

Victoria Day



Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. What do you know about Queen Victoria?
2. What is your favourite season?
3. What is your favourite summer activity?

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. celebrate | a) a summer vacation home |
| _____ | 2. era | b) explosives that produce coloured lights |
| _____ | 3. depressed | c) unhappy, in a low mood |
| _____ | 4. retired | d) a royal family |
| _____ | 5. cottage | e) a long period of history |
| _____ | 6. monarchy | f) a festive march with music and colourful costumes |
| _____ | 7. parade | g) to do something to show that a day or event is important |
| _____ | 8. fireworks | h) no longer working |

Reading

1. Every year on the last Monday before May 25, Canadians **celebrate** Victoria Day. Victoria Day is a public holiday that honours Queen Victoria. Victoria was queen of the United Kingdom and Ireland from 1837 to 1901. This period of time is called “the Victorian **Era.**”
2. Victoria became queen when she was 18 years old. She married her first cousin Albert, and together they had nine children. After Albert died in 1861, Victoria became **depressed**. She wore black for the rest of her life.
3. The Victoria Day weekend marks the beginning of summer in Canada. Many **retired** people who move farther south during the cold months return home. A lot of families open their **cottages** for the summer season. Others enjoy spending time at campgrounds.
4. Some Canadians think it is time to break away from the British **monarchy**, but others like the connection. No matter how they feel about the monarchy, most Canadians enjoy the long weekend and its **parades**, outdoor festivals, and **fireworks**.

Note:

Although Canada is an independent country, the British monarch is its head of state.

Comprehension

A. True or False?

Read the statements below. If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence. If it is false, write F.

- _____ 1. Victoria Day happens in March.
- _____ 2. Victoria became queen in 1837.
- _____ 3. Victoria and Albert were cousins who married each other.
- _____ 4. Victoria is retired now.
- _____ 5. All Canadians want to be part of the British monarchy.

B. Ask & Answer

Practise asking and answering the following questions with your partner. Then write the answers below.

1. When was the Victorian Era?

2. How many children did Victoria and Albert have together?

3. What is paragraph 3 mainly about?

4. How do Canadians feel about the British monarchy?

Vocabulary Review

A. Unscramble the Words

Unscramble the vocabulary words from page 1.

1. carmhnyo _____
2. wofkiser _____
3. tcaoget _____
4. sderpedes _____
5. raleceetb _____

B. Complete the Sentences

Complete the sentences using the vocabulary from page 1.
You may need to change word forms.

1. There were a lot of social and political changes during the Victorian _____ .
2. Many Canadians _____ Victoria Day by hosting barbecues in their backyards.
3. Every year, thousands of people travel to Victoria, British Columbia, to watch the Victoria Day _____ .
4. Some _____ Canadians spend half the year in the southern United States and half the year in Canada.
5. Our family's _____ is located on the edge of a beautiful lake in Ontario.

Idioms

A. Reference

There are many English idioms related to monarchies. An idiom is made up of a group of words. When the words are used together, they have a special meaning that is different from the normal meaning of each separate word. Idioms are an important part of everyday English.

Idioms

- **drama queen:** a person who has big reactions to normal situations
- **royal treatment:** extra attention and care
- **Prince Charming:** the ideal male partner who is handsome and kind
- **a royal pain:** an annoying person or thing
- **until kingdom come:** forever, a long time

B. Practice

Write one idiom from the list on the right in each sentence.

1. My cat is a _____ ! She is quiet all day, but she makes a lot of noise at night when I'm trying to sleep.
2. I have so much math homework. I'll be doing it _____ .
3. Flavia is such a _____ ! She found a hole in her jeans and started crying!
4. Look at that man with the beautiful skin and big brown eyes. I think he must be my _____ .
5. Auntie Lakshmi went to an expensive spa last weekend. They gave her the _____ .

Idioms List:

- drama queen
- royal treatment
- Prince Charming
- a royal pain
- until kingdom come

Listening

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

1. Every year on the last Monday before May 25, Canadians _____ Victoria Day. Victoria Day is a public holiday that honours Queen Victoria. Victoria was queen of the United Kingdom and Ireland from 1837 to 1901. This period of time is called "the Victorian _____."
2. Victoria became queen when she was 18 years old. She married her first _____ Albert, and together they had nine children. After Albert died in 1861, Victoria became _____. She wore black for the rest of her life.
3. The Victoria Day weekend marks the beginning of summer in Canada. Many _____ people who move farther south during the cold months return home. A lot of families open their cottages for the summer _____. Others enjoy spending time at campgrounds.
4. Some Canadians think it is time to break away from the British monarchy, but others like the connection. No matter how they feel about the monarchy, most Canadians enjoy the long weekend and its _____, outdoor festivals, and _____.

Discussion

1. Does your country of origin have a king or a queen?
2. What is your favourite holiday? How do you celebrate it?
3. What would you like to do when you retire?

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

This lesson includes a short reading about Victoria Day as well as vocabulary review and comprehension exercises. Royalty-related idioms are also introduced.

LEVEL: Low Int

TIME: 1.5–2 hours

TAGS: Victoria Day, Queen Victoria, Canada, England, holiday, parade, summer, monarchy, royalty

Pre-Reading

A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

Look at the picture and discuss the questions as a class.

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

- | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1. g | 3. c | 5. a | 7. f |
| 2. e | 4. h | 6. d | 8. b |

Reading

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 6. Help your students with vocabulary and expressions they are unfamiliar with.

Comprehension

A. TRUE OR FALSE?

1. F – Victoria Day happens in May.
2. T
3. T
4. F – Victoria is no longer alive.
5. F – Only some Canadians want to be part of the monarchy.

B. ASK & ANSWER

After reading the passage, put students into pairs and have them practise asking and answering the comprehension questions. Then have students write the answers. Review again orally with the whole class.

1. The Victorian Era was the period of time when Victoria was queen (1837–1901).
2. Victoria and Albert had nine children together.
3. Paragraph 3 is mainly about what people do in the summer in Canada. These activities often begin during the long weekend.
4. Some Canadians want to break the connection with the British monarchy, but others like it.

Vocabulary Review

A. UNSCRAMBLE THE WORDS

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. monarchy | 4. depressed |
| 2. fireworks | 5. celebrate |
| 3. cottage | |

B. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Era | 4. retired |
| 2. celebrate | 5. cottage |
| 3. parade | |

(continued on the next page...)

Answer Key cont.

Idioms

B. PRACTICE

1. a royal pain
2. until kingdom come
3. drama queen
4. Prince Charming
5. royal treatment

Listening

1. celebrate, Era
2. cousin, depressed
3. retired, season
4. parades, fireworks

Discussion

Discuss as a class. Answers will vary.