

Canada Day

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. When is Canada Day?
2. How many Canadian provinces and territories can you name?
3. What is Canada's national anthem called?
4. What is Canada's capital city?
5. What is the leader of Canada called?



B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.

Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. commemorate | a) a representative of the monarchy |
| _____ 2. federation | b) proud of one's country |
| _____ 3. dominion | c) to honour |
| _____ 4. terrain | d) noticeable, worth mentioning |
| _____ 5. patriotic | e) the surface of the land |
| _____ 6. noteworthy | f) one of the best parts |
| _____ 7. prime minister | g) an official song that represents a country |
| _____ 8. governor general | h) related to doing tricks or stunts in the air |
| _____ 9. lineup | i) a royal family |
| _____ 10. highlight | j) the leader of a country like Canada |
| _____ 11. aerobatic | k) people who have recently been married |
| _____ 12. flood | l) a self-governing nation of the British Commonwealth |
| _____ 13. national anthem | m) a list of people or groups that are going to perform |
| _____ 14. newlyweds | n) to overflow with water |
| _____ 15. monarchy | o) an organized group with a central leadership |

Reading

1. Canada Day is on July 1 and is often considered to be Canada's birthday. It **commemorates the federation of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, and Quebec in 1867**. This is when Canada became a self-**governing dominion**. The British Parliament did not give up complete control over Canada until 1982. Prior to the Canada Act, Canada Day was known as Dominion Day.
2. Today, Canada is made up of ten provinces and three territories. From west to east, the provinces **are British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island (PEI), and Nova Scotia**. The territories are the Yukon, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut. Due to the cold climate and rugged **terrain** up north, the majority of Canadians live within 160 kilometres of the US border.
3. As the 2010 Olympics showed, Canadians are as **patriotic** as their American neighbours. On Canada Day, friends and families get together to celebrate their personal freedoms. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms states that Canadians have the right to choose their own religion and vote for their own leader. Canadians also have the freedom to express their own beliefs. On Canada Day, people wear red and white and wave the Canadian flag to celebrate these freedoms. Communities have BBQs and watch fireworks together. "O Canada" is sung throughout the day.
4. Canada Day events take place across the country, both in small towns and in capital cities. The most **noteworthy** celebration takes place in Ottawa. Ottawa is the capital of Canada and the home of Parliament Hill. The **prime minister** and the **governor general** attend the annual event along with tens of thousands of Canadians. Canada's top talent entertains Canadians of all ages. From folk and hip hop music to comedy and dancing, the **lineup** is as diverse as the people. One of the **highlights** is when the Snowbirds fly over the city. The **aerobatic** flying team is a well-known symbol of Canada.
5. Throughout the years, historic moments have taken place on Canada Day. The St. Lawrence Seaway was **flooded** on Canada Day in 1958. The first colour TV transmission was held on July 1, 1966. On Canada Day in 1980, "O Canada" became the official **national anthem**. Prior to that, "God Save the Queen" was the official anthem. In 2011, Canadians were very excited to learn that **newlyweds** Prince William and Duchess Kate would make their first overseas trip to Ottawa's Canada Day festival. Canada still shares the British **monarchy**, though the role of the royal family is largely symbolic.



Comprehension

Practise asking and answering the following questions with your partner.
Then write the answers below. Use your notebook if you need more room.

1. When is Canada Day celebrated?

2. What was Dominion Day?

3. What were the first four provinces in Canada?

4. Where does most of Canada's population live, and why?

5. Why does the reading mention the 2010 Olympics?

6. How do Canadians typically dress on Canada Day?

7. Why does the most popular Canada Day event take place in Ottawa?

8. What are the Snowbirds?

9. What happened on Canada Day in 1980?

10. What does the reading say about the role of the British monarchy in Canada?

Vocabulary Review

A. Choose the Closest Meaning

Choose the correct definition of the underlined word.

1. At each election, Canadians 18 or over can vote for the prime minister of their choice.
 - a) rule
 - b) leader
 - c) province
2. Some Canadians think the British monarchy is old-fashioned and shouldn't be associated with Canada.
 - a) army
 - b) flag
 - c) royal family
3. The terrain in Canada ranges from prairies, to hills, to mountains.
 - a) ground
 - b) settlers
 - c) provinces
4. One of the most noteworthy events is when the aerobic flying team passes over the parliament buildings.
 - a) beautiful
 - b) scheduled
 - c) significant
5. Have you had a chance to see who is in the lineup for this year's Canada Day festival?
 - a) program
 - b) federation
 - c) parade

B. Complete the Sentences

Choose the correct word from page 1 to complete the following sentences.

1. The Snowbirds are a _____ aerobic flying team.
2. Canadians are so _____ that they sing their national anthem at school every day.
3. The _____ of the Canada Day festival was when Celine Dion took the stage.
4. When we first visited Ottawa, Chad and I were _____. It was our honeymoon.
5. In Canada, the _____'s role is mainly symbolic. This person represents the monarchy.

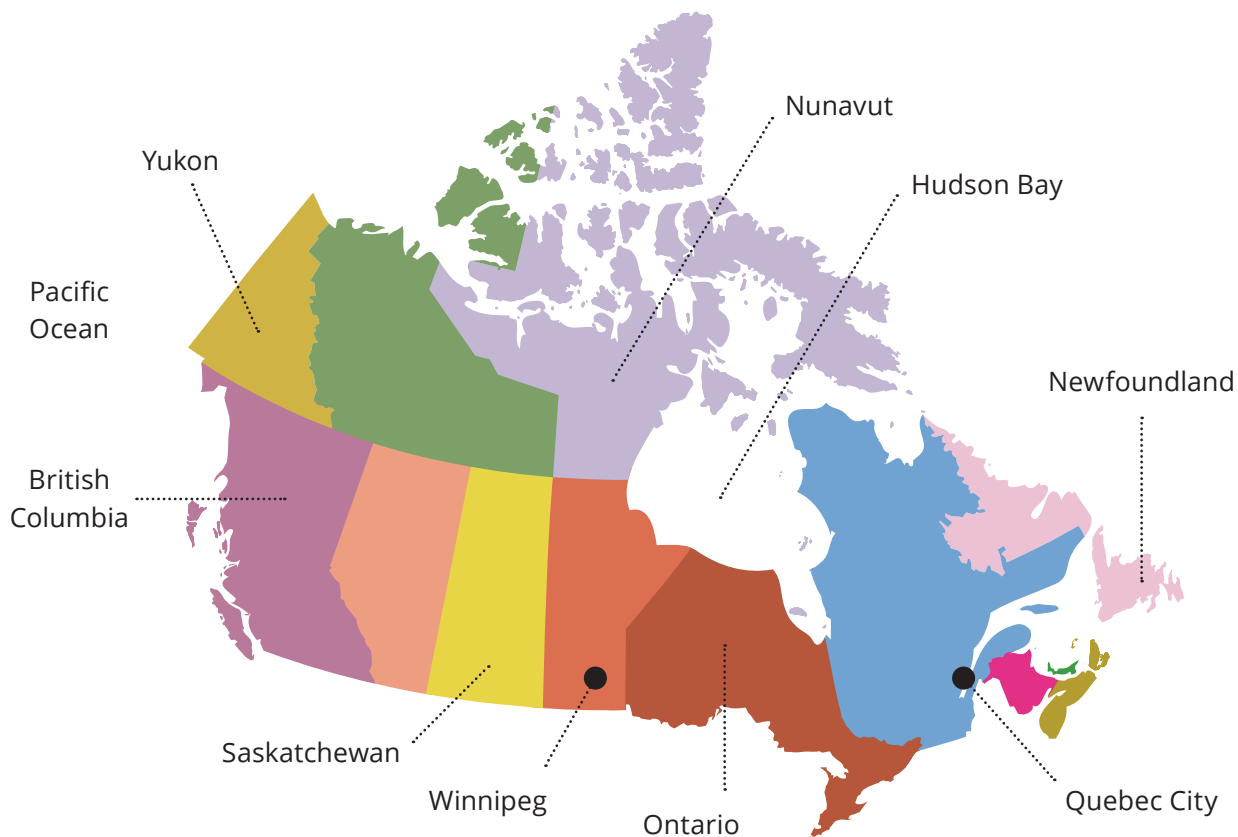
Pair Work (Student A)

You and your partner each have a map of Canada containing different information. You have some of the same information. Describe your map to your partner. Use words like **east, west, north, south, to the right, to the left, body of water, province, capital city**. Spell out words that your partner doesn't know how to write. Try to find nine places to add to your map.

Example Questions to Ask Your Partner

- Which province is third from the left?
- Which territory is in the middle of the country?
- Do you know the name of the province to the left of Saskatchewan?
- I know the name of the tiny island on the right-hand side. Do you?
- How do you spell "Newfoundland"?

Canada



Pair Work (Student B)

You and your partner each have a map of Canada containing different information. You have some of the same information. Describe your map to your partner. Use words like **east, west, north, south, to the right, to the left, body of water, province, capital city**. Spell out words that your partner doesn't know how to write. Try to find nine places to add to your map.

Example Questions to Ask Your Partner

- Which province is third from the left?
- Which territory is in the middle of the country?
- Do you know the name of the province to the left of Saskatchewan?
- I know the name of the tiny island on the right-hand side. Do you?
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Canada



Canadian Spelling

Did you know that Canadian spelling does not always follow the British spelling? Sometimes it follows its American neighbours. Here are some Canadian spellings you should know. Read the chart a few times. Then test a partner on some of the words.

Example:

- How do Americans spell "colour"?

Canadian	UK	US
colour	colour	color
airplane	aeroplane	airplane
centre	centre	center
neighbour	neighbour	neighbor
favourite	favourite	favorite
organize	organise	organize

Pronunciation Practice

Many of the places in Canada are based on Aboriginal words. The name *Canada* came from the First Nations' word "kanata," meaning "village." Practise placing the word stress on the correct syllable.

Word	Syllables	Meaning
Ontario – <i>province</i>	4	a beautiful lake
Ottawa – <i>country's capital</i>	3	to buy
Saskatchewan – <i>province</i>	4	a swift-flowing river
Penticton – <i>town in BC</i>	3	a place to stay forever
Manitoba – <i>province</i>	4	a lake of the prairie
Quebec – <i>province</i>	2	a strait
Nunavut – <i>province</i>	3	our land

Listening

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

1. Canada Day is on July 1 and is often considered to be Canada's birthday. It _____ the federation of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, and Quebec in 1867. This is when Canada became a self-governing _____. The British Parliament did not give up complete control over Canada until 1982. Prior to the Canada Act, Canada Day was known as Dominion Day.
2. Today, Canada is made up of ten provinces and three territories. From west to east, the _____ are British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island (PEI), and Nova Scotia. The _____ are the Yukon, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut. Due to the cold climate and rugged terrain up north, the majority of Canadians live within 160 kilometres of the US border.
3. As the 2010 Olympics showed, Canadians are as _____ as their American neighbours. On Canada Day, friends and families get together to celebrate their personal freedoms. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms states that Canadians have the right to choose their own religion and vote for their own leader. Canadians also have the freedom to express their own beliefs. On Canada Day, people wear red and white and wave the Canadian flag to celebrate these _____. Communities have BBQs and watch fireworks together. "O Canada" is sung throughout the day.
4. Canada Day events take place across the country, both in small towns and in capital cities. The most noteworthy celebration takes place in Ottawa. Ottawa is the capital of Canada and the home of Parliament Hill. The _____ and the governor general attend the annual event along with tens of thousands of Canadians. Canada's top talent entertains Canadians of all ages. From folk and hip hop music to comedy and dancing, the lineup is as diverse as the people. One of the _____ is when the Snowbirds fly over the city. The aerobatic flying team is a well-known symbol of Canada.
5. Throughout the years, historic moments have taken place on Canada Day. The St. Lawrence Seaway was flooded on Canada Day in 1958. The first colour TV transmission was held on July 1, 1966. On Canada Day in 1980, "O Canada" became the official _____. Prior to that, "God Save the Queen" was the official anthem. In 2011, Canadians were very excited to learn that newlyweds Prince William and Duchess Kate would make their first overseas trip to Ottawa's Canada Day festival. Canada still shares the British _____, though the role of the royal family is largely symbolic.

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

In this lesson, students learn some interesting history and information about Canada. The lesson includes an information gap mapping exercise as well as exercises on Canadian pronunciation and spelling.

LEVEL: Int – High Int

TIME: 2–3 hours

TAGS: Canada, Canadian, Canada Day, holiday, geography, map, spelling, pronunciation

Pre-Reading

A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

1. Canada Day is on July 1.
2. There are ten Canadian provinces: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island (PEI), and Nova Scotia. There are three territories: Yukon, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.
3. The national anthem is “O Canada.”
4. Canada’s capital city is Ottawa.
5. The leader of Canada is called a prime minister.

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 1. c | 4. e | 7. j | 10. f | 13. g |
| 2. o | 5. b | 8. a | 11. h | 14. k |
| 3. l | 6. d | 9. m | 12. n | 15. i |

Reading (and/or Listening)

Read individually, in small groups, or as a class. You can also play the listening as your students read along. A gap-fill version of the reading is available on page 8. Help your students with vocabulary and expressions that they are unfamiliar with.

Comprehension

1. Canada Day is celebrated on July 1.
2. Dominion Day is what Canada Day was called prior to the Canada Act.
3. The first four provinces of Canada were Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, and Ontario.
4. Most of the Canadian population lives along the Canada/US border due to the cold climate and rugged terrain up north.
5. The reading mentions the 2010 Olympics because Canadians truly demonstrated their patriotism during that global event.
6. Canadians typically wear red and white and wave flags on Canada Day.
7. The most popular Canada Day event takes place in Ottawa because this is the capital of Canada and the home of Parliament Hill.
8. The Snowbirds are a Canadian aerobatic flight team.
9. In 1980, on Canada Day, “O Canada” was made the official national anthem of Canada.
10. The reading says that the monarchy is mainly symbolic in Canada. The power and decisions belong to the prime minister.

(continued on the next page...)

Answer Key cont.

Vocabulary Review

A. CHOOSE THE CLOSEST MEANING

1. b 2. c 3. a 4. c 5. a

B. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1. noteworthy 3. highlight 5. governor
2. patriotic 4. newlyweds general

Pair Work

Please see page 11 for a full map. You may want to print off a few copies to share around the class after the activity so that students can check their work.

Listening

1. commemorates, dominion
2. provinces, territories
3. patriotic, freedoms
4. prime minister, highlights
5. national anthem, monarchy

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Quebec can also be spelled *Québec* (in Canada, both forms are acceptable). Make it a challenge for your students to find these words in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spellings.

Map of Canada

