

Geography

Topic Development Ideas

Classes might want to learn more about...

- abbreviations for provinces and territories
- areas in Canada with predominantly French language and culture
- 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, gal)
- 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
- look at photographs to understand terminology (e.g., prairie, mountains)
- 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”*

 *Ontario Reader 2001: “Ontario’s Cities: Toronto,” “Canada – Rich in resources,” “Stormy weather”*


 *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 2)

Possible outcomes for this topic:

- give a basic description of the geography and climate of Canada
- identify details in a listening text: numbers, time references, places, keywords, short expressions
- find places in Canada on a simplified map or table
- get information from a very basic text of up to seven sentences
- copy information from a 10- to 20-item list or a five- to seven-sentence text to complete a task about Canadian geography
- give a basic description of the geography of Canada by filling in the blanks in a short five- to six-sentence guided text

Language Focus

Items to help learners achieve the outcomes:

- vocabulary for province, territory, capital city names, weather
- vocabulary for geographical features, regions, and directions (*mountain, lake, ocean, river, Atlantic Region, Prairie provinces, north, west*)
- prepositions: time, location
- quantifiers (*many, some*)
- *there is/there are*
- verbs: *be, have*
- pronunciation: word stress in place names and reduction of unstressed vowels to schwa (*Ottawa, Toronto, Saskatchewan*)

Sample Tasks

1. Take turns describing the location of provinces in Canada to a partner. Partner uses a map to locate and identify provinces.
2. Listen to a weather forecast for Canada. Fill in the blanks for temperature and weather on a map of Canada.
 - **All Levels:** Go to a weather reporting web site (e.g., <http://weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca>, English, the province of Ontario, your area on the map of Ontario). Copy the temperature for the next five days.
 - **Skills:** Internet Basics, URL, Hyperlink, Scrolling
3. Using a basic text about Canada, answer questions about geography.
4. Write about Canada's geography by filling in the blanks in sentences.

Additional Tasks

- **Novice:** Open an instructor-made file containing columns and the titles: Provinces and Territories, Capitals, Population. Enter information under the column headings. Bold the titles and change the province names from lower case to upper case.
 - **Skills:** Open, Insert Text, Font Style (Bold), Change Case

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
- use Blue Pages of phone book to find names and contact information of elected representatives
- visit local legislature, city hall, town council

Resources for Developing and Teaching Topic

- 📖 *A Beginning Look at Canada: Part 4, "The Government"*
- 📖 *A Grab Bag of Canada*
- 📖 *A Look at Canada*
- 📖 *Ontario Reader 2001: "Adrienne Clarkson," "Levels of government in Canada," "Canada's Prime Ministers," "Ontario Government: Who's in power?" "Local Government: Municipal elections 2000"*
- 🏛️ local legislature, city hall, town council
- 🌐 Association of Municipalities of Ontario: <http://www.amo.on.ca> (More on AMO, Ontario Municipalities)
- 🌐 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 2)

Possible outcomes for this topic:

- give a basic description of the responsibilities of the three levels of government
- identify details in a listening text: numbers, places, keywords, short expressions
- get information from very a basic text about government of up to seven sentences
- copy information about government for personal use or to complete a task
- give a basic description of government by filling in blanks in a short five- to six-sentence guided text or by answering five to six simple questions

Language Focus

Items to help learners achieve the outcomes:

- vocabulary for elected representatives, levels of government and range of responsibilities, names of parties, and abbreviations for parties and elected representatives
- interrogative pronouns
- *there is/there are*
- verb *be*
- pronunciation: intonation in lists (*There are three levels of government: federal, provincial, and municipal*)

Sample Tasks

1. Work with a partner and determine what level of government is responsible for each item in a list provided by the instructor.
 - **Novice:** Open an instructor-made file containing a list of questions about the levels and responsibilities of government. Key in answers. Print for peer evaluation.
 - **Skills:** Open, Insert Text, Save As, Print Preview, Print
2. Listen to a simple biography of a famous politician. Answer true/false questions.
3. Refer to a table with information about elected representatives. Match the names and pictures of current politicians with office held.
4. Complete gapped sentences stating who your elected representatives are, which party they belong to, their addresses, and phone numbers.
 - **All Levels:** Go to the Government of Canada web site (<http://www.gov.on.ca> English, Access your Government, Legislative Assembly, Members, Who's my member? Search by address). Fill in the required information to find your Member of Provincial Parliament.
 - **Skills:** Internet Basics, URL, Hyperlink, Buttons, Forms, Controls

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
- the 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"*
-  *Ontario Reader 2001: "Black History Month"*
-  *Canada: A Cultural Profile*
-  museums and archives
-  local historical sites and museums
-  Explore Canada – History
-  Canada's History: http://www.infocan.gc.ca/facts/history_e.html
-  Canadahistory.com: <http://www.canadahistory.com>
-  Government of Canada Site: <http://canada.gc.ca> (About Canada)
-  Historica: <http://www.histori.ca>
-  history Canada

Topic Outcomes (CLB 2)	Language Focus
<p>Possible outcomes for this topic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● give a basic description of major events in Canadian history (e.g., facts about First Nations, French, British, Confederation, immigration) 👂 identify details in a listening text: numbers, time references, places, keywords, short expressions 📖 find information about Canada’s history in a short basic table, simplified map, or diagram 📖 get information about historical events from a very basic text of up to seven sentences ✂ copy information from a simple table of historical information to complete a task ✂ give a basic description of a historical event by answering five to six simple questions 	<p>Items to help learners achieve the outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● vocabulary (<i>explorer, fur trade, settler, pioneer, colony, confederation, independent</i>) ● vocabulary for first peoples (<i>First Nations, Inuit, Metis</i>), countries and nationalities (<i>France, French</i>) ● numbers, dates, and times ● expressions of time (<i>last year, 10 years ago</i>) ● prepositions: time, location, movement ● questions: wh-, yes/no ● sequence markers ● simple past tense ● pronunciation: past tense -ed endings, /t/ (<i>picked</i>), /d/ (<i>explored</i>), /əd/ (<i>voted</i>)

Sample Tasks

1. With a partner or small group, play an instructor-made board game that requires answering very simple questions about historical events discussed in class.
2. Listen to a spoken text about a famous Canadian. Complete sentences with details from text.
3. Read a short paragraph about a historical event. Put scrambled sentences in order.
4. Answer questions about your immigration to Canada.
 - 📖 **Novice:** Word-process Language Task 4. Insert a title. Centre, bold, and change the title to upper case. Type name and date at the bottom of the document. Print for peer evaluation (capitalization and spelling).
 - Skills:** Keyboarding, Font Style (Bold), Format Paragraph (Alignment), Change Case, Print

Additional Tasks

- 🌐 **All Levels:** Go to a history web site (e.g., <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/index.html>, Citizenship, Canadian Citizenship, A Look at Canada, Canada’s History and Symbols). Find when provinces and territories joined Confederation and write the dates in a chart.
- Skills:** Internet Basics, URL, Scrolling, Hyperlink, Buttons, Controls