



# Canada



Smiling Inuit girl

Reader



Caribou



Canadian flag

Royal Canadian mounted police



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# Canada

Reader



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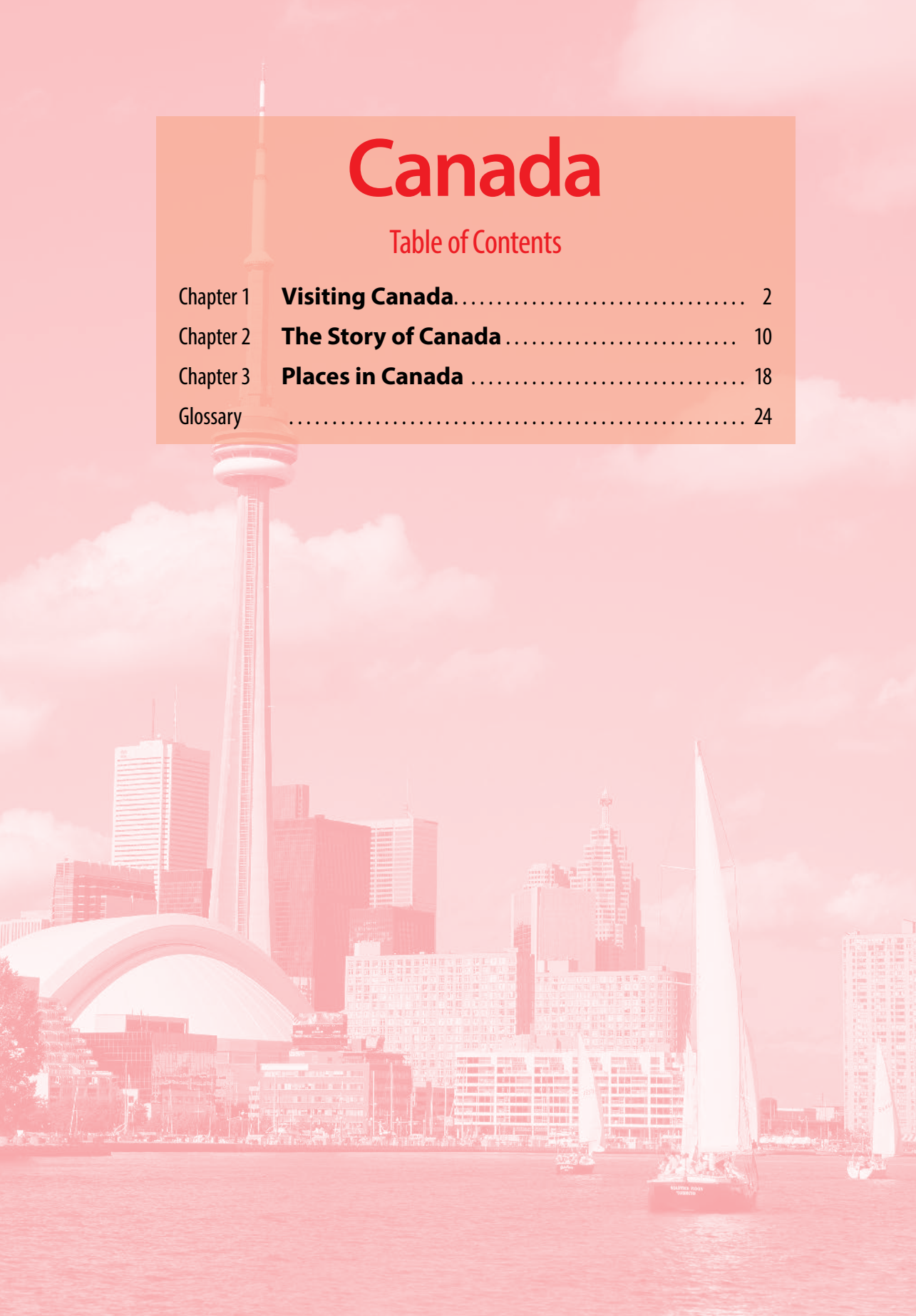
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# Canada

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# **Canada Reader**

*Core Knowledge Sequence History and Geography 3*

# Chapter 1

## Visiting Canada

**A Letter from Sam** Dear Mom and Dad, I'm having a great time here in Toronto, Ontario. Aunt Susie and Uncle Rick are taking good care of me. Cousin Joe is fun to play with, and Cousin Margaret is really smart and tells me lots of neat stuff.

### The Big Question

What are some similarities and differences between Canada and the United States today?

I have to admit I was a little nervous when I came here last week. You said I'd have a great time visiting our Canadian relatives. You showed me on a map that Canada is the country just north of the United States. It was then that I saw that Toronto is *very* far away from our house in Liberal, Kansas. When the plane I was traveling on arrived at the airport in Toronto, I thought to myself, "I really am a long way from Kansas!"

I was afraid that when I got here, people would be wearing different clothes and speaking a language I don't understand. And what about the food? I worried that Canadians might eat food I don't like! It turns out the food is not that different. On my first day here,

### Vocabulary

**province**, n. a political area or region in Canada similar to a state





Toronto is one of the largest cities in Canada. It is located in the **province** of Ontario.

I ate pancakes for breakfast and pizza for lunch. I had chocolate ice cream, too!

In many ways it's just like home here! People speak English in Toronto. The neighborhood even looks like our neighborhood back home. Best of all, they have some of my favorite TV shows, too!

### Canada's Provinces and Territories



As you can see, Canada is a large country. It is made up of ten provinces and three **territories**. Can you find Toronto, Ontario, where Sam is visiting?

On my second day here, Aunt Susie took me to the grocery store. At the checkout counter the clerk said, "That'll be thirty dollars and eighty-two cents, please."

I thought, 'Wow! Even the money here is just like the money back home—dollars and cents.' I was starting to wonder whether I'd really left home at all.

#### Vocabulary

**territory**, n. an area of land governed in part by the Canadian parliament

But then I noticed some things *are* different. As we were leaving the grocery store, Aunt Susie said, “Sam, would you like to



The Canadian twenty-dollar bill

see some Canadian money?” She handed me some paper money. I saw right away that it wasn’t like American money. On the front of a twenty-dollar bill was a picture of a woman I’d never seen before. “That’s the British queen,” Aunt Susie said.

I asked why the British queen was on Canadian money.

Aunt Susie said, “I know you study American history at school. You know that hundreds of years ago, the United States began as thirteen English **colonies**. However, the English settled in Canada, too. I am sure you know that in the 1700s, the Americans fought a revolution to free themselves. Of course, by the time the American Revolution happened, England had become Great Britain and you were fighting the British. The thirteen colonies became the United States of America. But Canada stayed as a British colony. Today we’re an independent country, but we’re still proud of our British **culture**. In fact, we say that the British monarch is Canada’s “**head of state**.”

“Does that mean she’s in charge?” I asked.

### Vocabulary

**colony**, n. an area, region, or country that is controlled and settled by people from another country

**culture**, n. the language, religion, customs, traditions, and material possessions of a group of people

**head of state**, n. a country’s leader

“No, not at all,” Aunt Susie said. “Like the United States, Canada is a **republic**. The people rule through their **elected representatives**. Our top official is called the **prime minister**. He has about the same power as your president. Look, here’s a one-dollar coin. It has the queen’s picture on it, too.” I looked at the gold-colored coin she handed me. On one side was a picture of the queen. On the other side was a picture of a bird that looked sort of like a duck. “That bird is a loon,” Aunt Susie said. “We call the one-dollar coin a loonie.”

### Vocabulary

**republic**, n. a kind of government where people elect representatives to rule for them

**“elected representative”**, (phrase) a person who is chosen, by vote, by the people to speak or act for them

**prime minister**, n. the person at the head of government in some countries

I laughed and said it sounded like a funny name for money. She laughed, too. “I guess you’re right,” she said. “But that picture shows something important about Canada. You know, Canada is a large country, even larger than the United States. But compared to the United States, it has far fewer people. Much of Canada is wilderness—wild country where no people live. The wilderness is full of animals, including the loon. Like a duck, it lives on lakes. Look, here’s another Canadian animal. Do you know what it is?”

She handed me a five-cent coin. I saw a picture of a furry animal with a wide, flat tail, but I couldn’t tell what it was. Aunt Susie said it was a beaver. “You know, beavers are amazing animals. They can gnaw down trees with their teeth. They were very important in Canadian history. In the days when Canada was a colony, thousands of people came from Europe because of them.”



The Canadian wilderness is home to animals such as the loon and the beaver. These animals are shown on one side of Canadian coins.

“Why? Did they want to see beavers chop down trees with their teeth?” I asked.

Aunt Susie laughed. She said, “No. It was because in Europe in those days, the most popular kind of hat was made from beaver fur. People could make a lot of money selling the fur, so they came here to trap the beavers.”

It doesn’t sound like a lot of fun being made into a hat.

When we got back to Aunt Susie’s house, Cousin Margaret was watching TV. The people on the TV were speaking, but I couldn’t understand what they were saying.

Margaret saw that I was puzzled. She said, “They’re speaking French. In fact, on this TV channel, *all* the shows are in French.”

Margaret told me that in Canada, there are two main languages. She explained that most of the people in Ontario speak English as their main language. In some other parts of Canada, the people speak French as their main language. But all Canadians study both English and French in school.

Margaret turned off the TV and asked, "What do you know about the people of Canada?"

"Not much," I said.

"Well, how about we fix that," she said.

"Did you know that Canada is a

**multicultural** country? The largest group

of Canadians is made up of people whose ancestors were settlers from England. The second-largest group are the people whose ancestors were from France. But lots of other groups settled here, too. On the west coast of Canada, there are many people whose families came from countries in Asia, such as China. Many of them speak an Asian language as well as English or French.

"However, the people who have been here the longest are the

**indigenous** peoples. They were here long, long before the English

### Vocabulary

**multicultural**, adj.  
including many different cultures

**indigenous**, adj.  
native to a particular area or environment



Hockey is a very popular sport in Canada.

and the French came to Canada. For years most people called them Indians, but now many Canadian indigenous groups prefer to be called either First Nations or First Peoples.



The maple leaf, shown here on the Canadian flag, is Canada's national symbol.

The things Margaret told me are very interesting. "There is one other thing I have noticed since being here: Canadians seem to know *a lot* about ice and snow. Cousin Joe says that even here in southern Canada, it's freezing cold most of the winter. Joe likes the snow and ice because winter is hockey season. He's got his own hockey stick, skates, and pads, and there are pictures of hockey players all over his bedroom walls. Canadians seem to be as crazy about hockey as Americans are about baseball and football.

So, Mom and Dad, don't worry about me. I'm having fun and learning a lot about Canada. I'm still glad that the food's not too different, though. In fact, do you know what the national **symbol** of Canada is? It's the leaf from the maple tree—the tree whose sap is used to make syrup for pancakes. And you know how much I love maple syrup. Every time I see a Canadian flag with a maple leaf on it, I get a little hungry!

Love,

Sam

### Vocabulary

**symbol**, n. a picture or object that is a sign for something; for example, the American flag is a symbol of the United States.

# Chapter 2

## The Story of Canada

**Two Languages** Sam discovered that French and English are the two main languages of Canada. This is because, as early as the 1500s, many people from France and England **settled** in Canada.

However, by the time the Europeans arrived, people had already lived in Canada for thousands of years. When the Europeans came, they met many different groups of people. The different groups had their own customs, traditions, languages, and religions.

In the far north of Canada, in the Canadian **Arctic**, lived the people called the **Inuit** (/in\*yoo\*it/). They still live there today. The Inuit have a rich culture. For most of the year, the Canadian Arctic is covered with ice and snow, but the Inuit have learned how to survive there with limited **resources**.

### The Big Question

What kinds of things do Canada and the United States share in their histories?

### Vocabulary

**settle**, v. to move to a new place and make it home

**Arctic**, n. the region of the Arctic Ocean, including the land in and around it

**Inuit**, n. a group of indigenous people from northern Canada, formerly known as Eskimo

**resource**, n. something that people can use





The Inuit are an indigenous people who have lived in northern Canada for thousands of years.

## First Peoples

For hundreds of years, the Inuit hunted whales, walrus, seals, and polar bears. When the sea was frozen, they fished in it by cutting holes in the ice.

The Inuit traveled across the snow on sleds pulled by dogs. When they were far from home, they made shelters out of blocks of snow. These snow houses were called **igloos**. Today, life for the Inuit people has changed a lot.

The western coast of the country isn't as cold and snowy. Unlike the north, it is covered with trees. The people who lived there made their houses out of wood. They also used wood to make many other items. One important item was a **totem pole**. A totem pole is a tall post with carved designs of animals and people. Totem poles are part of the traditional religions.

### Vocabulary

**igloo**, n. a dome-shaped, temporary shelter made from snow blocks

**totem pole**, n. a tall, wooden pole with carvings of people and animals used by the people of western Canada for religious purposes



Totem poles are part of the indigenous culture of western Canada.

In the center of Canada are wide open plains. The people in this area survived by hunting buffalo. The people of the plains were always moving, following the buffalo herds. So they invented a kind of house that they could pick up and take with them. This was a cone-shaped tent called a **tepee**.

The eastern coast of Canada was home to people who lived by hunting and farming. Unlike the people of the plains, the people of the eastern coast of Canada settled in one place. They lived in big homes called **longhouses**. These were the people the European explorers and settlers met when they sailed across the Atlantic in the late 1400s and early 1500s.

## Europeans Come to Canada

Before the 1400s, the Vikings reached the coastal areas of northeastern Canada, and in particular northern Newfoundland. Then in the late 1400s, explorers trying to get to Asia bumped into the huge continents of North and South America. These European explorers hoped to find a way to Asia by sailing across the Atlantic Ocean. Asia had valuable things that Europeans wanted—gold, jewels, and spices. Instead of Asia, they found North and South America—and therefore Canada. First English and then French explorers came to Canada.

### Vocabulary

**tepee**, n. a cone-shaped tent used by people who lived on the plains of central Canada

**longhouse**, n. a large rectangular dwelling with doors located at each end and places for fires inside

At first the English and the French were disappointed not to find gold and jewels. But soon they found that Canada had other things to offer, such as fish and beaver fur. Fish and beaver fur don't sound as exciting as gold and jewels. Still, they *were* valuable. The Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Canada was full of fish that could be dried and sent back to Europe for people to eat. Rich Europeans were willing to pay a lot of money for hats made from beaver fur.

The English and the French settled in different places. The English settled mainly on the Atlantic Coast. The French settled the area along the St. Lawrence River. On the banks of the St. Lawrence, they built two cities, Montreal and Quebec (/kwuh\*bek/). They called their part of this land New France.



The English and the French were interested in the rich fishing areas along Canada's Atlantic Coast.

## War in Canada

Then, in the 1700s, war broke out between the British and the French. At first they fought only in Europe. Eventually, British and French armies were fighting in Canada, too. In 1759, the British attacked Quebec, the main city of New France—the name given to the French settled area at this time. The French soldiers had a strong position, on top of a tall cliff. But the British had a plan! They sailed up the river at night and climbed the cliffs. The fighting left many soldiers dead. In fact, both the British general and the French general were killed. The British won the battle and took control of all of New France.

Now all of Canada was ruled by the British, even though many French people still lived there. The British promised that the French people could keep their culture, including their language. And that is what they did!

## Rebellion

As you know, people in the British colonies to the south of Canada rebelled in 1776. They declared that they were then a new country called the United States of America.

However, not all of the American colonists wanted to break away from Britain. Thousands of these colonists moved north to Canada. There, they could stay under British rule. These people became known as Tories or Loyalists. The Americans thought these people were traitors. The Canadians thought they were being true to their king.

## Canada Expands West

In the 1800s, Canada spread westward, all the way to the Pacific Ocean. (The United States was spreading westward at the same time.) European Canadians settled areas where only indigenous peoples had lived before. They often treated these people badly, pushing them off their land. But one group of Canadians became known for treating the indigenous peoples with respect. This group was the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, or Mounties.



The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, or Mounties, were organized in the late 1800s.

In the late 1800s, western Canada was like the Wild West in the United States. It was a violent place, where people often broke the law because there was no one to stop them. The Mounties were set up to bring law and order to the area and to help protect the indigenous people. Wearing bright red uniforms, the Mounties rode on horses to track down criminals. They were so brave and so

good at catching criminals that they became heroes to people all over the country.

## **Independence for Canada**

Over time, Canada, like the United States, broke away from Britain. But it did so without a revolution. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the British government gave Canadians more say in running their country. Today Canada is an independent country like the United States.

# Chapter 3

## Places in Canada

**Many Kinds of Land** Canada is on the North American continent, just north of the United States. Like the United States, Canada stretches all the way from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. However, Canada is even bigger than the United States.

### The Big Question

How might people take advantage of the resources found in the places where they live?

In fact, it's the world's second-largest country in land size. Only Russia is bigger. But this large country has a small population. Although the United States is smaller in size than Canada, it has many more people.

The main reason that Canada has so few people is its **climate**. Northern Canada is very, very cold in the winter. Because northern Canada is so cold, most Canadians live in the south, near the U.S. border.

### Atlantic Provinces

Canada is divided into areas called provinces and territories. There are ten provinces, each with its own **capital**. On the Atlantic Coast are the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia,

### Vocabulary

**climate**, n. the usual weather of a place, including its temperature and precipitation

**capital**, n. the home of a country's government and a main city in a country





The climate and landscape of Canada affect where and how people live.

Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador. These provinces were settled in the 1500s by the English and French. These settlers caught fish to send back to Europe. Today, many people there still make a living fishing.

A visitor to this area would see lots of fishing villages and small harbors full of boats. You also might see something very exciting—a whale. This area of the Atlantic Ocean is home to these huge mammals. Many people take boats out to sea, hoping to get a close-up look at a whale.

### Canada's Provinces and Territories (Aerial View)



Canada has ten provinces and three territories.

## Quebec and Ontario

West of the Atlantic Provinces is a large province called Quebec. Most people in this province speak French. Many street signs are also in French. The people of Quebec are very proud of their

language and traditions. So if you meet someone in Quebec, say “*bonjour*” (/bon\*zhoor/) instead of “hello”!

Quebec is home to two important cities, Montreal and Quebec City. Both are located on the St. Lawrence River. Quebec City is the capital of Quebec. It’s a very beautiful place, full of old buildings from the 1700s and 1800s. Some of the buildings look like the ones you would see in European cities.

To the west of Quebec is the province of Ontario. More people live here than in any other province. Canada’s capital city, Ottawa, is in Ontario. So is its largest city, Toronto. Toronto is full of tall, modern buildings.

### **Middle and Western Provinces**

In the middle of Canada is the province of Manitoba. Manitoba has huge lakes and beautiful forests. Its capital city is Winnipeg. Manitoba was once a center for beaver trapping. But the most famous animal from Manitoba wasn’t a beaver; it was a little black bear who became the pet of a Canadian soldier. The soldier took the bear to London, England, and gave it to the London Zoo.

One day, an English writer saw the bear in the zoo. He noticed that the bear’s name was Winnie. (The Canadian soldier had named her



A Canadian bear inspired A.A. Milne to create the character Winnie-the-Pooh.

after his hometown, Winnipeg.) When the writer A.A. Milne wrote a story about an imaginary bear, he called his bear Winnie-the-Pooh.

West of Manitoba are the provinces of Saskatchewan (/sa\*skach\*uh\*won/) and Alberta. Saskatchewan has wide, flat plains on which farmers grow wheat. In Alberta they grow wheat too, and they also raise cattle. As in the United States, people who help raise cattle are called cowboys. Now, the oil **industry** has become very important in this area.

On the western coast of Canada is the province of British Columbia. The Rocky Mountains run through the eastern part of the province. These are the same Rockies that run through the western United States. Much of the land is forest. Many people there cut down trees for **lumber**.

### Vocabulary

**industry**, n. a business that manufactures a product or provides a service

**lumber**, n. wood that has been cut and is used for building

## Northern Territories

The northwestern part of Canada is divided into three territories. These are the Yukon Territory, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut (/nu\*na\*vut/). The Yukon Territory is named for the Yukon River, which flows through Canada and Alaska. In the late 1800s, gold was discovered there. People from all over the world hoped to get rich by finding gold. But most of them went home disappointed. Today the Yukon has a small population. Even fewer people live in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

These areas are covered with ice and snow for eight months of the year. The Hudson Bay, a large body of water south of Nunavut

and named after English explorer Henry Hudson, is frozen part of the year. Many of the people who live in these territories are Inuit. In fact, Nunavut has been set aside as a special Inuit homeland.



Some Inuit still hunt caribou, just as their ancestors did thousands of years ago.

(Nunavut means “Our Land” in the Inuit language.) In many ways, the lives of the Inuit have changed. Today most Inuit houses are made of wood, not snow. And the Inuit now are more likely to ride around on snowmobiles than dogsleds. But the Inuit still hunt the same animals their ancestors hunted. If you were invited to an Inuit dinner, you might be served walrus, seal, or **caribou!**

**Vocabulary**  
.....  
**caribou**, n. a species of deer native to North America

### **A Close Neighbor**

It’s important for Americans to know about Canada because this country is our next-door neighbor. It’s always good to know your neighbors. But Canada and the United States aren’t just neighbors—they’re also close friends. If you visit Canada, you will get a warm welcome. Canadians will be eager to show you around and tell you more about their country. If you go in the winter, remember to dress very warmly. Bring your coat and gloves. And you’ll need a hat to keep your head warm—but it doesn’t have to be made from beaver fur!

# Glossary

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## A

**Arctic, n.** the region of the Arctic Ocean, including the land in and around it (10)

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## C

**capital, n.** the home of a country's government and a main city in a country (18)

**caribou, n.** a species of deer native to North America (23)

**climate, n.** the usual weather of a place, including its temperature and precipitation (18)

**colony, n.** an area, region, or country that is controlled and settled by people from another country (5)

**culture, n.** the language, religion, customs, traditions, and material possessions of a group of people (5)

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## E

**"elected representative", (phrase)** a person who is chosen, by vote, by the people to speak or act for them (6)

---

## H

**head of state, n.** a country's leader (5)

---

## I

**igloo, n.** a dome-shaped, temporary shelter made from snow blocks (12)

**indigenous, adj.** native to a particular area or environment (8)

**industry, n.** a business that manufactures a product or provides a service (22)

**Inuit, n.** a group of indigenous people from northern Canada, formerly known as Eskimo (10)

---

## L

**longhouse, n.** a large rectangular dwelling with doors located at each end and places for fires inside (13)

**lumber, n.** wood that has been cut and is used for building (22)

---

## M

**multicultural, adj.** including many different cultures (8)

---

## P

**prime minister, n.** the person at the head of government in some countries (6)

**province, n.** a political area or region in Canada similar to a state (2)

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## R

**republic, n.** a kind of government where people elect representatives to rule for them (6)

**resource, n.** something that people can use (10)

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## S

**settle, v.** to move to a new place and make it home (10)

**symbol, n.** a picture or object that is a sign for something; for example, the American flag is a symbol of the United States. (9)

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## T

**tepee, n.** a cone-shaped tent used by people who lived on the plains of central Canada (13)

**territory, n.** an area of land governed in part by the Canadian parliament (4)

**totem pole, n.** a tall, wooden pole with carvings of people and animals used by the people of western Canada for religious purposes (12)



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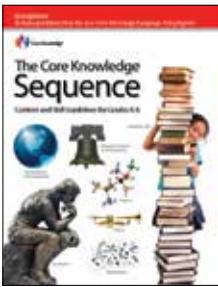
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