

Geography

Topic Development Ideas

Classes might want to learn more about...

- abbreviations for provinces and territories
- areas in Canada with predominantly French culture and language
- capitals and other important cities
- climate and its effect on lifestyle, economy
- economy of different regions
- geographical and topographical features of Canada
- industries, natural resources in each region
- popular tourist destinations in Canada
- population density across Canada
- sources of weather information
- systems of measurement for distances and temperature
- time zones and distances across the country

Strategies for Learners

Learners find it useful to...

- identify keywords and place names when listening to news, weather reports
- learn abbreviations for weights and measures (e.g., km, kg, C/F)
- learn how to convert from one measurement system to another (e.g., miles to kilometres)
- learn meaning of common weather report symbols (e.g., cloud, sun, lightning)
- listen to recorded weather information
- refer to atlases and maps to learn about Canadian geography and the spelling of place names
- visit local conservation areas for first-hand experience of natural areas
- watch videos to learn about geography of Canada

Resources for Developing and Teaching Topic

- 📖 *A Beginning Look at Canada: Part 1, “The Land”*
- 📖 *A Grab Bag of Canada*
- 📖 *A Look at Canada*
- 📖 *Canada Coast to Coast*
- 📖 *Ontario Reader 1999: “Niagara Falls”*
- 📖 *The ESL Toolbox: Unit 2, “Information Gaps”; Unit 7, “Mix & Match Cards”*
- 🎧 *On Top of the World: Canada,*
- 🎧 *Over Canada*
- 🌐 Explore Canada – Geography
- 🌐 Environment Canada Weather Office: <http://weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca>
- 🌐 Government of Canada Site: <http://canada.gc.ca> (Canadians, Newcomers to Canada), (About Canada)
- 🌐 Government of Ontario: <http://www.gov.on.ca>
- 🌐 Statistics Canada: <http://www.statcan.ca/start.html> (Canadian Statistics, Geography and Environment)
- 🌐 The National Atlas of Canada Online: <http://atlas.gc.ca>
- 🔍 **geography Canada, weather Canada**

Topic Outcomes (CLB 1)

Possible outcomes for this topic:

- 🗣️ ask for and tell time for different regions in Canada
- 🗣️ give basic personal information (city and province of residence)
- 👂 identify details in a listening text: numbers, letters, a few keywords
- 📖 use a simplified map
- 📖 understand common Canadian symbols
- ✍️ copy place names from a map to complete a task or for personal information

Language Focus

Items to help learners achieve the outcomes:

- vocabulary for names of provinces, territories, capital cities, regions, oceans, lakes
- vocabulary for using maps (*north, east*)
- vocabulary for symbols (*maple leaf, trillium, beaver, Mountie, fleur-de-lis*)
- vocabulary for expressing personal information (*name, address, phone number*)
- *there is/there are*
- verbs: *be, have*
- pronunciation: word stress in names of provinces and capital cities

Sample Tasks

1. Work with a partner to find locations on a map of Canada.
 - 🖱️ **All Levels:** Explore Canada – **Geography**. Use the mouse to highlight the regions of Canada. Complete a worksheet showing the provinces in each region.

Skills: Open/Close Application, Select and Navigate Through Options
2. Listen to the instructor read the names of places in Canada. Circle the names you hear on a simplified map of Canada.
3. Match common Canadian symbols with words in a list.
4. Copy the names of provinces and capitals from an atlas onto a map of Canada
 - 📄 **Novice:** Word-process the names of the provinces and territories. Follow instructions to insert abbreviations in parenthesis beside the words. Change the font for each entry. Bullet the list.

Skills: Keyboarding, Font, Insert Bullets and Numbering, Print

Additional Tasks

- 🌐 **All Levels:** Go to a weather-reporting site (e.g., <http://weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca>). Answer simple questions on a worksheet about the weather in Canada today.

Skills: Internet Basics, URL, Hyperlink, Scrolling

Government

Topic Development Ideas

Classes might want to learn more about...

- becoming a citizen
- current events related to government policies
- election campaigns, voting in Canada
- government budgets and revenues
- House of Commons, the Senate, and how laws are made
- levels of government and responsibilities of each
- names of leaders of political parties in federal government and Ontario, the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, and the Governor General of Canada
- national symbols
- political parties
- Quebec separatism
- rights and responsibilities of Canadian citizenship
- role of the Queen, the Governor General, and lieutenant-governors

Strategies for Learners

Learners find it useful to...

- learn abbreviations and short names of political parties and representatives (e.g., PC, MPP)
- obtain materials in first language from politicians' offices
- recognize pictures and symbols (e.g., stylized trillium, maple leaf) on personal identification (e.g., driver's licence, SIN card) and connect to level of government
- record names and telephone numbers of elected representatives for reference

Resources for Developing and Teaching Topic

- 📖 *A Beginning Look at Canada: Part 4, "The Government"*
- 📖 *A Grab Bag of Canada*
- 📖 *A Look at Canada*
- 📖 *A Newcomer's Introduction to Canada*
- 📖 *Ontario Reader 2001: "Adrienne Clarkson," "Canada's Prime Ministers"*
- 🏛️ local legislature, city hall, town council
- 🌐 Citizenship and Immigration Canada: <http://www.cic.gc.ca> (Immigrants, Living in Canada, Government in Canada)
- 🌐 Government of Canada Internet Addresses: http://www.gc.ca/directories/internet_e.html
- 🌐 Government of Canada: <http://www.canada.gc.ca> (Canadians, Newcomers to Canada, Government and legal system)
- 🌐 Prime Minister of Canada: <http://pm.gc.ca>
- 🌐 Settlement.org: <http://www.settlement.org> (Immigration & Citizenship, Government in Canada)
- 🌐 The Premier's Kid Zone: <http://www.kids.premier.gov.on.ca/english/tourqueen/how.htm>
- 🗺️ **Canadian government**, specific government (**Government of Ontario**)

Topic Outcomes (CLB 1)

Possible outcomes for this topic:

- give basic personal information regarding own elected representatives
- identify details in a listening text: numbers, a few keywords, and short expressions
- understand simplified diagrams about government (e.g., three levels of government)
- understand common symbols for levels of government (e.g., trillium, maple leaf)
- use a simplified map to find own electoral district
- copy names and contact information for elected representatives
- describe personal situation by filling in blanks in a short three- to five-sentence guided text about own elected representatives

Language Focus

Items to help learners achieve the outcomes:

- vocabulary (*level, federal, provincial, municipal, prime minister, premier, mayor, responsibilities, Member of Parliament, Member of Provincial Parliament, trustee, councillor*)
- vocabulary for expressing personal information (*name, address, phone number*)
- numbers
- *there is/there are*
- verbs: *be, have*
- pronunciation: identify number of syllables and stressed syllables in government-related words

Sample Tasks

1. Work with a partner and match names of politicians to their titles and the level of government they are associated with.
2. Listen to a dictation of phone numbers. Complete a chart with numbers for local elected representatives.
3. Find information about own elected representatives in a simple local community directory: name of riding, names of representatives, and contact information.
 - **Novice:** Open an instructor-made table with column titles: Elected Representative, Name, Phone Number. Insert information from Language Task 3 in the appropriate columns.
 - **Skills:** Open, Keyboarding, Tabs, Print Preview, Print
4. Complete simple sentences about own situation by filling in blanks (e.g., *I live in _____. My electoral district is _____. My Member of Parliament is _____.*)

History

Topic Development Ideas

Classes might want to learn more about...

- contributions made by immigrants
- famous Canadians from history
- First Nations history
- history of the French and British in Canada
- major events in Canada's history (Confederation, War of 1812)
- pioneer life
- unique development of Canada as a bilingual country

Strategies for Learners

Learners find it useful to...

- match Canadian geography to historical events
- recognize print features, such as accents, to distinguish between French and English text
- use first language to research background of own ethnic group in local area
- use historical and world maps to learn history
- visit a historic house or museum to learn about life in early Canada

Resources for Developing and Teaching Topic

- 📖 *A Beginning Look at Canada: Part 2, "The History"*
- 📖 *A Grab Bag of Canada*
- 📖 *A Look at Canada*
- 📖 *Ontario Reader 1997: "Canadian history in your wallet"*
- 📖 *Ontario Reader 1999: "Canada: Nation of immigrants"*
- 📄 *Canada: A Cultural Profile*
- 🏛️ museums and archives
- 🏠 local historical sites and museums
- 🌐 Canada's History: http://www.infocan.gc.ca/facts/history_e.html
- 🌐 Canadahistory.com: <http://www.canadahistory.com>
- 🌐 Canadian Heritage: <http://www.pch.gc.ca>
- 🌐 Government of Canada Site: <http://canada.gc.ca> (Canadians, Newcomers to Canada)
- 🌐 Historica: <http://www.histori.ca>
- 🌐 Parks Canada: <http://www.parkscanada.gc.ca>
- 🔗 **history Canada**

Topic Outcomes (CLB 1)

Possible outcomes for this topic:

- give basic personal information about own immigration to Canada
- identify details in a listening text about the history of Canada: numbers, dates, a few keywords
- use a short table of historical information about Canada or a simplified map or diagram
- get information about Canada's history from a very basic text of up to five sentences
- copy dates, words, and short phrases to complete a short writing task
- complete a short three- to five-sentence guided text about Canada's history by filling in blanks

Language Focus

Items to help learners achieve the outcomes:

- vocabulary (*Confederation, war, flag, prime minister, fur trader, immigrant*)
- vocabulary for using maps (*north, west, city, country, ocean*)
- vocabulary for expressing personal information (*name, address, phone number*)
- numbers for years and dates
- prepositions of time (*in, on*)
- simple past tense of high-frequency verbs (*came, was/were, had, started*)
- pronunciation: word stress in ordinal numbers (*thirteenth, thirtieth, twenty-eighth, twentieth*)

Sample Tasks

1. Work with a partner and match dates with sentences about Canada's history.
2. Listen to a text about dates in Canada's history. Fill in blanks in a worksheet.
3. Read about Canada's history and complete a simple table with significant historical events and dates.
 - **Novice:** Open an instructor-made file with a table and insert information from Language Task 3. Print and compare with classmates.
 - **Skills:** Insert Text (in Table Cells), Print
4. Complete sentences about Canada's history by filling in blanks.

Additional Tasks

- **All Levels:** Go to a historical site with information presented very simply (e.g., <http://www.canadahistory.com>, Political, Prime Ministers) and complete a task (e.g., Write the names of the first and 14th prime ministers, a female prime minister, and the current prime minister).
- **Skills:** Internet Basics, URL, Hyperlink, Scrolling