-Canadian trader, Pierre "Pig's Eye" Parrant, who led squatters to the spot)
9. What could be heard for miles because the axles weren't greased? (Red River oxcarts)
10. What country is Minnesota's leading export market? (Canada)
11. When did the St. Lawrence Seaway open? (1959)
12. What is the Laurentian Divide? (Drainage of rivers that flow to the north)
13. How much area does the Mississippi River drain? (31 states & 2 Canadian provinces)
14. What waters enter Minnesota's boundaries? (None, although some flow along the borders)
15. Waters flow in what three directions in Minnesota? (North to Hudson's Bay, east to Atlantic Ocean & south to the Gulf of Mexico)
16. What does "Minnesota" mean? (Dakota word means "land of sky-tinted waters")
17. How many Minnesota lakes are in the BWCA? (1000)
18. When was the Great Red River flood? (1997)
19. What cartoon strip is written about a Canadian family? ("For Better or For Worse")
20. The Mall of America was built by the same people who built the world's largest mall which is located in what city? (Edmonton, Canada)

Canada Questions

1. What does “Canada” mean? (“Kanata” means “village” or “community” in Huron)
2. What is the capital of Canada? (Ottawa and it means “to trade” in Algonquin)
3. Describe the Canadian flag (red and white vertical bars with a red maple leaf)
4. What is the national symbol or animal of Canada? (Beaver)
5. How many provinces and territories are in Canada? (10 provinces & 3 territories)
6. What is the newest territory called? (Nunavut)
7. What is Canada’s longest river? (Mackenzie River)
8. Established in 1873, what is the RCMP? (Royal Canadian Mounted Police)
9. What is Canada’s largest province? (Quebec)
10. What province was once called “New France”? (Quebec)
11. Where will the 2008 Winter Olympics occur? (Vancouver)
12. If a Canadian says he’s from “B.C.”, where is he from? (British Columbia)
13. What 2 Canadian provinces are north of Minnesota? (Ontario and Manitoba)
14. Which of the five Great Lakes border Canada? (Superior, Huron, Ontario, Erie)
15. What are 2 official languages of Canada? (English and French)
16. Who is the current Prime Minister of Canada? (Stephen Harper, Conservative)
17. Who wrote Anne of Green Gables? (L.M. Montgomery)
18. What country is the major trade partner of the United States? (Canada)
19. Where can you see the world’s highest tides? (Bay of Fundy)
20. What is the oldest active company in the world? (Hudson’s Bay Company)