

英语国家文化与生活 ①

This Is Canada

加拿大



出国留学英文版

〔加〕托尼·伯顿 (Toni Burton) / 著

天津出版传媒集团
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(加) 托尼·伯顿 著

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邮政编码 300051
邮购电话 (022) 23332469
网 址 <http://www.tjrmcbs.com>
电子信箱 tjrmcbs@126.com

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Chapter 1

O Canada



Geography of Canada

Canada is part of the continent of North America. It is a very big country! Canada is the 2nd biggest country in the world. It is bigger than China, which is the 3rd biggest country in the world.

Although Canada is a very big country by land size, the population of Canada is quite small. About 35,000,000 people live in Canada. Almost 40 times more people live in China than in Canada!

Canada is a multicultural country. People of many different cultures, religions and languages from all around the world have come to Canada to live together peacefully.

Northern Canada is covered in ice and snow. Most of the people in Canada live in the southern region. This is where most of the people in Canada live.

Canada has the longest coastline in the world. It borders three different oceans: the Pacific Ocean in the west, the Atlantic Ocean in the east, and the Arctic Ocean in the north.





Canada is so big that there are six time zones across the country. When children are starting school in the morning on the west coast of Canada, children on the east coast are already finishing their school day!

Symbols of Canada

There are many symbols that represent Canada. Some of the symbols that are recognised around the world include the beaver, the maple leaf, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the inukshuk, and Canada's red and white flag.

The Beaver

The beaver is the official animal of Canada.

The beaver is a brown, furry animal that lives both on the land and in the water. It has a large, flat tail that helps it to swim in the water and to stand upright when it is on the land. An average adult beaver weighs



about 20 kilograms and is about 30 centimetres tall. The beaver has very large, sharp teeth. It can cut down trees with its teeth!

Beavers live near rivers, streams, ponds and lakes. They make their houses by cutting down trees with their teeth and using the wood to build dams in streams. The dams flood an area of the forest and create a pond where the beaver can build a house with an underwater entrance.

The Maple Leaf

The maple tree is the official tree of Canada.

Maple trees grow in woods and forests all across Canada. The leaves of the maple tree are green in the summer and turn to beautiful red and orange colours in the fall.



For hundreds of years, the sap from the maple trees in Canada has been used to make maple syrup.

The maple leaf is at the centre of the Canadian flag. Canadian stamps

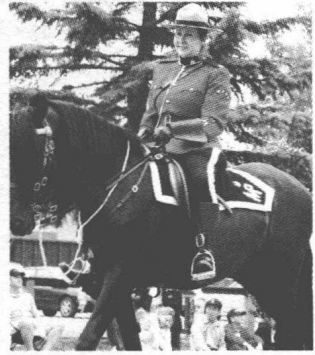
and coins also feature the maple leaf. Proud Canadians wear maple leaf pins and emblems when they travel abroad.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police

The bright red uniform of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, or the “Mounties”, is a symbol of Canada that is recognised around the world.

Long ago, the Mounties rode on horses and patrolled early Canada wearing bright red jackets and tall brown hats.

Today, the Mounties don't wear bright red uniforms in their daily work. But the bright uniforms can still be seen in ceremonies, parades and pageants.



The Inukshuk

Inukshuks are towers made of stone. They look like people, with two legs, two arms and a head. The Inuit People, the First People of the north, used inukshuks as signposts to guide their way when they travelled.

An inukshuk was the official symbol of the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.



The Canadian Flag

The National Flag of Canada is red and white, the official colours of Canada. In the centre of the flag is a red maple leaf.

The maple leaf flag officially became the flag of Canada on February 15, 1967. On that day, these words were spoken about the Canadian flag:

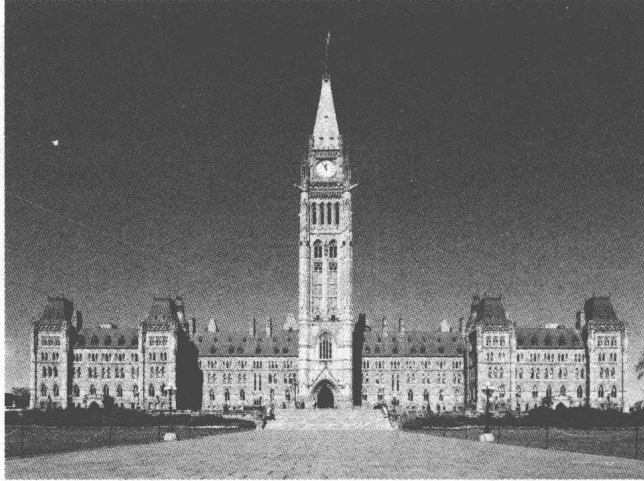
“The flag is the symbol of the nation's unity, for it, beyond any doubt, represents all the citizens of Canada without distinction of race, language, belief or opinion.”





The Government of Canada

The capital city of Canada is Ottawa, Ontario. The government of Canada sits in the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa.



England's Queen Elizabeth II is Canada's formal Head of State. The Governor General represents the Queen in Canada and carries out the duties of the Head of State. The Queen's head is on Canada's coins and on the \$20 bill.

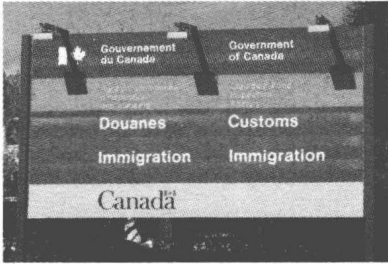


The House of Commons makes Canada's laws. A member of the House of Commons is called a Member of Parliament (MP). Canadian citizens elect MPs in national elections.

The Prime Minister is the Head of Government in Canada. The Prime Minister chooses a Cabinet from among the elected MPs. The Cabinet makes important decisions about government policy.

The Prime Minister also chooses Senators from across Canada to make up the Senate. The Senate reviews laws that are proposed by the House of Commons.

Languages of Canada

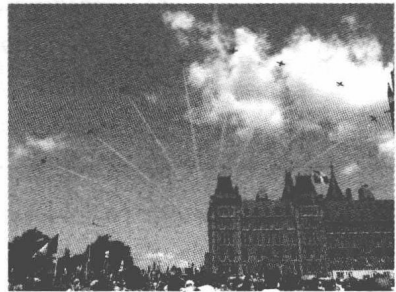


Canada is a bilingual country. It has two official languages, English and French.

Approximately 20% of Canadians speak French as their first language. The province of Quebec has the most French speakers. About 70% of the people living in Quebec use only French at home.

Canada Day

Canada celebrates its birthday on July 1st. On that day in 1867, three colonies in British North America came together to form the Dominion of Canada. At first, Canada had only four provinces, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The other provinces joined the Dominion of Canada later.



How Canada Got its Name

In 1534, a French explorer named Jacques Cartier sailed across the Atlantic Ocean to a new land. He explored and drew maps and named places everywhere he went. Cartier met some of the First People, the Iroquois. When he asked the Iroquois people what they called their land, they answered “kanata” which means “the village”. Cartier didn’t understand what the Iroquois were saying. He thought they said “Canada” and that “Canada” was the name of the whole country. He wrote the name “Canada” on his maps.

National Anthem

“O Canada” was first sung in 1880, but it wasn’t officially named as Canada’s national anthem until almost one hundred years later, in 1980.



As Canada's official anthem, there is both an English and a French version of the song.

O Canada-English version

O Canada

Our home and native land

True patriot love in all thy sons command

With glowing hearts we see thee rise

The true north strong and free

From far and wide

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee

God keep our land glorious and free

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee

Reading Guide

I. Word Lists

continent	<i>noun</i>	the divisions of land on the earth
multicultural	<i>adjective</i>	including many cultures
symbol	<i>noun</i>	an object or action that represents a particular idea, quality or country
official	<i>adjective</i>	approved by a government, person or organisation that has authority
capital city	<i>noun</i>	a city that holds the main offices of a government
Head of State	<i>noun</i>	the person who holds the highest position in a government
bilingual	<i>adjective</i>	using two languages
celebrate	<i>verb</i>	to do something special for an important occasion or event
colony	<i>noun</i>	an area that is controlled by or belongs to a country and is usually far away from the controlling country
national anthem	<i>noun</i>	a song that praises a particular country and is officially accepted as the country's song

II. Comprehension Questions

- Which of the following oceans does NOT border Canada?
 - Arctic Ocean
 - Atlantic Ocean
 - Indian Ocean
 - Pacific Ocean
- Which of the following is the official animal of Canada?
 - beaver
 - caribou
 - moose
 - mountie
- In what year did the red maple leaf flag become the official flag of Canada?
 - 1867
 - 1872
 - 1967
 - 2010



4. Which of the following is the official language of Canada?
a) English b) Canadian
c) French d) Both a) and c)
5. The name Canada comes from the Iroquois word "kanata" which means the:
a) village b) new world
c) big rock d) beaver
6. How many colonies came together to form the Dominion of Canada in 1867?
a) 1 b) 3
c) 10 d) 13

III. Learning Activity

Match each symbol of Canada with its name.



a. Mountie



b. inukshuk



c. beaver



d. maple leaf

Chapter 2

Canada's Provinces and Territories



There are 10 provinces and 3 territories in Canada. They combine to make up the world's second-largest country by area. The ten provinces are Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, and Saskatchewan. The three territories are Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Yukon.



Provincial Government

Each province of Canada has its own government. The provincial government is responsible for such things as education, highways and health care within the province.

The Lieutenant Governor of each province represents the Queen and acts as Head of State for the Province.

The Legislative Assembly makes provincial laws. The citizens of each province elect the Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) in provincial elections.



The Premier leads the Provincial Government. The Premier chooses a Cabinet from among the elected MLAs. The Cabinet sets provincial government policy and introduces provincial laws for the Legislative Assembly to consider.

The Provinces

British Columbia



• About British Columbia

British Columbia, or “BC”, is the 3rd largest province in Canada. It is larger than any of the states in the United States, except Alaska. BC is four times larger than the whole country of Great Britain!

Almost 5,000,000 people live in BC. Most people live in or near the five biggest cities in BC: Vancouver, Victoria, Kelowna, Kamloops and Nanaimo.

Victoria is the capital city of BC. Victoria is on Vancouver Island, a large island off of the west coast of BC. Victoria is one of the oldest cities in western North America. The city is known as the “City of Gardens” because of its many beautiful flowers, trees and gardens. About 350,000 people live in or near Victoria.

Victoria was named after Queen Victoria who was the Queen of England from 1837 to 1901.





Victoria's Chinatown is the oldest Chinese community in Canada. In 1858, many Chinese people came to BC searching for gold. At first, Chinatown was a group of wooden huts where the Chinese immigrants lived. Over time, it became a centre for businesses, theatres,

schools, churches and temples for the Chinese people living in Victoria. Today, Victoria's Chinatown is a popular area for tourists to visit. It was designated a National Historic Site of Canada in 1995. Fan Tan Alley in Chinatown is the narrowest street in Canada.

Although Victoria is the capital city, Vancouver is the largest city in BC. 2,400,000 people live in Vancouver. Vancouver is built between the Coastal Mountains and the Pacific Ocean. Scenic views and a mild climate add to the excitement of city life. The 2010 Winter Olympic Games were held in Vancouver and nearby Whistler.

The gold rush in the 1800s brought many people to BC. People came from Scotland, England, Germany, China and many other countries. They were looking for gold! Many of these people stayed and settled in BC after the gold rush.



Important natural resource industries in BC are:

Forestry



Mining



Fishing



As well, millions of visitors come to British Columbia from all over the world. They come to see the natural beauty of BC and to enjoy many outdoor activities like skiing, fishing, hiking, boating and golfing.



• **Fun Facts About British Columbia**

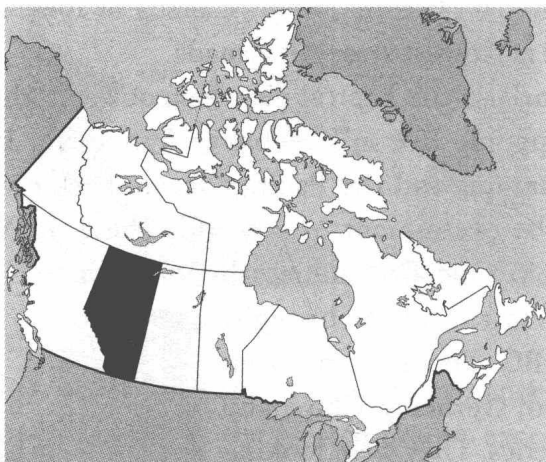
BC is home to people of many different origins, cultures, languages and religions. Over 100 languages are spoken in BC.

After English, the most common language spoken at home in BC is Chinese!

BC hosted the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Vancouver and Whistler.

BC's provincial animal is the Spirit Bear, a rare black bear with white fur. The Spirit Bear was the mascot of the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

Alberta



• **About Alberta**

Alberta is the 4th largest province in Canada. The Rocky Mountains run along the western border of Alberta. Northern Alberta is covered in forests. The rest of Alberta is prairie.

Alberta was named for Princess Louise Caroline Alberta, the fourth daughter of Queen Victoria.

Almost 4,000,000 people live in Alberta. Most people live in or near the two biggest cities in Alberta: Calgary and Edmonton.

Edmonton is the capital city of Alberta. Edmonton is home to the largest shopping mall in North America. As well as almost 1,000 stores, West Edmonton Mall also has many attractions including a waterpark,