

BIRMINGHAM FESTIVAL OF ARTS
SALUTES CANADA:
"OUR NEIGHBOR TO THE NORTH"

MIDDLE SCHOOL INFORMATION BOOKLET

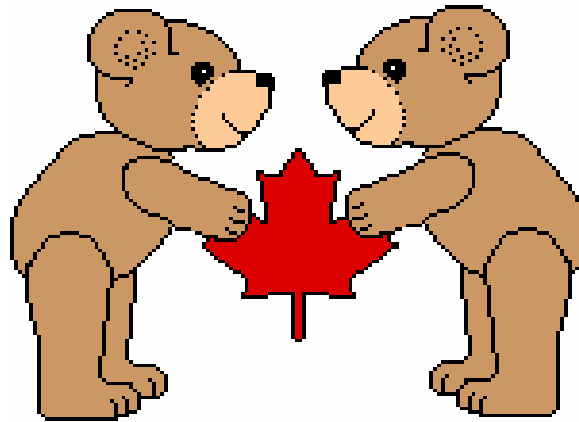


TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	History	p. 3
II.	The Underground Railroad	p. 3
III.	Government	p. 4
IV.	Canadian Provinces and Territories	p. 4
V.	Sites to See	p. 4
VI.	People of Canada	p. 5
VII.	Languages	p. 5
VIII.	Literature	pp. 5-6
IX.	Visual Arts	p. 6
X.	Food	p. 7
XI.	Holidays	p. 7
XII.	Well-Known Canadians	p. 7
XIII.	Sports	p. 8

HISTORY

Icelandic explorers are believed to have arrived in Canada in approximately 1000 A.D. The first European explorers were John Cabot who planted the English flag in Newfoundland in 1497; and Jacques Cartier who reached the gulf of the St. Lawrence and claimed Canada for France in 1534. Today it is a multicultural country made up of more than 100 different ethnic groups.

Between 1660 and 1760, the French claimed much of the land and called it New France. Conflicts arose between the French and English traders. More and more English moved into the area and fought the French for control of the land. The British won the war and the French were now under British rule. The British continued to settle in Canada.

By the 1850s, the Canadians were no longer ruled by England. Although they remained part of the British Empire, they had self-government. Today, Canada remains a part of the British Commonwealth.

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD:

THE CANADA CONNECTION

Prior to the American Civil War, Canada became the home for over 40,000 men, women and children seeking freedom from slavery and racial discrimination in the United States. Some came to Canada on their own, while others passed through a network of former slaves and abolitionists who were dedicated to freeing Blacks from the hardships of slavery. This secretive system of escape routes became known as The Underground Railroad.

In the North, the principal route of escape included crossing the Ohio River into Illinois, Indiana or Ohio, which were free states. However, a Fugitive Slave Law was passed that required states to return escaped slaves to their masters in the South. To ensure their freedom, escapees were forced to make their way to Canada. The hiding stations along the way provided food and clothing to the freedom-seekers.

One of the principal escape routes for slaves in Alabama and Mississippi was through the eastern part of Henderson County, Tennessee. They would enter Southern McNairy and then proceed to Hardin County. Many slaves from Alabama simply entered Hardin County where stations manned by both black and white abolitionists awaited their arrival. Then they made their way to Henderson County to spend the day in a station near what is now Shady Hill and Middleburg. The next night the escapees would make their way to the home of

"Black Hawk" Hays who would hide people sometimes for a week and then travel with them to a station in Southeast Carroll County.

GOVERNMENT

Canada is a confederation with a parliamentary democracy. Its government is patterned partly after Great Britain's but also includes a federal system like that of the United States. The federal system of government means that powers and responsibilities are divided between the federal government and the 10 Canadian provincial governments. The national legislature is known as Parliament and the capital city is Ottawa.

CANADIAN PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES

Province/Territory	Capitol	Population
Alberta	Edmonton	2,974,807
British Columbia	Victoria	3,907,738
Manitoba	Winnipeg	1,119,583
New Brunswick	Fredericton	729,498
Newfoundland-Labrador	St. John's Wood	512,930
Nova Scotia	Halifax	908,007
Ontario	Toronto	11,410,046
Prince Edward Island	Charlottetown	135,294
Quebec	Quebec	7,237,479
Saskatchewan	Regina	978,933
Northwest Territory	Yellowknife	37,360
Nunavut	Iqaluit	26,745
Yukon	Whitehorse	28,6744

SIGHTS TO SEE

- Rockies
- National Parks – Kootenay, Yoho, Glacier, Mt. Revelstoke
- St. John's – North America's Oldest city
- Niagara Falls
- Beaches of Prince Edward Island
- Canada's French Culture of Quebec

PEOPLE OF CANADA

Canada has a diverse heritage of many different ethnic groups. The most prominent include people of English heritage, French heritage and Native heritage. Other groups include Irish, German, Polish, Asian, other eastern European and Scandinavian. The people of Canada are also of various religions; some such as the Mennonites have a distinctive culture of their own.

LANGUAGES

Official Languages – English; French

Canada is officially bilingual. These two languages are taught throughout Canada and all street and road signs are posted in both languages.

Native Languages

Algonquian

Beaver

Chipewyan

Dakota

Inuktitut

Kaska

Lillooet

Micman

Montagnais

Ogibwa

Slavey

Seneca

Squamish

LITERATURE

The literature of Canada is written in both English and French. The earliest form of literature from Canadian history is usually in the form of journals that were kept by the explorers. It wasn't until the early 1900's that Canadian authors were truly able to discover their voices. The authors before the 1900's usually wrote about the Canadian landscape and produced travel and exploration pieces. The author's place was found in this northern landscape. It wasn't until later on that the search for identity or the complexities of the Canadian mosaic were explored. The early writers were definitely influenced by their European roots. Later on we see Canadian authors studying the past and the present of various Canadian societies. Today, Canada has its own voice for literature. Authors now focus on the individuals not just the landscape. It is through these works that we can see the characters strengthen and grow as they confront the modern world.

Prominent Canadian Authors

- Margaret Atwood
- Alice Munro
- Michael Ondaatje
- Farley Mowat
- Polly Horvath
- Iain Lawrence
- Ann Alma
- Brian Doyle
- Pat Krause
- Janet Lunn
- Carol Matas
- Lucy Maud Montgomery
- Kenneth Oppel
- Tim Wynne-Jones
- Marilyn Reynolds
- Paulette Bourgeois
- Marie-Louise Gay
- Robert Munsch

VISUAL ARTS

The sculpture of the Inuit has themes of wildlife of the region, hunting and family life, as well as mythical and spiritual figures. The artists carved in stone, antlers and ivory. Each community of Inuit has its own style and favored subjects.

The Northwest Coast Indians created beautiful ceremonial masks and blankets with elaborate designs but are perhaps known mostly for their totem poles, depicting the symbols the clans have chosen to represent them. The symbols represent animals or combinations of animals. Wood, which is readily available, was the main medium used to make the artworks.

Early Canadian immigrants painted in the styles they learned in Europe. Subjects consisted of daily life, life of the native people, religious works and portraits. In the 1920's, a group of men joined together to create the famous "Group of Seven." Their desire was to show the wild beauty of the Canadian landscape in a manner unique to their country. The characteristics of these works are brilliant colors, strong brush strokes and bold shapes. Today, all major cities in Canada have galleries showing the paintings, sculptures and photography of contemporary artists. Canadian art can be seen in magazines and on the

Internet. Much art has been developed to be placed on public display for everyone to enjoy.

FOOD

Many Canadian “sweets” come from the symbol of Canada, the maple tree. Canadians enjoy maple syrup over pancakes and frozen as “sticky taffy.” The Saskatoon berries of Alberta are popular for making jam, jelly, fudge, ice cream and even tea. The fiddlehead of New Brunswick is a unique vegetable of Canada. These ferns can be found from the riverbanks to the supermarket freezers!

HOLIDAYS

Victoria Day
Boxing Day
Canada Day
Remembrance Day

Mutual holidays of the United States and Canada

Christmas
New Year
Easter
Labor Day
Thanksgiving (Canadian-October)

WELL-KNOWN CANADIANS

Many well-known people find their roots linking to Canada and proudly identify themselves as Canadians. There are many well-known Canadians in the area of music, such as Celine Dion, Shania Twain, Bryan Adams, Neil Young, Anne Murray and Sarah McLachlan. In a different arena of arts, acting, there is another list of famous Canadians. A famous dad and son duo, Donald and Kiefer Sutherland began their careers in Canada. Many people will also recognize the famous Raymond Burr, better known as Perry Mason and Mike Myers, better known as Austin Powers. In addition, the smash TV hits “Beverly Hills 90210,” “Friends” and “Star Trek” could not have earned their successful ratings without three very famous Canadians. Jason Priestly (Brandon Walsh), Mathew Perry (Chandler Bing) and William Shatner (Capt. James T. Kirk) are all Canadians. And we can’t forget Jim Carrey, Michael J. Fox, Tom Green and the late John Candy.

SPORTS

The diversity of Canada's ethnicity and geography has contributed to the number of sports that continue to increase in popularity among Canadians.

- Ice Hockey
- Skiing
- Ice Skating
- Curling
- Skiing
- Football
- Baseball
- Lacrosse
- Horseracing
- Rowing
- Bicycling
- Tobogganing
- Hunting and Fishing

Famous Sports Figures

- Dean Farthing---Football
- Steve Nash---Basketball
- Mario Lemieux—Hockey
- Silken Laumar---Rowing
- Nancy Greene----Skiing
- Mike Weir----Golf
- Elvis Stojko---Ice Skating
- Wayne Gretsky---Hockey