

SENIOR 1: CANADA TODAY – CANADIAN STUDIES

The Senior 1 curriculum is intended to help students gain a greater understanding of the society in which they live, their roles within that society, and the role of Canada within the world. Students will focus on the physical, historical, and political factors that have shaped Canada's evolution as a nation in the twenty-first century. They will examine Canadian identity, multiculturalism, the political, legal, and economic processes, as well as the implications of changing technology.

The Senior 1 curriculum includes six units:

Unit I	Canada's Physical Environment, Unifying Forces, and Challenges (3 weeks)
Unit II	Canadian Identity and Multiculturalism (3 weeks)
Unit III	Canadian Society: Political and Legal Processes (4 weeks)
Unit IV	Canadian Society: Economic Process and Technology (4 weeks)
Unit V	Canada and the World (3 weeks)
Unit VI	Canada in the Future (2 weeks)

The major goals of the Senior 1 curriculum are to help students examine and better understand the following ideas:

- Canada is a large, diverse country with different regions, each having its own unique characteristics.
- The evolution of Canada as a nation has been and continues to be influenced by a variety of internal factors, including size and physical and cultural diversity, as well as external factors.
- Canada is a multicultural society that includes indigenous peoples and a variety of immigrants from around the world. The changing dynamics of the makeup of the population and cross-cultural interaction poses many challenges.
- Canada is a parliamentary democracy with a federal system of government in which the central and provincial/territorial governments work together to meet the needs of its citizens.
- Canada's laws are created through the democratic process and are protected by the judicial system. The rights and responsibilities of all Canadians are guaranteed in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
- Canadian society attempts to meet the needs and wants of individuals through a predominantly capitalist system with some government intervention.
- Canada is an urban, industrial, and technological society with regional variations. Canada maintains a strong resource base.
- Technological advancements bring about change in society. These changes may result in divergent demands relating to use of resources and protection of natural and human environments.
- Canada is an economically developed middle world power with various international aims, challenges, and responsibilities.

Suggested resource documents: *Sustainable Development: Education for Sustainability*; *Native Studies: Senior Years, A Teacher's Resource Book Framework*; *Technology as a Foundation Skill Area: A Journey toward Information Technology Literacy*; *Success for All Learners*.

The suggested time periods are intended to coincide with the rhythms of the 20-week semester system, 19 weeks to cover the curriculum, and one week for review and final examination. The suggested times can be flexible. Classes with strong skills in Unit 1 may need less time in subsequent units. The regional studies then become more focused on issues and research skills.

Unit I – Canada's Physical Environment, Unifying Forces, and Challenges

Time suggested: 3 weeks

Unit I Topics and Focusing Questions

1. Overview and Physical Regions
 - Where is Canada located in the world? What are Canada's boundaries?
 - What are the names of Canada's main physical regions, their locations and boundaries, and their main physical characteristics?
 - What are the dominant economic activities of each region and the major factors influencing these activities?
2. Unifying Forces and Challenges
 - What are some unifying forces evident in Canada? What holds us together?
 - What are some challenges to Canada's growth and development as a nation? (Consider factors such as size, regionalism, population distribution, transportation and communication, security, and our proximity to a powerful neighbour to the south.)

Unit II – Canadian Identity and Multiculturalism

Time suggested: 3 weeks

Unit II Topics and Focusing Question

1. Who is a Canadian?
 - What does it mean to be a Canadian? What makes Canadians unique?
 - What factors determine or influence an identity? How is the Canadian identity changing? (Consider factors such as cultural influences, government policies, economic factors, entertainment.)
2. The Multicultural Nature of Canadian Society
 - What is meant by the term *multiculturalism*?
 - Why is Canada called a multicultural country? How has it become multicultural? (Consider the origins and diversity of Canada's population with its related policies, issues, and concerns.)

- What are the strengths of having a multicultural society/country? What issues face a society with a variety of cultures? (Consider issues such as prejudice, discrimination, segregation.)
- What contributions have various groups made to enrich Canadian society?
- What is the process by which an individual can become a Canadian citizen?

Unit III – Canadian Society: Political and Legal Processes

Time suggested: 4 weeks

Unit III Topics and Focusing Questions

1. The Political Process

- What is government and why is there a need for a political process? What levels of government exist in Canada and what are their primary functions and characteristics?
- How does Canada's system of government work? How are decisions made? What challenges face the political process in Canada?
- What effect does government have on its citizens and how can people influence the government process?

2. The Legal Process

- Why is there a need for laws and a legal system in our society?
- How does Canada's system of laws work? How can individuals or groups influence the making of laws?
- What are the legal rights and responsibilities of individual members of our society? How are our rights guaranteed?
- What is the Charter of Rights and Freedoms?

Unit IV – Canadian Society: Economic Process and Technology

Time suggested: 4 weeks

Unit IV Topics and Focusing Questions

1. The Economic Process

- Why is there a need for an economic system?
- What type of economic system does Canada have? What is its effect on you personally? On people generally?
- How does Canada's economic system work? What are its characteristics and what challenges face the economic system of Canada?
- What is the relationship between labour unions and the economic system? How do they work and what is their function, role, and effect?

2. Technology and Society

- What is technology? What are its characteristics and what is its primary purpose?

- How is society affected by a changing technology? What are the implications?

Unit V – Canada and the World

Time suggested: 3 weeks

Unit V Topics and Focusing Questions

1. Interdependence of Canada
 - How is Canada interdependent with the United States? What are the implications?
 - How is Canada interdependent with other countries in terms of world trade? How does this affect society?
 - What is Canada's role in and involvement with the United Nations, NAFTA, NATO, NORAD, the Commonwealth?
 - What role does Canada play in world peace-keeping efforts?
2. Canada's Relationship to the Developing World
 - What are the major challenges facing the people of the Developing World? How are Canadians helping to meet these challenges through various government and non-government programs?
 - In what ways is Canada dependent on the Developing World?

Unit VI – Canada in the Future

Time suggested: 2 weeks

Unit VI Topics and Focusing Questions

1. Society in the Future
 - What might Canada have to offer you and other individuals in the future?
 - What might be Canada's future role in the world? What implications might this have for Canada?