



LESSON  
PLANS

# CITIZENSHIP CHALLENGE

## Citizenship Challenge Girl Guides Learning Tool

### INTRODUCTION

The objective of the Girl Guides Learning Tool is to prepare Guides for Historica Canada's **Citizenship Challenge**, a national contest that asks students to take a mock citizenship exam. Based on Girl Guides of Canada qualification standards and training programs, this learning tool will help Guides become more familiar with Canada, develop leadership skills and encourage active citizenship.

This guide was produced with the generous support of the Government of Canada. Historica Canada is the largest organization dedicated to enhancing awareness of Canada's history and citizenship. Additional free, bilingual educational activities and resources are available online at [The Canadian Encyclopedia \(TCE\)](http://The Canadian Encyclopedia (TCE)) and at [www.citizenshipchallenge.ca](http://www.citizenshipchallenge.ca)

### Provincial/Territorial Heritage Badge

**Purpose:** I will discover the richness of my provincial/territorial heritage.

Measuring 10 million square kilometres, Canada is the second largest country in the world! It shares a border with the United States to the south and is lined by three major bodies of water — the Pacific Ocean to the west, the Atlantic Ocean to the east and the Arctic Ocean in the north. Because of its size, Canada can be divided into different geographical regions. There are also many symbols that reflect this diverse geography and history that express our national identity.

#### Exploring Further...

1. *Canada by Colours:* Canada can be divided into five distinct regions based on their geographical location and characteristics. Consult the [Discover Canada Study Guide](#) to colour in a blank map of Canada, using a different colour for each region. What makes each region distinct?

Guide Leader Tip: You can find a blank map on the [Historica Canada Education Portal](#) that can be printed out.

2. *What's in a Name?* Once you've coloured your map, label the names and capital cities of the 10 provinces and three territories, along with Canada's capital. Once completed, do some research into the history and origin of each region's name.

Guide Leader Tip: Have Guides use [The Canadian Encyclopedia](#) to research this information, or print out articles on the provinces and territories for Guides to use during the meeting.



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Find a partner in your troop, and pretend you are pen-pals! Have each partner write a letter, asking a Guide from a different part of Canada what life is like in that region. Make sure your letter has four to six questions asking what life is like in the region. You could ask about the weather, what your new pen-pal likes to do for fun, or what she likes to eat! (You can work together with your troop to brainstorm good questions to ask.) Then pick a region of Canada and respond to your partner's letter as if you live there. You can look up information about the region on [The Canadian Encyclopedia](#).

Guide Leader Tip: If time and resources allow it, connect your troop with another from a different region in Canada. Many Guide troops are active on social media or you could reach out to provincial contacts on the [Girl Guides of Canada website](#).

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Break into groups and choose a province or territory of Canada. Make sure each group in your troop has chosen a different one. Create a poster with your group about your province or territory. You may want to include a map of your place, the regional flag, bird or flower. It could also include popular tourist destinations and what other Guides who live there may do for fun.

Guide Leader Tip: Print out articles about each province and territory from [The Canadian Encyclopedia](#) ahead of time for your troop to use as resources.

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## Sport Badge

**Purpose:** I will explore and develop my athletic capabilities for the benefit of my physical well-being.

Canadians over the years have participated in a wide variety of sports and we have proudly produced a long list of athletes from the amateur level to Olympic gold medalists. (*Learn more by consulting the [Discover Canada Guide](#).*)

### Exploring Further...

Break into small groups of three or four. Do some brief research on Canada's achievement in a sport at the Olympics. Working together, write a short description of the sport as well as the names and dates of some of the Canadian medal recipients and share your findings with your troop.



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Guide Leader Tip: Have a discussion with your troop on the following questions.

1. What are some character traits these athletes seem to have in common? How might these qualities prove beneficial with regard to their athletic pursuits?
2. How does working collaboratively (in a team, for example) create a better learning environment?
3. In what way can a single person, like [Terry Fox](#), have an impact across an entire country?
4. Brainstorm the positive impacts that sports/physical activity can have on a person.

Guide Leader Tip: Your troop can also create a Girl Guide Olympic Competition, engaging in some activities such as the long jump, sprinting or an organized game of hockey.

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Some examples of well-known sports figures are Olympians [Nancy Greene](#) and [Chantal Petitclerc](#), champion hockey player [Hayley Wickenheiser](#) and Canadian hero/icon [Terry Fox](#). Make sure to include a picture or drawing of your subject, some highlights of their career or sport and how they played a role in shaping Canadian athleticism.

Guide Leader Tip: Print out articles of athletes from [The Canadian Encyclopedia](#), or use the [Canadian Olympic Team website](#) for biographies of some athletes.

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## Interpreting Badge

**Purpose:** I will work on communicating in another language.

[The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#) guarantees citizens of Canada official language rights and minority education rights, meaning that both [English and French](#) have equal status in our Parliament and within the government. The origins of Canadian society involve diverse Indigenous cultures as well as the influence of English- and French-speaking civilizations from Europe. *(Learn more by checking out the [Discover Canada Guide](#).)*



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### Exploring Further...

Imagine you are a new settler to this continent from the 1600s. As a group create a visual dictionary (a combination of words and pictures) of 10-20 words that Indigenous people might have commonly used. Each member of your troop should illustrate two or three different words. Make sure you clearly identify the Indigenous group in your pages. Include the drawing or picture next to the word for easy reference. To help with pronunciation, you may also wish to break down the word by syllables. Once finished, ask your leader to photocopy the dictionary for each member at the next meeting so the group can share all the new vocabulary learned along the way!

Websites Guides can use include:

[www.livingdictionary.com](http://www.livingdictionary.com)

[www.creedictionary.com](http://www.creedictionary.com)

[www.firstvoices.com/en/home](http://www.firstvoices.com/en/home)

[www.ojibwe.lib.umn.edu](http://www.ojibwe.lib.umn.edu)

[www.metismuseum.ca/michif\\_dictionary.php](http://www.metismuseum.ca/michif_dictionary.php)

[www.glosbe.com/en/moh](http://www.glosbe.com/en/moh)

[www.blackfootcrossing.ca/dictionary.html](http://www.blackfootcrossing.ca/dictionary.html)

[www.nuuchahnulth.org/language/language.html](http://www.nuuchahnulth.org/language/language.html)

[www.firstnationhelp.com/ali/dictionary.php](http://www.firstnationhelp.com/ali/dictionary.php)

[www.pmportal.org/browse-dictionary](http://www.pmportal.org/browse-dictionary)

[www.dictionary.eastcree.org/words/index/setLocale:frah](http://www.dictionary.eastcree.org/words/index/setLocale:frah)

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Canada's Indigenous peoples, French-speaking peoples and English-speaking peoples have each shaped Canadian society. Identify when French- and English-speaking peoples arrived in Canada, and explain one unique contribution each has made to our country. Explore your community's local history and identify which Indigenous peoples live in your area and learn more about their history.



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Guide Leader Tip: If time and resources allow, revisit the earlier activity from the Provincial/Territorial Heritage Badge, asking Guides to connect with different troops across Canada! Guides could create a letter, asking a Guide from a different part of Canada what life is like in that region.

### Event Planning

**Purpose:** I will learn the fun and organization of planning an event or party.

Did you know that Canada didn't always fly the Maple Leaf Flag? Our current flag was adopted in 1965 after a national search for a new design. There had been many attempts by past prime ministers to find a new flag, but it was under Lester B. Pearson's government that one was accepted. After much debate in Parliament, and after thousands of designs were submitted by Canadians, our current flag was chosen. Mostly designed by George Stanley, it is based on the flag of the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario. The single maple leaf represents national unity, with red and white showcasing Canada's national colours.

(Learn more by reading the appropriate pages of the [Discover Canada Guide!](#))

### Exploring Further...

As a group, organize a Flag Day celebration that you could invite family and friends to! Make sure to include Canadian-themed decorations and treats. Host a mini-version of the **Citizenship Challenge** for your guests and give out prizes to the winners. Make sure to include trivia questions about the Canadian flag!



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