

- [www.bonjourquebec.com/anglais/index.html](http://www.bonjourquebec.com/anglais/index.html)  
This official government tourist site for Québec offers information about the French-Canadian culture and lifestyle. On this site, students can even listen to common French phrases.
- [www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ks/index\\_e.html](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ks/index_e.html)  
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada sponsors this “Kids’ Stop” site that offers information about Canada’s native people, including a story about a native child, games and audio files of native languages.
- [www.nlc-bnc.ca/hockey/kids/index-e.html](http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/hockey/kids/index-e.html)  
“Backcheck: Hockey for Kids” is a site sponsored by the National Library of Canada that presents information on Canada’s national winter sport! Students can find out more about the sport, as well as its connection with French-Canadian culture.

### Suggested Print Resources

- Boraas, Tracey. *Canada*. Bridgestone Books, Mankato, MN; 2001.
- Corriveau, Danielle. *The Inuit of Canada*. Lerner Publications Co., Minneapolis, MN; 2002.
- Kalman, Bobbie. *Canada the Culture*. Crabtree Publishing Company, New York, NY; 2002.
- Mercredi, Morningstar. *Fort Chipewyan Homecoming: A Journey to Native Canada*. Lerner Publications Co., Minneapolis, MN; 1997.

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#### TEACHER'S GUIDE

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#### TITLES

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- **The Culture of Canada**
- **The Geography of Canada**
- **The History of Canada**

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## The Culture of Canada

### Grades K–4

Canada is America's neighbor to the north, and the second largest nation in the world in size! This special country is characterized by a unique blend of people and events that defines the Canadian spirit. Canada's history reflects many interesting phases, as it developed from small settlements to a nation with many provinces and territories. Canadian geography is defined by a beautiful balance of mountains, prairies, tundra and coastal regions. The culture of this country is shaped by many people, from First Nations groups to the many immigrants who make Canada the diverse nation it is today. These are some of the reasons why Canadians are proud to call this nation home!



## Program Summary

Canada has its own unique culture, made up of the traditions of many different groups of people living there, including the French, British and native people, like the First Nations, Inuit and Métis. Each of the cultural groups in Canada has traditions and events that celebrate its heritage, like the celebration of St. Jean Baptiste Day in Québec. Canada also has symbols that reflect its identity as a nation, like the beaver and the canoe. Canada is a country of many communities and cultures, which have helped to shape this diverse nation!

## Vocabulary

**culture** — A particular group of people's way of life, including its language, traditions, arts, skills, food and music.

**First Nations** — Native people living in Canada before and since the arrival of Europeans.

**Royal Canadian Mounted Police** — The Canadian police (the "Mounties") founded in 1873.

**Inuit** — Native people who live primarily in northern Canada.

**Métis** — People with both native and European ancestors.

**totem pole** — A wooden post carved with pictures that record a family's history. Totem poles are common among native people living in northwestern Canada.

**bilingual** — Speaking two languages. Canada is a bilingual country because both French and English are official languages.

**Francophone** — French-speaking culture.

**Prime Minister** — The political leader of Canada's government.

**Parliament** — The governing body of Canada.

**Canada Day** — The celebration on July 1 to commemorate Canada's birthday.

**Remembrance Day** — A holiday on November 11 to remember the men and women who served Canada during wartime.

## Pre-viewing Discussion

- What is culture? What are some of the things that make up culture? Why is culture important?
- Discuss what you know about the culture of Canada. Who are the people who make Canada unique?
- What are some of the national symbols of Canada? How about the national symbols of the United States? How are they similar and different?

## Focus Questions

1. Describe the Canadian flag. How does this flag represent Canada?
2. List some symbols of Canada. Describe what they say about this country.
3. Identify some of the cultural groups that live in Canada.
4. What does it mean to be bilingual? Why is it important that Canada is a bilingual country?
5. What is Canada Day? Why is it an important holiday in Canada?

## Follow-up Discussion & Activities

- Animals are often used to symbolize countries. The bald eagle is a symbol of America, and the beaver is used to symbolize Canada. How are these animals similar and different? What messages do these animals send about these nations? If you were going to select another animal to represent Canada, what would you choose, and why?
- Students can read the lyrics of and listen to the national anthems of both Canada and the United States. (You can visit the following web sites to find this information: [www.canadianheritage.gc.ca/progs/cpsc-ccsp/sc-cs/anthem\\_e.cfm](http://www.canadianheritage.gc.ca/progs/cpsc-ccsp/sc-cs/anthem_e.cfm) and [www.bcp1.net/~etowner/anthem.html](http://www.bcp1.net/~etowner/anthem.html).) What is similar about these anthems, and what is different? Discuss what they tell about the countries they represent.
- Canada has many exciting cultural events, from the Calgary Stampede to Oktoberfest! Encourage students to write travel brochures highlighting various cultural events in Canada.
- Canadian coins often represent elements of Canadian culture. (See the web site for the Currency Museum of the Bank of Canada for images of Canadian currency: [collections.ic.gc.ca/bank/english/](http://collections.ic.gc.ca/bank/english/)) Students can design new Canadian coins that reflect cultural aspects of this diverse nation.
- Maple syrup is an important part of Canadian culture. Share Jonathan London's *The Sugaring-Off Party* (Dutton Books, 1995) with your students, which is a story that describes French Canadian maple-sugaring parties. Students can conduct further research about making maple syrup, and can create a sequencing chart that explains the steps in the process. (See [home.howstuffworks.com/question71.htm](http://home.howstuffworks.com/question71.htm) as a helpful resource.)
- Learn to count to ten in French, like a French-Canadian student would! See the following web site for pronunciation guidelines and an English/French numbers coloring book: [www.enchantedlearning.com/languages/french/Numbers.shtml](http://www.enchantedlearning.com/languages/french/Numbers.shtml)
- Share *M Is for Maple: A Canadian Alphabet* by Mike Ulmer (Sleeping Bear Press, 2001) with your students. As a class, students can then write their own alphabet book about the people who make Canada home.
- Students can learn more about myths and folktales that originated in Canada. Share selections from Evelyn Wolfson's *Inuit Mythology* (Enslow Publishers, 2001), *The Girl Who Dreamed Only Geese and Other Tales of the Far North* by Howard A. Norman (Harcourt Brace, 1997), or Michael Parent's *Of Kings and Fools: Stories of the French Tradition in North America* (August House Publishers, 1996) to give students a sense of what these tales are like. What are the similarities and differences in these stories? What do these stories say about life in Canada?

## Suggested Internet Resources

Periodically, Internet Resources are updated on our web site at [www.LibraryVideo.com](http://www.LibraryVideo.com)

- [www.pch.gc.ca/progs/cpsc-ccsp/index\\_e.cfm](http://www.pch.gc.ca/progs/cpsc-ccsp/index_e.cfm)  
This web page offers information about the symbols of Canada, including the maple leaf and the beaver. Students can also find out more about Canada's national holidays on this site. A "Canadian Heritage Colouring Book" is also provided. **(Continued)**