

**Canada**

**Lesson 3: Life in Canada**

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION**

*What makes a culture unique?*

**Terms to Know**

**metropolitan area** an area that includes a city and the surrounding suburbs

**bilingual** having two official languages

**peacekeeping** sending the military to crisis spots to maintain peace and order

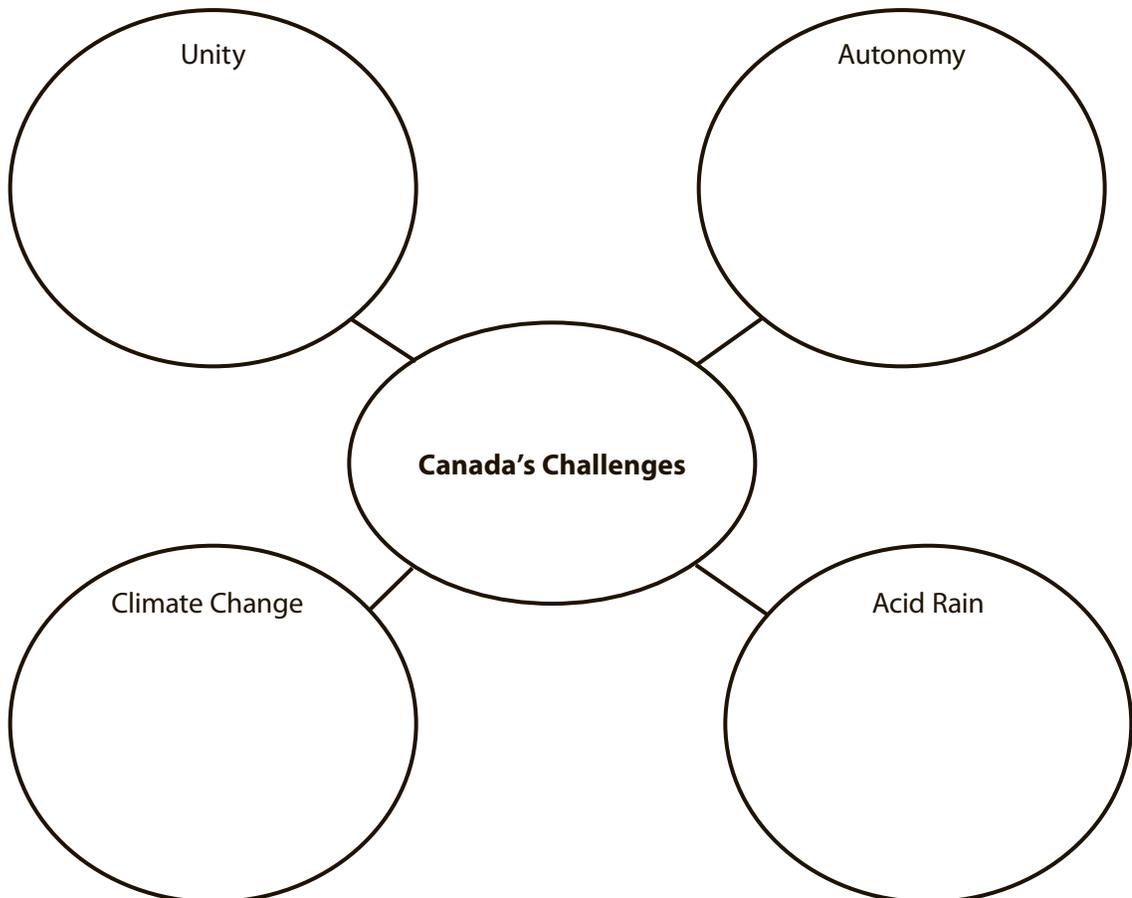
**separatist** a group that wants to break away from control by a dominant group

**autonomy** having independence from another country

**acid rain** rain that contains harmful amounts of poisons due to pollution

**What do you know?**

In the diagram below, write down everything you know and then learn about Canada’s challenges.



**Canada**

**Lesson 3: Life in Canada, *continued***



**Marking the Text**

1. Highlight the definition of *metropolitan area*. Then provide an example of a metropolitan area that you know about.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Comparing and Contrasting**

2. Compare and contrast Toronto and Montreal.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Reading Progress Check**

3. Why are Toronto and Vancouver more important to trade than Calgary and Edmonton?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**City and Country Life**

**Guiding Question** *Where and how do Canadians live?*

Most Canadians live in cities or suburbs around cities. Ottawa is an important city in Ontario. It is Canada’s capital and the home of its national government.

Canada has both a national government and regional governments in the provinces. It is like the United States in that way. Canada also has a parliamentary system, like the United Kingdom. Voters elect members of the parliament, which is Canada’s legislature. The party with the most members chooses the prime minister.

The parliament and prime minister have different duties.

Government Body	Duties
Parliament	Makes laws
Prime Minister	Carries out laws

Canada’s largest **metropolitan area** is Toronto in Ontario. A metropolitan area is a city and the suburbs around it. Toronto is a major port with access to the St. Lawrence Seaway. It also has rail lines and highways. Toronto ships products all over the world.

Montreal is Canada’s second-largest city. It is the economic center of Quebec Province and a major port on the St. Lawrence Seaway. It is also a center of manufacturing, banking, and insurance. Quebec, the capital of Quebec Province, attracts many tourists because of its 400-year-old history.

The French heritage of Canada is particularly strong in Quebec Province. In fact, Canada is a **bilingual** nation. This means it has two official languages. Most people in Quebec speak French.

Canada’s third-largest metropolitan area is Vancouver in British Columbia. It is Canada’s busiest port. It ships food products from the Prairie Provinces. Because of its location on the Pacific Ocean, many products are sent from Vancouver to Asia. Other major western cities include Calgary and Edmonton in Alberta. Both have large oil and natural gas reserves.

Life in rural Canada varies from place to place. Some people of the First Nations live in the Far North where the landscape is harsh. Many follow traditional ways, but modern aspects of life, such as snowmobiles, can be found as well. Fishing villages in the Atlantic Provinces have suffered recently. Overfishing has reduced fish stocks and income from fishing.

**Canada**

**Lesson 3: Life in Canada, *continued***

**Economic and Political Relationships**

**Guiding Question** *How does Canada get along with other nations?*

Canada has close ties to the United States. In the early 1990s, it signed a trade agreement with both the United States and Mexico. This made it easier to trade. In 2010, almost three-quarters of Canada’s imports came from the United States. Also in 2010 almost three quarters of Canada’s exports went to the United States.

Canada and the United States cooperate on defense. They work together to provide air support in case of attack. They also work together to fight terrorism.

Canada and the United States have cultures that are similar in many ways. For instance, Canadians watch American movies and television shows. Canadian singers and actors work in the United States. Canada is working to develop its own movie industry.

Canada is also close to Britain. Its government and laws are based on the laws in Britain (although the laws in Quebec are not). The British king or queen is Canada’s king or queen, too. Canadian culture is also similar to British culture.

Canada is active in many world organizations. It helps poorer nations. It also takes part in **peacekeeping** efforts. Peacekeeping is when trained members of the military go to crisis spots. They try to keep peace and order there.

**Canada’s Challenges**

**Guiding Question** *What challenges do Canadians face?*

Canada’s biggest challenge might be to stay together as a nation. Some people in Quebec want to separate.

Canada’s constitution makes sure that French-speaking people have rights. However, Canada is mostly controlled by English-speakers, and they have run the economy for many years. French speaking people in Quebec feel that they have been treated badly.

In the late 1990s, some Quebec leaders started a separatist movement. **Separatists** are groups who want to break away from the control of a dominant group. People in Quebec voted on this issue. They needed to decide on whether Quebec should separate from Canada. Twice they have voted no.

The First Nations people gained more power, though. In 1999, the Canadian government created a new territory for them called Nunavut. There, the people have more **autonomy**, or the ability to create their own government.



**Marking the Text**

- 4. Highlight the text that describes how Canada helps other nations.



**Reading Progress Check**

- 5. Why is Canada more similar to the United States and the United Kingdom than to other nations?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Determining Word Meaning**

- 6. Use the word *separatists* in a sentence

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Explaining**

- 7. What is Nunavut and how is it different from other territories?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Canada**

**Lesson 3: Life in Canada, *continued***



**Drawing Conclusions**

8. Should Canada limit fossil fuel use? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Reading Progress Check**

9. Why is Canada unable to meet its environmental challenges by itself?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Another challenge Canada faces is climate change. Milder weather threatens plants and animals living in the far north. Experts believe climate change will also affect fisheries, lead to water shortages, and cause more extreme weather.

Burning fossil fuels is thought to be one cause of climate change. The Canadian government is taking some steps to reduce the use of fossil fuels. Fossil fuels include oil, coal, and natural gas.

Canada depends greatly on fossil fuels, though. They power industries, transportation, and homes. Also, a large part of Canada's economy depends on the production of fossil fuels. One of the biggest sources of oil in Canada is the Athabasca Tar Sands in northwestern Alberta.

Another environmental challenge is **acid rain**.

Chemicals from air pollution combine with precipitation



Acid Rain

When acid rain falls to Earth, it may weaken or kill fish, land animals, and trees. Damage in eastern Canada is particularly bad. Many of the chemicals that cause acid rain come from the United States. The Canadian government has made efforts to reduce acid rain. It is also trying to reach an agreement with the United States to help with this problem.

**Writing**

**Check for Understanding**

1. **Informative/Explanatory** Why is separatism an ongoing problem in Canada?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. **Argument** Write an e-mail to a government leader in the United States urging strong action to cut back on air pollution that causes acid rain.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_