

Canadian Identity, Diversity, and Citizenship

"Canada is the only country in the world that knows how to live without an identity."

- Marshall McLuhan, Communications Theorist

Focus Question:

"Who am I and how do I fit into the story of Canada?"

Summary:

- Figuring out who we are and where we come from might sound fairly simple but in this unit, we will discuss how to think like a historian to help understand our own personal histories. Questions that we will cover will include:
 - o What does it mean to have an identity?
 - o What does the term citizenship mean?
 - o How have Canadians developed a national identity over time?
 - o How can we use historical thinking concepts to make pursuing the study of history easier and more interesting?
 - o Where do our families fit in the story of Canada?

Enduring Understandings Covered in this Unit:

1. Canada's history and identity have been shaped by its vast and diverse land, its northern location, and its abundant natural resources.
2. Canadian identity, citizenship, and nationhood are subjects of ongoing debate in Canada's pluralistic society.
3. Immigration has helped shape Canada's history and continues to shape Canadian society and identity.
4. The history of Canadian citizenship is characterized by an ongoing struggle to achieve equality and social justice for all.
5. The meaning of citizenship has evolved over time, and the responsibilities, rights, and freedoms of Canadian citizens are subject to continuing debate.

Curriculum Connections:

3.2 How did territorial expansion, immigration, and industrialization change life for men and women in Canada?

4.1 How did Canada seek to establish economic security and social justice from the period of the Depression to the patriation of the Constitution?

4.2 How did the establishment of national institutions contribute to defining Canadian identity?

5.1 How has Canada been shaped by the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, cultural diversity, and demographic and technological change?

Unit Structure:

1. Railway Building, Immigration, Industrialization, and Women's Suffrage
2. The Great Depression, Social Reform, and the Growth of Canadian Culture
3. The Charter of Rights and Freedoms and Our Identity Today