

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 increase awareness of Canadian geography and 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 Grab Bag of Canada*

 *A Look at Canada*

 *Canadian Concepts 3, Second Edition: Unit 8, "Travel in Canada"*


 *Ontario Reader 1998: "P.E.I.'s new link"*


 *Ontario Reader 1999: "McIntosh apples," "Racoons like city life," "Lonely on the lakes"*

 *Ontario Reader 2001: "Ontario's cities: Toronto," "Canada – Rich in resources," "Fisher's delight," "Stormy weather"*


 *The ESL Toolbox: Unit 2, "Culture Checks"; 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 3, 4)

Possible outcomes for this topic:

- tell a story about a personal trip taken in Canada or other country
- give a brief description (e.g., geography, regions, or climate of Canada)
- understand factual details and some implied meanings in commercials for tourist destinations in Canada
- understand factual details and some implied meanings in weather reports
- get information from a simple one- to two-paragraph text about Canada
- use a standard reference text (e.g., map or diagram)
- copy information from a one-paragraph text to complete a task
- write five to eight sentences about a place in Canada

Language Focus

Items to help learners achieve the outcomes:

- vocabulary for geographical features (*flat, rocky, forest*); regions (*Atlantic Region, Prairie provinces*); industries and resources (*forestry, tourism, dairy farms*); weather (*overcast, hazy, humid*)
- numbers and metric units (*10,000, 100,000, 1,000,000; metres, kilometres*)
- adjectives: comparative, superlative
- prepositions: time, location, movement
- verb tenses: present perfect, simple past, future with *going to*
- pronunciation: flapped /t/ (*Ottawa, Alberta*)

Sample Tasks

1. Take turns describing main features of the provinces in Canada with a partner while partner guesses which province is being described.
2. Listen to an oral text about the different regions of Canada and fill in the blanks on a chart.
 - **All Levels:** Explore Canada – **Geography – Regions – Level 1.** Copy text about regions of Canada onto the Writing Pad and save in an appropriate location (e.g., floppy disk). Open saved file in Word and follow instructions to format (e.g., change font) and print document.

Skills: Open/Close Application and File, Select and Navigate Through Options, Copy, Paste, Save, Font, Font Style, Change Case, Format Paragraph (Alignment), Writing Pad
3. Read a text about someone's travels across Canada and chart places visited on a map.
4. Write about the weather and landscape of your hometown or country. Which Canadian region is it most similar to? How is it similar?

Additional Tasks

- **Novice:** Open an instructor-made quiz about Canadian geography with the answers listed at the top or bottom. Follow instructions to cut and paste answers in the appropriate location.

Skills: Open, Copy, Cut, Paste

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 out who to contact for problems (e.g., city councillor for road repair in neighbourhood)
- visit local legislature, city hall, town council


Resources for Developing and Teaching Topic

 *A Look at Canada*


 *Ontario Reader 1998*: “Federal elections,” “Canada’s Parliament”

 *Ontario Reader 1999*: “Ontario Election,” “PQ wins in Quebec,” “Our Land”

 *Ontario Reader 2001*: “Canadian Dream: An Immigrant’s rise to be Governor General,” “Levels of government in Canada,” “Federal Election 2000,” “Ontario Government: Who’s in power?” “Local Government: Municipal elections 2000”


 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 Site: <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 3, 4)

Possible outcomes for this topic:

- 🗨️ give short three- to four-step directions to get to a government office
- 🗨️ give a brief description of government in Canada (levels, responsibilities, parties)
- 👂 understand factual details and some implied meanings in a government announcement or commercial
- 📖 get information from a short form letter or flyer from a local politician
- 📖 find information in telephone directories (e.g., MP, MPP)
- 📖 get information from a simplified one- to two-paragraph news story about government
- 📖 use a standard reference text to get information about government and politicians
- ✂️ copy information from a text about government for personal use or to complete a task

Language Focus

Items to help learners achieve the outcomes:

- vocabulary (*head of state, Governor General, Lieutenant-Governor, Parliament, House of Commons, Senate, party in power, official opposition, cabinet, bill, law, sign, election, candidate*)
- conjunctions
- imperatives
- modals: obligation, possibility
- phrasal verbs: separable, non-separable (*put through, look up, stand for, turn down, vote for*)
- sequence markers
- simple present tense
- pronunciation: linked sounds (*Ottawa is one of the most beautiful cities in Canada*)

Sample Tasks

1. In pairs, practice giving directions to a local government office using a map.
 - 📖 **Novice:** In pairs, use instructor-made directions to a local government or politician's office to draw a map. Print and compare with classmates.
 - Skills:** (Windows) Paint, Mouse Skills, Printing Options, Print
2. Listen to a brief commercial from the government and answer multiple-choice questions on a worksheet.
3. Use the telephone book and reference books to find information about local politicians. Complete a chart with name, title, telephone number, and political party each politician represents.
4. Answer questions about political parties and elections in Canada by copying information from a reference text.

Additional Tasks

- 🌟 **All Levels:** Go to a web site with on-line printable government forms (e.g., <http://www.settlement.org> English, Forms, Health, OHIP Change of Address). Complete the form with personal information and print.
 - Skills:** Internet Basics, URL, Hyperlink, Forms, Scrolling, Print

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 Grab Bag of Canada*

 *A Look at Canada*


 *Canadian Currents: Unit 10, "Taking Part"*

 *Ontario Reader 1999: "Canada: Nation of immigrants"*


 *Ontario Reader 2001: "Black History Month"*


 *The ESL Toolbox: Unit 2, "Information Gaps"*

 *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://www.canada.gc.ca> (About Canada)

 Historica: <http://www.historica.ca>

 history Canada

Topic Outcomes (CLB 3, 4)

Possible outcomes for this topic:

- 🗨️ give short three- to four-step directions to a local historical site or museum
- 🗨️ tell a story of own immigration experience
- 🗨️ give a brief description of a person from Canadian history
- 👂 understand factual details and some implied meanings in a listening text on the history of Canada
- 📖 get information from a simple, explicit, one- to two-paragraph text about the history of Canada
- 📖 use a standard reference text (e.g., table, chart, timeline, map, or diagram)
- ✍️ copy information from a reference text to complete a task
- ✍️ describe a person or event from Canadian history in five to eight sentences

Language Focus

Items to help learners achieve the outcomes:

- vocabulary (*Aboriginal, Inuit, Metis, First Nations, fur trade, colony, British, French, Confederation*)
- expressions of time, duration (*for 10 years, from 1990 to 1995, during World War II*)
- adjectives
- articles: definite and indefinite
- conjunctions
- prepositions of time, location, movement
- questions: wh-, yes/no
- sequence markers
- simple past tense
- pronunciation: intonation in wh- questions

Sample Tasks

1. Work with a partner and ask and answer questions about your immigration experiences.
2. Listen to an oral text about Canadian history and chart significant dates on a timeline.
 - 📖 **Novice:** Follow instructions to create the timeline from Language Task 2. Use tabs to align the dates and information. Preview and print for display.
 - Skills:** Keyboarding, Tabs, Print Preview, Print
3. Read a text about Canadian immigration. Complete a table showing details of major immigration periods.
4. Write about a famous person from Canada's history.
 - 🗨️ **All Levels:** Explore Canada – **History** – **Level 1**. Listen to a text about a famous person in Canadian history. Rewrite the story in own words in Writing Pad and print for peer evaluation.
 - Skills:** Open/Close Application, Select and Navigate Through Options, Writing Pad, Print, Mouse Tutorial