Canada 150

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Breaking News
January 2017

Routing Slip: (please circulate)
Canada is on the cusp of a momentous milestone: the 150th anniversary of Confederation. On New Year’s Eve across the country, fireworks marked the birth of our nation and the beginning of a dazzling sesquicentennial year.

**Celebrating the Centennial**

The last time Canada had a party this big was in 1967, when the country celebrated its 100th birthday. Lester B. Pearson was the prime minister. Under his leadership, the country had just picked a new flag.

The celebrations 50 years ago started on New Year’s Day when a new Centennial Flame was lit on Parliament Hill. Ottawa also introduced the Order of Canada, to recognize the extraordinary service and accomplishments of its citizens. Special commemorative coins were also issued.

**The Sound of Music**

The Centennial Year was a time to build. Canada’s baby boomer generation was growing up, and it needed new colleges and universities, parks, and facilities for sports and culture. Today, the names identify many of these projects: Centennial Stadium at the University of Victoria; Centennial College in Toronto; Centennial Planetarium in Calgary; and the Manitoba Centennial Centre.

Canada also invested in culture. Festival Canada commissioned plays, ballets, musicals and operas, and cities added new venues for staging them, like the National Arts Centre in Ottawa.

Centennial theme songs played on the radio. Bobby Gimby wrote the ubiquitous “Ca-na-da,” a peppy tune recorded by a children’s choir. Ontario contributed the folksong “A Place to Stand.” Gordon Lightfoot gave us “The Canadian Railroad Trilogy,” a dramatic ballad about building the Canadian Pacific Railway.

**We Are Canadian**

The cultural highlight was Expo 67, the most successful World’s Fair of the century. Montreal hosted Expo 67 on an island in the St. Lawrence River. The fair welcomed its first guests in April. By the time it closed in October, 50 million visitors from across Canada and around the world had come to call.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Montreal is also celebrating a milestone this year. 2017 marks the 375th anniversary of the founding of Ville-Marie by a group of missionaries and French colonists in 1642.

Toronto launched its own signature event – Caribana. The Caribbean cultural festival and its world-famous parade have grown over the years. Today, two million people come to the week-long party.

Sports fans were also treated to exciting events. Hundreds of Canadians paddled their way from the Rocky Mountains to Montreal in a 5300-kilometre canoe race. Meanwhile, in Winnipeg, Canadian athletes scooped up 106 medals at the 5th Pan American Games. Elaine Tanner won three races in the pool, while Harry Jerome took gold in the 100-yard dash.
Canada 150

Now, 50 years later, the country is planning another year-long party to acknowledge what makes us Canadian. Ottawa plans to spend $500 million to commemorate Canada’s 150th birthday – with everything from a cross-country RV tour to a Parliament Hill extravaganza marking the occasion. There will be festivals, cultural events and activities for all across the country.

The Winnipeg Art Gallery is shipping three mobile art studios by boat, rail and road to communities around Canada. Each Art Express’d studio has an artist who will lead collaborative art activities.

The Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) is showing the top 150 Canadian films, while the Toronto Symphony is honouring Canada’s diverse musical landscape with a year-long program called “Canada Mosaic.”

From Sea to Shining Sea

Canada 150 pays tribute to the nation’s nautical history with a boatload of events. An icebreaker is taking a 150-day tour from Toronto to Victoria via the Northwest Passage. A fleet of 40 tall ships will sail from Halifax to Quebec City. Joining the historic vessels will be Canada’s Bluenose II, a replica of the famous racing schooner found on our dime.

There are outdoor activities for landlubbers, too, ranging from free visits to Canada’s national parks to bioblitzes with the Canadian Wildlife Fund. Both of these activities made ParticipACTION’s “play list” of 150 Canadian activities to try in 2017.

Definitions

Bioblitz: an intense period of biological surveying to record all the living species in a designated area.

Collaborative: involving people or groups working together to produce something

Diverse: very different from each other

The Birth of Canada

Before Confederation, Canada was simply a group of unrelated territories and British colonies. It was a dangerous time. After a bitter civil war, the United States was eyeing the vulnerable territory to its north.

Colonists in Canada relied on their mother country for protection. Britain, however, was an ocean away. It was hesitant about defending its North American territories against growing American expansionism.

The British North America Act took effect on July 1, 1867. It united Upper and Lower Canada (Ontario and Quebec), New Brunswick and Nova Scotia into one country to counter the American threat. Sir John A. Macdonald became the country’s first prime minister.

In 1870, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories joined the Dominion of Canada. A year later, British Columbia was promised a railroad and signed on. In 1873, Prince Edward Island came into the fold.

The Yukon Territory was added next, in 1898. Alberta and Saskatchewan followed in 1905. Then came Newfoundland in 1949, and Nunavut in 1999. Today, Canada stretches from sea to sea to sea.

Instead of a violent revolution against British rule, Canadians chose a safe transition to self-rule. Unlike the demand for “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” in the American Declaration of Independence, Canadians negotiated a calm and reasonable social contract that called for “peace, order, and good government.”

Reflections of the Future

Much has changed in 50 years. In 1967, Canada was riding a wave of optimism, whereas in 2017, the future is less certain. Concerns range from climate change and income inequality to water quality in our First Nations communities and Canada’s role in the world.

In response, a number of Canada 150 initiatives serve social justice concerns. They encourage young people to share “Lost Stories” and “Voices from Nunavut,” and to learn about innovation in science and history. Some of these activities will be available online and through social media.

Of course, there’s nothing like a good old-fashioned party to make Canada smile. This year of celebration will live on in our memories and in our communities, now and 50 years from now, when we mark the bicentennial.★
**ON THE LINES**

1. When did the British North America Act take effect?

2. List the first four provinces that joined together to create Canada.

3. Who was the first prime minister of Canada?

4. What was the most important cultural event that took place during Canada’s centennial year?

5. Where did this event take place?

6. List at least three other important cultural or sporting events that took place during Canada’s centennial.

7. How much money does Ottawa plan to spend on Canada’s 150th birthday celebrations?

8. List at least four important events that will occur during Canada’s sesquicentennial year.
**BETWEEN THE LINES**

An *inference* is a conclusion drawn from evidence. A *plausible inference is supported by evidence in the article and is consistent with known facts outside of the article.*

What inference(s) can you draw from the fact that the federal government plans to spend $500 million on Canada’s sesquicentennial?

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**BEYOND THE LINES**

CBC has launched an invitation to Canadians to participate in its ‘What is your Canada?’ project. Use the following resources to introduce the project to your students, then invite them to create their own submission:

1. Introductory video: Canada 150: Getting Ready for 2017: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=goqz2-uGPrQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=goqz2-uGPrQ) [2:18] This video profiles Olympians, artists and our Defence Minister in promoting the project. Draw students’ attention to the landscape and words used to support the reflections (i.e., flag, land, water, The Great Outdoors, Beauty of Canada, compassion, identity, acceptance, home, My Canadian Story) and discuss the connections.


3. News stories introducing the project:

**JUST TALK ABOUT IT**

As you see it, what is the significance of Canada’s 150th birthday? Explain.

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**ONLINE**

*Note: The links below are listed at [www.lesplan.com/en/links](http://www.lesplan.com/en/links) for easy access.*


2. Find out more about Canada’s 150th anniversary at [http://www.cbc.radio-canada.ca/~2089.en](http://www.cbc.radio-canada.ca/~2089.en)

3. See the Canada 150 logo as wheat field art at [https://youtu.be/mgGRN2gj6Yc](https://youtu.be/mgGRN2gj6Yc)


5. See and hear the “Can-na-da” song: [https://youtu.be/4vEr7TazIVM](https://youtu.be/4vEr7TazIVM) and [https://youtu.be/18-oRTL1e3I](https://youtu.be/18-oRTL1e3I)


8. View maps showing Canada’s boundaries in 1867 at [https://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/confederation/023001-5005-e.html](https://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/confederation/023001-5005-e.html) and [https://slmc.uottawa.ca/content_images/261001e.gif](https://slmc.uottawa.ca/content_images/261001e.gif)
Directions:

1. Study the photograph below.
2. Then, complete each quadrant on the Getting Inside the Picture chart. Use as many details as you can.
3. Now, select one of your powerful words. Use this as a springboard for a 5-minute Quick Write. Let your pen flow. A good descriptive paragraph has vivid details and helps the reader “get inside the picture” (experience the event as if he/she were right there).
4. Generate three possible titles for this picture. Then select the one that best captures the essence of the image. Explain why this is the most suitable title.

Title: ________________________________________________________________

<table>
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<tr>
<td>What might you hear, smell, taste or touch?</td>
<td>What details in the photograph create vivid pictures in your mind?</td>
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<td>What colours, textures, sounds, movements do you experience?</td>
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<table>
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<th>Words</th>
<th>Feelings</th>
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<tr>
<td>What powerful words describe the scene?</td>
<td>What do you feel when you look at this image?</td>
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<tr>
<td>What might you think, wonder, say if you were there?</td>
<td>What might the people in the photograph be feeling?</td>
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Quick write

Possible titles:

1. _______________________________  2. _______________________________  3. _______________________________

The best title is # _____ because . . .
ACROSS

3. Peace, order and ______ government
7. World’s Fair
8. to work together
9. number of provinces that joined in 1867
10. mother country
11. British ______ America Act
12. prime minister in 1967
13. famous racing schooner

DOWN

1. 150th birthday
2. provinces and territories that join together to make a country
4. Ottawa plans to spend $500 ______ to celebrate Canada’s 150th birthday
5. province that joined Canada in 1905
6. 1967 World’s Fair held here
9. Toronto International ______ Festival
INSTRUCTIONS:

Locate the following words in the puzzle above.

Briefly explain the importance of each word on a separate sheet of paper.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>CONFEDERATION</th>
<th>COLONY</th>
<th>MONTREAL</th>
<th>SESQUICENTENNIAL</th>
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<tr>
<td>CARIBANA</td>
<td>MACDONALD</td>
<td>RAILROAD</td>
<td>TIFF</td>
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Complete this map assignment to better understand the article *Canada’s Sesquicentennial*.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Obtain the required resources and read all the instructions before starting.
2. Colour your map after all labelling is completed.
3. Print in pencil only first, then go over the printing in black ink.
4. Work carefully and neatly.

**Resources Required:** pencil, black pen, pencil crayons, ruler, eraser and an atlas.

**Part A** Locate and label Canada’s ten provinces in CAPITAL letters and shade each as indicated:
- British Columbia (orange)
- Alberta (yellow)
- Saskatchewan (green)
- Manitoba (purple)
- Ontario (pink)
- Quebec (orange)
- New Brunswick (red)
- Nova Scotia (pink)
- Prince Edward Island [PEI] (yellow)
- Newfoundland and Labrador (purple)

**Part B** Locate and label Canada’s three territories in CAPITAL letters and shade each as indicated:
- Yukon (pink)
- Northwest Territories (red)
- Nunavut (brown)

**Part C** Locate and label the capital city of each province and territory and underline each city name.

**Part D** Indicate which year each province or territory became a part of Canada.

**Part E** Locate the capital city of Canada. Label this city in CAPITAL letters and underline.

**Part F** Locate and label the following countries in CAPITAL letters and shade each as indicated:
- United States (grey)
- Greenland [Denmark] (green)
- Iceland (orange)
- Russia (brown)

**Part G** Locate and label the following and shade all ocean water dark blue:
- Pacific Ocean
- Arctic Ocean
- Atlantic Ocean

**Part H** Locate and label the following lakes on your map, and shade them light blue:
- Great Bear Lake
- Great Slave Lake
- Lake Winnipeg
- Lake Superior
- Lake Huron
- Lake Michigan
- Lake Erie
- Lake Ontario

**Part I** Locate and label the following rivers and shade them light blue:
- Fraser River
- Mackenzie River
- St. Lawrence River

**Part J** Locate and label the following lines of latitude:
- 49° N
- 60° N

**Part K** Complete your map with a frame, title and compass bearing.
QUIZ

CANADA’S SESQUICENTENNIAL

Write the letter that corresponds to the best answer on the line beside each question:

_____ 1. How many provinces joined Confederation in 1867?
   a) two  
   b) four  
   c) five  
   d) seven

_____ 2. What was the cultural highlight of Canada’s centennial celebrations?
   a) Caribana  
   b) Expo 67  
   c) the Pan American Games  
   d) a new flag  
   e) Terry Fox’s Marathon of Hope

_____ 3. How much money is Ottawa planning to spend on Canada’s 150th birthday?
   a) $50 million  
   b) $125 million  
   c) $375 million  
   d) $500 million  
   e) $750 million

_____ 4. True or False? The Yukon was the last province or territory to join Canada.

_____ 5. True or False? The quarter has a representation of the Bluenose II racing schooner.

6. As you see it, what is the significance of Canada’s sesquicentennial? Give reasons to support your response.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Students want to know what's happening in their world – but the news can be difficult and time-consuming to teach.

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## What in the World? / Le Monde en Marche

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# Online Interactive Subscriptions

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- [ ] Internet*

*E-mail required for password notification (please print)

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