Canada

Take out a sheet of paper and list as many things that come to mind about Canada
Canada and stereotypes

• What are some of the things that come to mind when you think of Canada?
• Canadian Bacon, Hockey, Justin Bieber?
• For me it’s Bob and Doug McKenzie!
Canada

• Canada is the second-largest country in the world (Russia is the largest) in terms of land mass.

• The southern border of Canada covers 3,000 miles and is the longest undefended border in the world.

• Canada has a population of 34 million people.

• The country is known for its diversity and its abundant natural resources!
Three main periods make up Canada’s history!

First Nations, European Influence, and making of a Nation.

The first period dates back to the arrival of Paleo-Indians thousands of years ago to the present day. (*Paleo means “old”)

First Nations people originally came from Asia, and they walked over a land bridge during the last ice age, from Siberia.
First Nations and Métis

- *First Nation* is a term used in Canada since the early 1980s. Like *Native American* (which has little currency in Canada), *First Nation* provides a respectful alternative to *Indian*, a term that is more likely to be taken as directly offensive in Canada than it is in the United States.

- *First Nation* is a political term, refers to groups formally recognized by the Canadian government under the federal Indian Act of 1876.
European Influence

• Second time period late 15\textsuperscript{th} to 18\textsuperscript{th} century. Most lasting and huge impact on the Canada we know today!

• The first known European colony in Canada was established by the Vikings around 1000 AD; yet, their settlements did not survive for long.

• Europeans brought many things to the Indians and the two cultures mixed.
Métis

• The **Métis** (pronounced Meh-tee), French for "**Mixed-blood.**" The term was historically a catch-all describing the offspring of Mothers who were Indian and Fathers who were of European descent.
More mixing

• Examples of the mixing is found in the English language which adopted many words for things distinctly American: raccoon and chipmunk, and for things distinctly Native America: moccasin and tomahawk.

• French explorer Samuel de Champlain: first permanent settlement at Port Royal in 1605, Quebec City in 1608.

• Period of European influence ends when the French ceded nearly all of its colonies in North America to Britain in 1763 after the Seven Years' War.
• Third period is known as “Making of a Nation” from 1867 to present.
• Britain passed the British North American Act in 1867, and it united Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick to create a self-governing nation—the Dominion of Canada.
• Later, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Newfoundland joined the new nation.
• The British officially recognized Canada’s control over its foreign affairs in 1931.
Canada

• **Today** ... Canada is a federation of **ten provinces** and **three territories**. The country’s capital is **Ottawa**, while the largest city is **Toronto**, followed by Montreal and Vancouver. The **majority of the population** is concentrated in the southern part of the country, along the border with the U.S., where the climate is more favorable.
Geography

• **What natural resources does Canada have?**
  
  • Oil, natural gas, zinc, uranium, timber, gold, lead, aluminum.
  
  • In addition, Canada's prairies are huge world suppliers of wheat, canola and other grains. Canada is the world's largest producer of zinc and uranium and a world leader in many other natural resources such as gold, nickel, aluminum and lead. Timber is also a major natural resource.
Covers almost half of Canada, it’s extremely rich in Natural resources!
Government

• Canadians borrowed ideas about government from Britain & U.S. but shaped them to fit their own needs. Today, Canada has a parliamentary system of government similar to Britain. It is made up of three branches—executive, legislative and judicial.

• Executive branch includes the prime minister. The prime minister is the leader of the majority party in Parliament. Stephen Harper is the current Prime Minister of Canada.
Government...sound familiar?

- Like the U.S., Canada has a federal government. The Parliament of Canada is located in the Canadian capital Ottawa.
- The national government oversees matters that affect the entire nation, such as defense, foreign affairs, and finances.
- The provincial (like our states) governments control such matters as education, housing, highways, and social welfare. Originally the federal government was stronger than provinces. Today, provincial governments have gained greater control over their affairs.
Multiculturalism

• The Canadian Government follows a policy of multiculturalism.
• Multiculturalism: appreciation, acceptance or promotion of multiple cultures.
• Adopted as the official policy of the Canadian government during the prime ministership of Pierre Elliot Trudeau in the 1970s and 1980s.
Why multiculturalism? **Diversity**

**Geographic diversity** contributes to diversity of vegetable and animal life.

**Cultural diversity**

Cultural diversity can be attributed to long distances between populated areas, the historical mixing of French, British and American influences, and decades of an open immigration policy.

- Canada’s immigration rate is the highest in the world, with more than 30 ethnic groups represented.
- Recently, the country has introduced liberal social policies with regard to marijuana and gay marriages. Medical marijuana was legalized for use by terminally and chronically ill patients in 2001. Gay marriages were legalized in 2005.
- Bi-lingual. French in Quebec, English the other
Challenges to unity in Canada

• French speaking Canadians, most of whom live in Quebec.
• Seek to keep their culture and their language!
• Quebec nationalism reflected in everyday life, like menus, license plates, and signs
• In 1977, Quebec’s provincial government made French the official language of Quebec
• Some support idea of separatism, that Quebec should become an independent nation!
Economic

• **ECONOMIC**: “When America sneezes, Canada catches pneumonia.”

• Canada among the world’s wealthiest nations. Economy is dominated by the service industry. Provides employment for more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the workforce.

• Canada is the largest foreign energy supplier for the US, exports close to 80 percent of its produce to USA.

• **NAFTA.** North American free-trade agreement- allows Canada, the US, and Mexico to trade freely

• US and Canada have a good relationship, despite it being tense in the past. Canadians are proud of their heritage