

# Canadian Identity



What is identity? Identity is simply "who you are." Your identity makes you unique (different than others), and allows you to have things in common with other people.

Many different things make up your identity. These things can be thought of as personal characteristics and influences. Read the following list and rank the characteristic/influence in order from the most important (#1) to the least important (#15).



Characteristic/Influence	My ranking
My ethnic or cultural community	
The school(s) I've gone to	
Being a Canadian	
The music, art, and literature I enjoy most	
Teams/groups I belong to (sports, recreation, fun)	
My religious beliefs	
My role and relationships in my family	
Where I live (city, a small town, or in the country)	
Being a Prairie person	
The language I speak	
My relationship with my friends	
The media I watch, read, or listen to	
What I learn in school	
How I dress	
The celebrations I take part in	


When you have completed your ranking, write two or three sentences about what you consider to be the most important influences on identity.

# Canadian Identity



## ***What makes a person a "Canadian"?***

*Which characteristics are uniquely "Canadian" and different from other countries and peoples of the world? In this questionnaire, rank the following characteristics from the most important (#1) to the least important (#11).*

<b>Characteristics of Canadian Identity</b>	<b>Ranking</b> 1 = highest 11 = lowest
Our history 	
Our multicultural society	
The rights and freedoms of our citizens	
Our Government and Leaders	
English-French bilingualism	
The climate, geography and natural environment	
The Flag and other Symbols	
Peace, justice, and other shared values	
Our close ties to Britain	
Our close relationship to the U.S.	
Aboriginal peoples and cultures in Canada	



## **THINK ABOUT IT!**

1. To Me, Being Canadian is...



2. Why is it so difficult to define "Being Canadian?"

3. Do you think other countries are this hard to "define?"  
Why not?

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# **DIVERSITY IN CANADA!**

Define the following words related to Canadian Diversity.

**Culture**

**Ethnic**

**Diversity**

**Mosaic**

**Multiculturalism**

# Canadian Identity



*The following list includes some of the main ethnic groups reported by Canadians in the 2001 census as their "ethnic origins." Try to pick out the top **FIVE** and place them in order from the largest to the smallest.*

- |                              |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>German</b>                | <b>Scottish</b>    |
| <b>English</b>               | <b>Portuguese</b>  |
| <b>Italian</b>               | <b>Russian</b>     |
| <b>North American Indian</b> | <b>East Indian</b> |
| <b>Dutch (Netherlands)</b>   | <b>Filipino</b>    |
| <b>American</b>              | <b>Swedish</b>     |
| <b>Ukrainian</b>             | <b>Norwegian</b>   |
| <b>Polish</b>                | <b>French</b>      |
| <b>Métis</b>                 |                    |
| <b>Irish</b>                 |                    |
| <b>Chinese</b>               |                    |
| <b>Hungarian</b>             |                    |
| <b>Jewish</b>                |                    |

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

## Canadian Identity



This is the order of the largest ethnic groups in Canada, based on how people reported their ethnic origins in the 2001 census. Census Canada defines "ethnic origins" as the ethnic or cultural group to which your ancestors belong.

1. English
2. French
3. Scottish
4. Irish
5. German
6. Italian
7. Chinese
8. Ukrainian
9. North American Indian
10. Dutch (Netherlands)
11. Polish
12. East Indian
13. Norwegian
14. Portuguese
15. Welsh
16. Jewish
17. Russian
18. Filipino
19. Métis
20. Swedish
21. Hungarian
22. American
23. Greek
24. Spanish
25. Jamaican

Source: *Population by Selected Origins, 2001 Census*, Statistics Canada:  
<<http://www.statcan.ca/english/Pgdb/demo28a.htm>>





## RESPONDING TO THE DATA

1. Complete this sentence: **I was surprised that...**

2. Based on what we have learned about Canadian history this year, why do you think English, French, Scottish, Irish, and German are the top 5 origins in Canada today?

3. Does our class represent the ethnic diversity that defines Canadian culture?

4. Identify at least 3 characteristics that make you:

**CANADIAN**

**ANOTHER ORIGIN**







# **CULTURAL RELATIONSHIPS!**

Use the classroom "experiments" to help you define these words related to Cultural Relationships:

**Pluralism** (cookie)

**Assimilation** (mixture)

**Segregation** (oil and water)

**Genocide** (eraser)

**Discrimination**

**Immigration**



# **CULTURAL DIVERSITY?**

Use the textbook (Pages 160-161) to answer the following questions:

1. Describe the difference between a "Melting Pot" and a "Mosaic."
  2. What Prime Minister started the push toward Canada officially becoming a multi-cultural nation?
  3. Explain why Canada is not "multi-lingual" (but rather bilingual).
  4. List 2 things that the Multiculturalism Act protects.
  5. Do you think that POP CULTURE and SOCIETAL NORMS have an impact on someone's ability to maintain their culture of origin?
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# MOSAIC or MELTING POT?

1. Before discussing this quote, make sure you know what the following words mean:
  - **uniformity:**
  - **emulate:**
  - **eulogizes:**
  - **mediocrity:**
2. Read the quote by Pierre Elliott Trudeau in the box below.



*Uniformity is neither desirable nor possible in a country the size of Canada. We should not even be able to agree upon the kind of Canadian to choose as a model, let alone persuade most people to emulate it. There are few policies potentially more disastrous for Canada than to tell all Canadians that they must be alike. There is no such thing as a model or ideal Canadian.*

*What could be more absurd than the concept of an "all-Canadian" boy or girl? A society which emphasizes uniformity is one which creates intolerance and hate. A society which eulogizes the average citizen is one which breeds mediocrity. What the world should be seeking, and what in Canada we must continue to cherish, are not concepts of uniformity but human values: compassion, love, and understanding.*





# **CULTURAL INJUSTICE in Canada!**

Canada has had history of not always "respecting" its diverse ethnic cultural groups. Select ONE injustice to learn more about.

**Topic:**

**When did this happen? (time/around what event)**

**What happened?**

**Why did this happen?**



**Restitution - What has been done to re-pay or fix the injustice?**

**What feelings/opinions do you have about the topic?**

**PRESENTATION:** Your group will present your topic to the rest of class. Divide the information up evenly.

**MAGAZINE PAGE?** Convert what you have learned into a 2 paragraph (1 for information, 1 for your opinion) magazine page.

**\*\*\*Optional\*\*\***



# **RIGHTS and RESPONSIBILITIES!**

Canada has moved towards a Fair and Just Society.

**What is a Right?** A Right is something that a person is allowed to Do or HAVE. People are born with certain rights, and other rights are given by law. Such as:

a) Human Rights:

b) Civil Rights:

c) Collective Rights:

In a group, discuss/describe the impact WW2 had on the world's/Canada's concern for rights. Write a brief description:



# **CHARTER of RIGHTS & FREEDOMS**

Has anybody ever said to you, "Hey, it's a free country. I can do what I want!" The Charter of Rights and Freedoms helps to answer this question. The Charter guarantees Canadians many rights. Use the textbook to help describe some of the rights Canadians have.

<b>Fundamental Freedoms</b>	<b>Equality Rights</b>
<b>Language Rights</b>	<b>Aboriginal Rights</b>



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