



A SESQUICENTENNIAL SENIOR LEARNING TOOL

ENTER THE HERE'S MY CANADA CONTEST

We want to hear from you! The **Here's My Canada** contest is multilingual, nation-wide and invites Canadians to express what their country means to them in a 30-second video. For more details, visit heresmycanada.ca.

This learning tool is designed for senior students from grades 9–12, and secondary III–V in Québec. It provides discussion topics and educational activities to help you create your submission to the **Here's My Canada** contest.

Here's My Canada is a Canada 150 Signature Initiative, and a project of **Historica Canada**, the country's largest organization dedicated to enhancing awareness of Canada's history and citizenship. For more information, visit historiacanada.ca.



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NOTE TO EDUCATORS

Accommodations for special education students and second language learners are included under the appropriate sections and labeled as “alternate activity.”

We encourage teachers and students to use the [Here's my Canada timeline](#) in conjunction with this learning tool to create a more complete picture of what Canada means to you. We hope it will help to provide guidance for your 30-second video submissions to the [Here's My Canada](#) contest. Although we make reference to “Canadians” throughout this learning tool, we encourage video submissions from anyone living in Canada, not just citizens! We also encourage submissions from Canadians living or studying abroad.

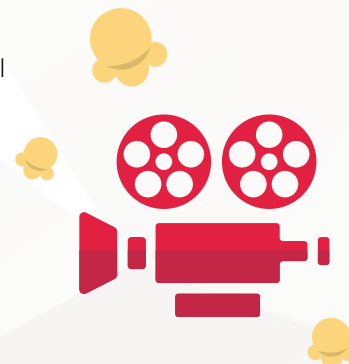
This learning tool was produced with the support from the Government of Canada and the Bank of Montreal.

Here's My Canada Contest Quick Tips

- You may submit up to 3 videos.
- Submissions must be individual, not collaborative.
- Submissions must reflect on Canadian culture, history or identity.
- Submissions are accepted through the [Here's My Canada](#) app and website: heresmycanada.ca.

INTRODUCTION FOR STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS

In 2017, Canada turns 150! In marking Canada's sesquicentennial, [Historica Canada](#) is highlighting 50 events that have helped shape our country since Confederation. At the same time, it is important to note that the human history of what is now known as Canada began well before 1867. Indigenous peoples lived on this land long before European contact, and have histories that significantly predate modern Canada. We can look back upon many proud moments in our history, but must also examine many critically.



Tips for Making a Great Video

- **Plan it out.** Write a script and practise a few times before you film.
- **Think about lighting.** Make sure it's not too bright or too dark.
- **Think about sound.** Make sure your audience can hear what you have to say.
- **Use the prompts** provided in this learning tool to help get you started.
- **Be creative and have fun!**

DIVERSITY

Canada is home to many different people, with different backgrounds, cultures, languages, traditions and sexual orientations. Though today diversity is lauded as a key Canadian value, for many years Canada practised policies of assimilation and discrimination. In this section, think critically about historic and current practices in Canada, as well as how diversity fits into a vision for the future.

ACTIVITY #1

Multiculturalism

- As a class, have a discussion about multiculturalism in Canada. Use these questions to guide you:
 1. What does multiculturalism mean to people living in Canada? Is the concept of multiculturalism a shared Canadian value? Was it always? Think about the past, present and future.
 2. What responsibilities come with Canada's commitment to multiculturalism? Are we fulfilling those responsibilities? If not, what can we do to fulfill them?
- Individually, pick a part of the discussion that resonated with you. Script and film a 30-second video explaining what multiculturalism in Canada means to you.



▲ Pride Parade in Vancouver/GoToVan/Flickr CC

ALTERNATE ACTIVITY

Write a short journal entry about how the concept of multiculturalism in Canada affects you. Is it positive or negative? What would you change if you could? Share your journal entry in a 30-second video.

TEACHERS

[Passages Canada](#) is a national storytelling program that invites newcomers and established Canadians to share their personal experiences of identity, heritage, and immigration. To host a [Passages Canada](#) speaker, visit passagestocanada.com.

If you cannot host a speaker in your classroom, you can request a free DVD, [beCOMING Canada](#), which features interviews with newcomers to Canada.

Email passages@historiacanada.ca for more details.



DIVERSITY, CONTINUED

ACTIVITY #2

Coming to Canada

- Host a **Passages Canada** speaker in your classroom to share their experience of immigrating to Canada.
- As a class, brainstorm some questions to ask your speaker. For example:
 1. Why did you choose to move to Canada?
 2. What was the immigration process like?
 3. What were the biggest challenges?
- After listening to the stories, reflect on the immigration process in Canada. Create a 30-second response video about something that resonated with you and submit it to the **Here's My Canada** contest.

SPOTLIGHT ACTIVITY

Using the resource links below, choose one of the following questions to discuss as a class or in small groups:

1. What more can be done to ensure Canada is a safe space for LGBTQ people?
2. The *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Final Report*, which outlines the effects of the residential school system, states, "Reconciliation must happen across all sectors of Canadian society. Canadians still have much to learn from each other." How can you and fellow members of Canadian society incorporate the responsibilities of reconciliation into daily life?

After these discussions, do some more research. Create a 30-second public service announcement to educate your fellow members of Canadian society about these issues. Look to the video prompts for inspiration.

Video Prompts:

"In Canadian society today, I think diversity means..."

"I promise to _____ in order to help fulfill the commitments of reconciliation..."

"I identify as _____. My wish for the future of Canada is..."

RESOURCES

The Canadian Encyclopedia

thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/truth-and-reconciliation-commission

thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/queer-culture

thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/multiculturalism

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

nctr.ca/reports.php

LANGUAGE

Canada is a bilingual country, with French and English as our official languages. However, people living in Canada speak over 200 languages, including over 60 Indigenous languages. In this section, think about how languages are connected to different cultures across the country.

ACTIVITY #1

Canada's Official Languages

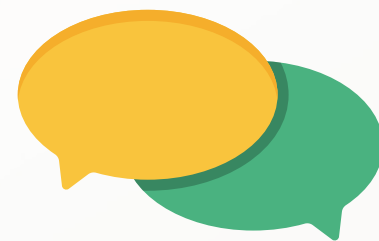
- Given the above information, and using the resources on the next page, work individually to create either:
 - a) an editorial exploring the connection between language and cultural identity, or
 - b) an opinion piece exploring how legislation on bilingualism is still relevant in Canada today.
- Once you have completed your piece, pair up with a classmate and take turns filming your 30-second opinion, explaining its importance for Canada.

SPOTLIGHT ACTIVITY

While we celebrate linguistic diversity in Canada today, this has not always been the case. Many Indigenous languages are in danger of disappearing because they were restricted in the past. Using the resource links below, choose one of the following questions to discuss as a class or in small groups:

1. How has the restriction of spoken and written languages impacted Indigenous communities?
2. What is being done to revive previously restricted languages in Canada? Is it enough? What more can we do?

After these discussions, pick a sub-topic and do some more research. Create a 30-second public service announcement to educate your fellow members of Canadian society about these issues. Look to the video prompts for inspiration.



Video Prompts:

"I speak _____ language(s).
As a person who lives in Canada,
this is important to me because..."

"I'm proud to live in a bilingual
nation because..."

RESOURCES

1. The Canadian Encyclopedia

thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/language-policy
thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/aboriginal-people-languages
thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/residential-schools

2. Statistics Canada

www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/as-sa/98-314-x/98-314-x2011001-eng.cfm

3. Your personal and community experiences

NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT



◀ A polar bear climbs onto an iceberg/Achim Baqué/Dreamstime.com/13912227

Canada's natural landscapes vary across the country, from snowy tundra to dense forest. For some people living in Canada, their identity is deeply connected to these varied landscapes and environments. To protect these special places, there has recently been a more conscious effort for Canadians to become environmental stewards. In this section, think critically about the symbolism of the natural Canadian landscape, as well as our commitment to preserving it for the Canadian society of the future.

ACTIVITY #1

Canadian Landscapes

Get outside! Pick a landscape that is special to you.

- It could be part of your neighbourhood or somewhere you have travelled in Canada. Your special landscape can be anything from the wide-open prairie to the deep blue sea to the skyscrapers that make up the urban jungle.
- Think about why this landscape is special to you. Is it an important part of your identity as a person living in Canada? Do you feel it reflects your Canada? Why or why not?
- Using the [Here's My Canada](#) App, record footage of your special place and share your thoughts about it with the [Here's My Canada](#) contest.



◀ Old Québec City/JF123/Dreamstime.com/7825848

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Choose an environmental issue that Canada faces today and that is important to you. This could include sustainable energy sources, climate change, or water and air pollution. Create a 30-second video about how you would like to see this issue addressed to protect the Canadian environment in the future.

RESOURCES

1. The Canadian Encyclopedia

thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/physiographic-regions
thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/collection/environment

2. Environment and Climate Change Canada

ec.gc.ca

ALTERNATE ACTIVITY

Make a list of how you are currently an environmental steward. Next, make a list of what else you could be doing. In a 30-second video, share why these actions are important for preserving the Canadian environment.

Video Prompts:

“_____ is an important place to me as a person living in Canada because...”

“_____ is the most important issue facing the Canadian environment today because...”

“My commitment to being an environmental steward is...”



CULTURE

Culture can refer to the art, traditions, sports, and practices of groups of people. Canadian culture is challenging to define, and is often a source of debate, as many different cultures are represented in our population. Historically, Canada was not tolerant of people with non-European backgrounds, though the country has been striving to be more accepting in recent years. In this section, think critically about past and current practices surrounding culture, while making suggestions for the future.

Young man dancing/Gar Lunney/National Film Board of Canada/Photothèque/Library and Archives Canada, e010949121/Flicker CC



ACTIVITY #1

Canadians on the World Stage

- Choose a famous Canadian who has made a positive or negative impact on Canadian culture, and research them.
- Produce a 30-second video profiling your chosen individual, and explain how they have impacted Canadian culture.
- Look to the video prompts for inspiration when filming.

Video Prompts:

“This person influenced Canadian culture by...”

“I contribute to Canadian culture by...”

“I think Canadian culture can/cannot be represented by _____ symbol because...”



An ice hockey goalie/
1228565 © Mary Katherine
Wynn/Dreamstime.com

ACTIVITY #2

Symbols of Canada

- As a class, brainstorm a list of typical Canadian symbols.
- Discuss where these symbols came from and who or what these symbols represent. Think about the time periods when these symbols were introduced. How might they be different if they were created today?
- Discuss whose story is not represented, and why they were left out.
 - Pick an object, sport, cultural practice, or something that is **not** typically seen as symbolic of Canadian culture. Once you have made your choice, create a new graphic symbol for it.
 - Create a 30-second video promoting your new symbol, and explain how it is important to Canadian culture and identity.

TIPS

Your symbol should:

- Be easy to recognize
- Clearly show the connection to your chosen aspect of Canada



HISTORY

Canadian history, like Canadian culture, is a complicated topic. On 1 July 2017, Canada will celebrate its 150th anniversary; however, the history of the land we call Canada did not start in 1867. Indigenous peoples lived on this land long before colonization. As you complete the following activities, consider how the people who lived here and the events that took place before Confederation had important impacts on how Canada was formed, and how we see ourselves today.

Delegates who gathered at the Charlottetown Conference to consider the confederation of the British North American Colonies/Library and Archives Canada/PA-091061



ACTIVITY #1

Looking Back

- Examine the events in the [Here's My Canada historical timeline](#). Pick five events that you think have **historical significance**. Choose events that are turning points for Canada, your province, your community, a particular group of Canadians, and/or yourself.
- For each event, write two or three sentences explaining why it is significant.
- From your list, pick one event and create a 30-second video summarizing and explaining why this event is important to Canadian society.

VOTES FOR WOMEN

EXTENSION ACTIVITY The [Here's My Canada timeline](#) focuses on events, not people. Research a person who you think was or is a change-maker (positive or negative) and explain why they are important to Canadian history in a 30-second video.

Visit historicalthinking.ca to learn more about the criteria for establishing historical significance.



Caribana Parade in Toronto/15388567 © Andrei Tselichtchev/Dreamstime.com

ACTIVITY #2

Looking Forward

After looking at 150 years of Canadian history on the [Here's My Canada historical timeline](#), what is your prediction for the future of Canadian society?

- Thinking about the themes of diversity, nature and environment, and language and culture, create three predictions for the future of Canada.
- For each prediction, explain why you think it will come into effect.
- Choose one prediction, and record yourself on video explaining your vision for Canada in 30 seconds.

Video Prompts:

"The future of Canada looks like..."

"This event was an important turning point in Canadian history for me because..."

"This person has made an impact on Canada by..."



Colourful houses in St. John's/ID 12254428 © Elena Elisseeva/Dreamstime.com