

Let's Visit Canada

Grade 3



About This Book

Learn about Canada's land of towering mountains, lush green forests, fertile farmlands, northern wastelands and our mosaic of cultures with the 59 activities. Reproducible student booklet with answer key included.

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Item #J1-03

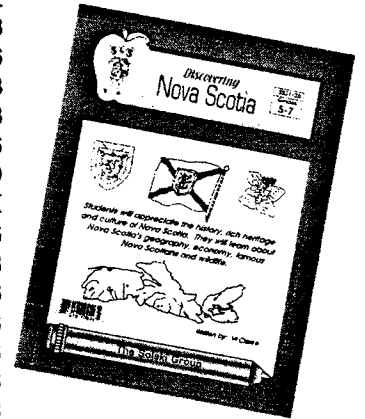
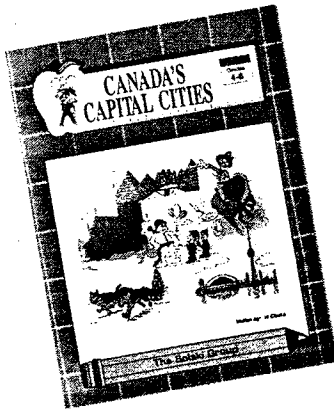
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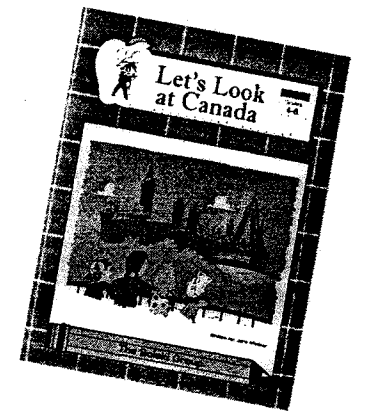
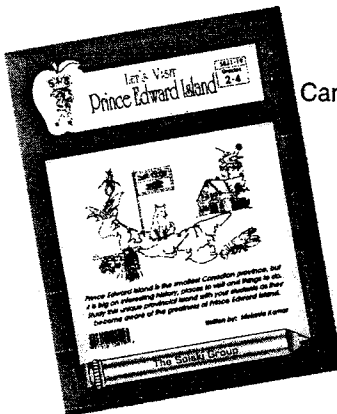


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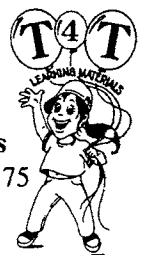
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Ontario:

Bird: Common Loon; **Flower:** White Trillium; **Tree:** Eastern White Pine

Manitoba:

Bird: Great Gray Owl; **Flower:** Prairie Crocus; **Nickname:** "Keystone Province"

Saskatchewan:

Bird: Prairie Sharp-Tailed Grouse; **Flower:** Western Red Lily; **Nickname:** "The Wheat Province"; **Tree:** White Birch

Alberta:

Bird: Great Horned Owl; **Flower:** Wild Rose; **Tree:** Lodgepole Pine; **Nicknames:** "Princess Province", "Energy Province"

British Columbia:

Bird: Stellar Jay; **Flower:** Pacific Dogwood; **Tree:** Western Red Cedar; **Nickname:** "The Pacific Province"

The Yukon:

Bird: Raven; **Flower:** Fireweed; **Nickname:** "Land of the Midnight Sun"

Northwest Territories:

Bird: Gyrfalcon; **Flower:** Mountains Avens; **Tree:** Jack Pine; **Nicknames:** "Canada's Last Frontier", "Land of the Polar Bear", "North of Sixty"

Nunavut:

At this present time, this territory has not selected symbols that will represent it.

Teacher Information

Canada

Introduction:

Canada is the second largest country in the world. It is found in the continent of North America. Canada stretches from Newfoundland on the Atlantic coast to British Columbia on the Pacific coast. The United States is Canada's neighbour to the south. Canada is slightly larger than the United States in area but the United States has a much larger population. More than 28 million people live in Canada and 75 percent live within 150 kilometres (100 miles) of the southern border. The northern part of Canada is uninhabited or thinly populated because the country has a rugged terrain and a severe climate.

Canada is a diverse land. The western coastal areas are quite beautiful with towering mountains, crystal clear lakes and lush forests. The prairies are covered with fields of wheat and other grains. In the far Arctic northlands, large areas are barren or covered with snow. Canada's largest population and manufacturing centres are



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located near the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River in Central Canada. Fishing villages and sandy beaches dot the country's Atlantic coast.

Important Facts:

- Capital of Canada - Ottawa
- Official Languages - English and French
- Size (Area) - 9 970 610 km² (3 849 674 sq.mi.)
- Population - 28 537 000 (Estimated population 1996)
- National Anthem - "O Canada"
- National Symbols - maple leaf, beaver
- National Holidays - Canada Day, July 1
- Money - Basic Unit - dollar
- Leader - Prime Minister

Regions of Canada

Canada is a federation (union) of ten provinces and three territories. The country's name probably comes from "Kanata - Kon", an Iroquois native word that means *to the village or to the small houses*.

Canada has six cultural and economic regions. They are:

- The Atlantic Provinces
- Québec
- Ontario
- The Prairie Provinces
- British Columbia
- The Territories

The **Atlantic Provinces** lie on the Atlantic Ocean. The four provinces are Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. They make up five percent of Canada's land area, and nine percent of the people live here.

The Atlantic Provinces have been an important fishing centre for hundreds of years. These provinces provide Canada with different types of seafood, although only three percent of the people are employed in the fishing industry. The main industry is manufacturing. Agriculture, mining, shipping and tourism are also important.

The Atlantic Provinces have suffered many economic difficulties in the past. This region has a lower standard of living, lower wages and a higher rate of unemployment than any other part of Canada. At the present time fishers are not allowed to fish for cod.

Québec is quite different from the rest of Canada because of its French Language and culture. French is the official language of Québec and most of the people living there belong to the Roman Catholic Church. Québec is the largest province in area and the second largest in population. Montréal is the largest city in Québec and it is the centre of the province's economic and cultural life. It is also Canada's leading transportation centre. Manufacturing and service industries such as banks, hospitals and advertising agencies are the largest industries. People also work in agriculture, mining, forestry and fishing.



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Ontario has the largest population of all the provinces. More than one third of Canada's people live here. Ontario's southern boundary passes through four of the five Great Lakes which are Superior, Huron, Erie and Ontario. The province's main manufacturing area is sometimes called the "Golden Horseshoe". It lies on the western shore of Lake Ontario and includes Toronto, Hamilton and St. Catharines. Ontario makes more than half of Canada's manufactured goods and is also the leading agricultural province. Toronto is Ontario's capital city and is also the largest city in Ontario. It is a very important manufacturing, financial, cultural and communications centre in English-speaking Canada.

The **Prairie Provinces** are Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The southern part of this region has many wheat farms and cattle ranches while the northern area contains numerous lakes and forests. For many years this area was isolated from eastern Canada until the first transcontinental railroad in 1885 made it easy to reach this region. In the late 1800's and the early 1900's, hundreds of thousands of people settled on the fertile Canadian prairies. The many settlers came from eastern Canada, the United States, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, the Ukraine, Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Agriculture, petroleum and natural gas are the Prairie Provinces' main resources. Edmonton, Regina and Winnipeg are the capital cities and they also are the largest.

British Columbia is Canada's third largest province in area and population. It is located on the west coast of Canada. British Columbia's natural beauty, rugged coastline and lofty mountains attract many tourists.

Victoria is the capital city and is located on Vancouver Island. Vancouver is the province's largest city and has the busiest port in Canada. Southern British Columbia has the mildest climate in Canada and many older Canadians move here to retire.

Half of the population in British Columbia have English ancestry while others are from Scottish, Irish and German descent. Of all the provinces British Columbia has the highest percentage of Asians.

Logging and wood-processing industries provide work for most of the people. Other economic activities include agriculture, fishing and mining.

The **Territories** are known as the Yukon Territory, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Nunavut became an official territory in 1999. These territories make up more than a third of Canada's land area. They are located in a remote location and have a severe climate. Only one per cent of Canada's people live in the territories. The land consists mainly of forest-covered mountains or is a frozen wasteland. The territories have rich mineral deposits and mining is the main economic activity.

Mainly Inuit and Native People made their homes here until great mineral wealth was discovered during the late 1800's and early 1900's. The capital city of the Yukon Territory is called Whitehorse. It was founded during the Klondike Gold Rush of the late 1890's. Yellowknife, the capital of the Northwest Territories, was built during another gold rush in the 1930's. The capital city for Nunavut is Iqaluit. This territory was carved out of the Northwest Territories.



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Canada's People

Canada has an estimated population of 28 537 000 (1996). Almost all Canadians are of European descent. Two per cent of Canada's people are Native People and Inuit. Forty-five per cent have some British ancestry which includes English, Irish, Scottish and Welsh descent. Thirty-one per cent have some French ancestry. Other large ethnic groups include Germans and Italians.

Native People and Inuit were living on this land for thousands of years before the Europeans first arrived. Today, there are nearly 550 000 Native People and about 36 000 Inuit living in Canada. The word *Inuit* means "people". They were once called Eskimos, an American word, meaning "eaters of raw meat". The Inuit live in the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and the northern areas of Newfoundland, Ontario and Québec. Canada's Native People belong to one of ten major groups - the Algonquian, the Athapaskan, the Haida, the Iroquoian, the Kootenayan, the Salishan, the Siouan, the Tlingit, the Tsimshian and the Wakashan. Most Native people in Canada live on more than 2 200 reserves (reservations).

Other Canadians include people from China, India and Pakistan and other Asians. These people make up about nine per cent of the population of British Columbia. Many immigrants such as people from China, the Indian subcontinent and the West Indies have settled in Toronto. One percent of Canada's population is Black. Many Black Canadians are of West Indian descent and come from English-speaking islands and French-speaking Haiti.

Canadian Languages

Canada has two official languages - English and French. Sixty-nine per cent of the Canadian people speak mainly English in the home. Twenty-four per cent speak mainly French. Six per cent of the Canadian people speak other languages such as Italian, Chinese, German, Portuguese etc.

Most of Canada's French-speaking citizens live in Québec. French-speaking Canadians are called Québécois (kay beh KWAH) and consider themselves the guardians of the French language and culture in Canada. In 1974, the Québec government adopted French as Québec's official language. This act meant that French was to be promoted in schools and it was the official language of business and government. All outdoor signs, traffic signs and advertisements must be written in French.

Canadian Lifestyles

In Canada today, seventy-seven per cent of the people live in cities or urban areas. The cities are filled with skyscrapers, subway systems and expressway systems to link the cities with the suburbs. Toronto and Montréal have modern subway systems. Canada has twenty-seven metropolitan areas with a population of more than 100 000. The three largest metropolitan areas are Montréal, Qué; Toronto, Ont. and Vancouver, B.C.. Other major Canadian metropolitan areas are Ottawa, Ont; Hull, Qué; Calgary, Alta; Edmonton, Alta; Hamilton, Ont; Québec City, Qué. and Winnipeg, Man.