

Summary: Canada

Our Neighbor, Canada

The United States and Canada are similar in many ways. Both countries are in North America. Both stretch from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. Both have natural resources, such as forests and rich soil. American Indians were the first people to live in both nations. European explorers came to both nations to start colonies.

Great Britain and France had colonies in Canada. They fought with each other over them. Britain won, but many French settlers stayed in Canada. Canada did not fight for independence like the United States. Canadians made their own laws over time. Canada became completely independent in 1867.

Canada Today

Peace is part of Canada's heritage. Languages are also a part of the heritage. Canada has two official languages, French and English. Many signs are written in both languages. The name Canada comes from a Haudenosaunee word that means "village." British, French, and American Indian heritage are a part of Canadian life.

Canada and Britain have similar governments. Both have a constitution and a government leader called a prime minister. They have a royal leader, Queen Elizabeth II. She does not rule Canada, but she is a symbol of Canada's ties with Great Britain. Symbols of Canada's heritage appear on its money and stamps. One important symbol is the maple leaf. It reminds Canadians of the maple trees that grow in the country. These symbols remind Canadians of their country's heritage every day.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

heritage *noun*, the history, ideas, and beliefs that people receive from the past

symbol *noun*, something that stands for something else



After You Read

REVIEW How did Canadians gain independence?

Underline the sentence that tells you the answer.

REVIEW Where can you find everyday reminders of Canada's heritage? Circle the sentence that tells where symbols of Canada's heritage appear. Draw a box around two more Canadian symbols.