

CHAPTER 11

We Are a Country

It was the Winter Olympics in 2002. The players on Canada's hockey teams were excited. They had a secret. There was a loonie under the ice, in the centre of the rink. It was placed there by Trent Evans, the icemaker for the Olympic arena. Evans, an Albertan, put the loonie under the ice because it was a symbol of Canada. He thought it would give the Canadian teams good luck. He painted over the coin, so it would not show through the ice. Only the Canadian players knew it was there.

Canada's women's and men's teams made it to the finals. Both teams had to play hard, but both won gold medals. After each win, the players rushed to congratulate one another. Some had tears of joy in their eyes. One player, Danielle Goyette, was so happy that she fell to her knees and kissed the ice above the loonie.

Fans celebrated throughout Canada. After the Games, the teams presented the loonie to Canada's Hockey Hall of Fame.



Canada: Our Stories Continue

You have learned that the beaver is a symbol of Canada, and that is why it appears on our nickel. Symbols are objects or images that represent an idea or a belief. What symbols of Canada can you find in the story on the opposite page? What symbols do you see in the pictures on these pages?

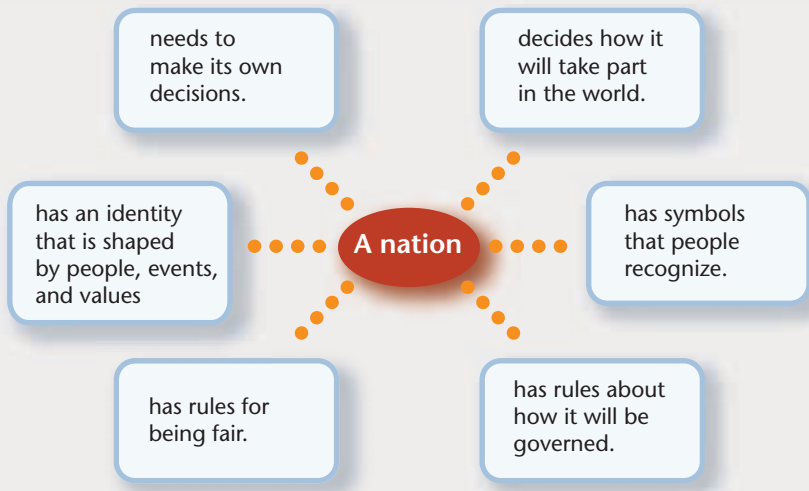
Some of the symbols you will find represent Canada. But how can one image represent a country so diverse? You have learned that many groups with different backgrounds live here. Yet we all share some experiences and beliefs that join us together. Living in Canada is part of what makes us who we are. It is part of our identity.



? Inquiring Minds

Here are some questions to guide your inquiry for this chapter:

- Why have other countries traditionally thought of Canada as a peacekeeping country?
- Why is it important to have a Canadian identity?





Sunjeet's Inquiry



Two girls place their poppies on the wreaths at a Remembrance Day ceremony in Halifax on November 11, 2003.

I always feel proud when I see the Canadian flag at hockey games. I felt the same kind of pride in November, but for a different reason. On November 11, our school has a Remembrance Day service. Several members of the Canadian armed forces were there this year. Some were called peacekeepers. During the service, we were reminded that Canada had been part of two World Wars and the Korean War, which was fought in the 1950s.

Now I understand a bit more about what Canada did in these wars, and how they affected our country.

Remembrance Day is a sad and serious time, yet everyone feels proud to be Canadian. The Canadian flag was on the stage. There was also a framed picture of something called the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. I asked myself:

- Why do people wear poppies on Remembrance Day?
- How did we get our flag?
- What is the Charter of Rights and Freedoms?
- Why does Canada have peacekeepers?

My teacher said that many of these things are symbols of our country. I decided to research these symbols and learn more about them.

Skill Smart

- Find out why poppies are worn on Remembrance Day. Use three sources to find the answer. Keep track of your sources.

Considering Context

Have your grandparents ever told you that when they were young, they could go to a movie for 25 cents? That sounds cheap, doesn't it? To understand better, you need more information about how much people were paid and how much other things cost at the time. In the 1950s, some people were paid \$1.00 an hour for work. Today, some people earn \$9.00 an hour, but movie tickets can be \$14.00!

We use the word *context* to refer to information that helps us better understand an event. This information can be additional facts, or it can be the story of the events that happened before or afterward. These facts, causes, or circumstances help us to understand the meaning and importance of an event.



Poppies often grow wild in fields in northern Europe. These fields sometimes became cemeteries for soldiers who were killed in World War I. Canadians started wearing poppies to remember the soldiers who were killed in that war. Today we wear poppies to remember Canadians who have sacrificed their lives in wars since 1914.

Practise the Skill

You have already learned that many Canadians died or were wounded in World War I. Use the Internet or library books to learn the context of this information.

1. How many people lived in Canada at the time of the war (1914–1918)?
2. How many Canadian soldiers were killed or wounded during the war?
3. Find a town or city in Western Canada with a population about the same as the number of soldiers who were killed or wounded.
4. How does learning the context help you better understand Canada's losses during World War I?

How Did Canada Change After Confederation?



Canada has changed a lot since Confederation. I know that as I grow up, I get to make more decisions, but I have more responsibilities, too. I wonder if the same thing happened to Canada.

words matter!

Independent means the ability to make decisions and act for yourself. It also means accepting responsibility for your actions.



On September 2, 1920, people watched as the British flag was raised in front of Memorial Hall in Edmonton. Why do you think many Canadians felt proud to fly the British flag?

Canada became a country in 1867. But in many ways, it was still controlled by Britain. Britain thought our young country was not ready to make all its own decisions. We were allowed to make decisions for things that happened within Canada. However, we were not given the power to declare war, make peace, or make trade arrangements with other countries. Britain made these decisions for us.

Many Canadians did not mind this at first. Britain had a powerful Empire and controlled countries around the world. Some Canadians were proud to be part of the Empire. They flew British flags and sang the British anthem. But others thought Canada should have more powers of its own. They believed Canada should be more **independent**. How did Canada show Britain that it was ready to make its own decisions and accept more responsibility?



Voices of Canada

Canadian Soldiers

As I write, French and English Canadians are fighting and dying side by side. Is their sacrifice to go for nothing or will it cement a foundation for a new Canadian nation, independent in thought, independent in action?

Letter from Talbot Papineau, a Canadian soldier, Europe, 1916

Skill Smart

- Work with a small group to discuss solutions to a problem that exists in your school or community. Consider different viewpoints, possible solutions, and their effects. Discuss what role you should have in making the final decision, and how that decision should be made and why.

Canada Becomes More Independent

When Britain declared war on Germany in 1914, Canada was automatically at war, too. Some Canadians did not want to fight because the war did not involve their country. Others disagreed with the whole idea of war. Some Francophone Canadians did not feel a connection with Britain, and therefore did not want to fight its war. But thousands of Canadians from across the country did join the war as part of the British army in World War I.

Canadians fought bravely in many terrible battles. Our soldiers were very proud when they captured a stronghold at Vimy Ridge in France in 1917. Armies from other countries had tried to do this, but had failed.



Voices of Canada

Identity

When soldiers left Canada for Europe, they did not know that the war would change their identity forever.

I never felt like a Canadian until Vimy Ridge. After that I was a Canadian all the way. We had a feeling that we could not lose (and if all the other allies packed it up we could do the job ourselves).

H.F. Mills, Soldier at Vimy

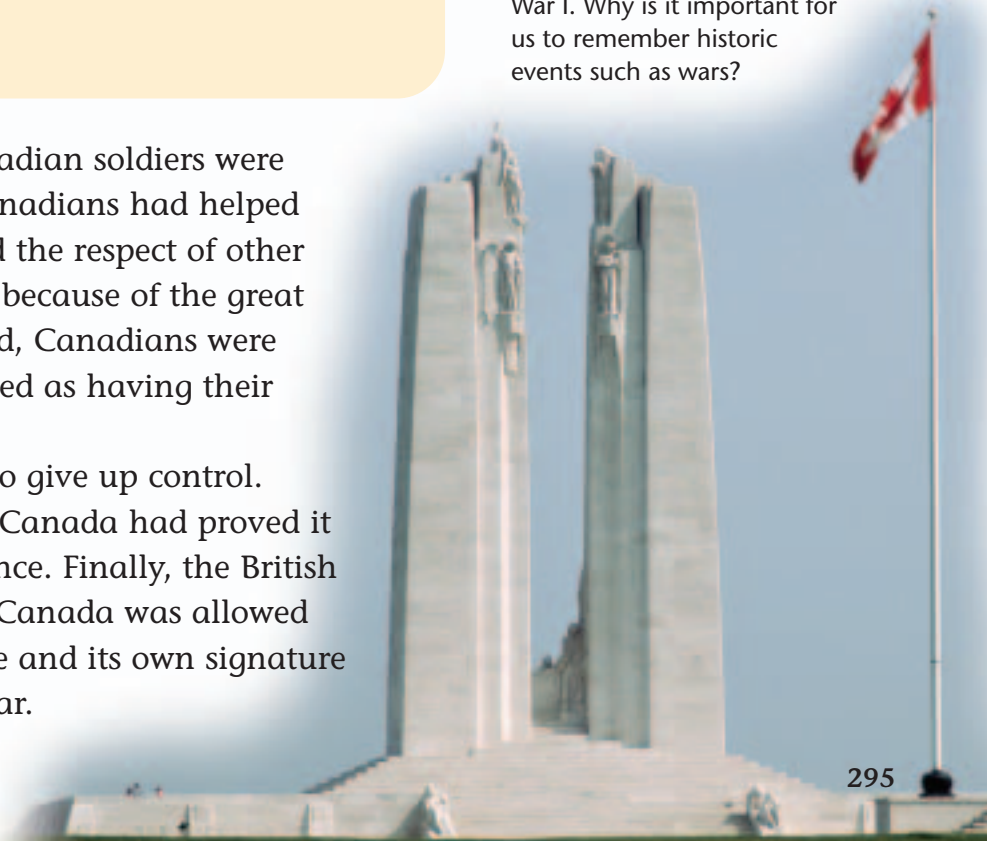
By the end of the war, Canadian soldiers were fighting in their own army. Canadians had helped to win the war and had earned the respect of other countries. Because of this, and because of the great loss of life that Canada suffered, Canadians were now determined to be recognized as having their own country.

But Britain was not ready to give up control. Canadian leaders argued that Canada had proved it was ready for more independence. Finally, the British Parliament changed its mind. Canada was allowed a place at the peace conference and its own signature on the treaty that ended the war.

Thinking It Through

- Why was Vimy Ridge important to capture?
- What other countries fought battles there?
- How does knowing this information provide you with a context to better understand the important role Canadians played in World War I?

This monument at Vimy is a symbol of the sacrifices Canadians made during World War I. Why is it important for us to remember historic events such as wars?





The countries of the world send people to the UN headquarters in New York. There, they work to solve problems peacefully. Why are there so many flags? Why is listening and talking to others a better way to solve conflicts than war?



An eagle feather hangs from the United Nations peacekeeping beret of a Mi'kmaq veteran at a Remembrance Day ceremony in Halifax on November 11, 2002. What do you think the eagle feather symbolizes?

The Statute of Westminster

In 1931, Britain passed a new law called the Statute of Westminster. This law became a symbol of Canada's independence. It gave Canada the right to make its own laws and decisions when dealing with other countries. The Statute of Westminster meant that Canada now had the choice of whether to go to war when Britain did. When World War II began in 1939, our government decided to help Britain, France, and other European countries defend their freedom.

Canada Becomes a Peacekeeping Country

Once the war was over, Canada knew that it was important to stop new wars from breaking out. Canada worked with other countries to form the United Nations, or UN. The UN is an organization set up to keep peace around the world. But in 1956, it looked as though another world war might begin. Meetings at the UN were unable to bring peace.

At that time, Lester Pearson was in charge of how Canada worked with other countries. He suggested that the UN put together a group of soldiers from countries like Canada that were not at war. These soldiers would go to troubled areas to prevent fighting, without taking sides. This was the world's first *peacekeeping* force. Peacekeeping means working to end conflicts without taking sides.

It was hard work to get warring countries to agree to this plan. The peacekeepers succeeded and the fighting stopped. For his work, Lester Pearson won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1957. Each year, it is given as a symbol to a person or group who has done the most for world peace.

Peacekeepers all wear blue UN helmets or berets. These blue berets are symbols of their role as peacekeepers. Why do peacekeepers need helmets? Why do they need tanks and guns?



Making a Difference

Mark Isfeld: A Canadian Peacekeeper

The UN has sent peacekeepers to many parts of the world. More than 125 000 Canadians have served as peacekeepers. More than 100 have been killed on their missions.

Mark Isfeld was a Canadian peacekeeper who did a dangerous job. In 1994, he was clearing land mines in Croatia. Land mines are buried in the ground in times of war. They explode when people step on them. Mark always made time for the local children. He knew what land mines could do. The children did not. He felt he needed to protect them most of all.

Once, when Mark was home on a break, he showed his mother a picture of an abandoned house. In the picture was a doll that a child had lost. Mark's mother, Carol, decided to knit some dolls for Mark to give to children on his return to Croatia. "The dolls are a hit, Mom," Mark wrote in a letter home. "Don't stop making them." He gave out almost 100 dolls. His friends called them "Izzy dolls."

Mark was killed when his vehicle ran over a land mine. To keep his memory alive, Carol kept knitting Izzy dolls. Other mothers across Canada started making dolls for Canadian peacekeepers to give out around the world. They continue to give them out today.



Mark Isfeld



Some Izzy dolls wear the blue peacekeeper's beret.

Thinking It Through

- Why do you think peacekeepers are prepared to risk their lives to help others?
- In your view, what makes Canadians good peacekeepers?

How Did Canada Get Its Own Flag?



So far, I've learned that symbols can tell a lot about a nation. The nickel shows how important the fur trade was to Canada. The poppy helps us remember Canadians who fought in Europe for our freedom. Izzy dolls stand for Canadian peacekeepers. Now I'm researching different flags flown in Canada. What does the maple leaf flag tell about us?

Some countries' symbols have existed for a long time, but Canada's maple leaf flag is very young. For almost a hundred years after Confederation, Canada flew the British flag, sometimes called the Union Jack.



How do you think some Canadians of non-British descent felt about using the Union Jack as Canada's flag?

Until 1965, we also used a flag called the Red Ensign. It showed Canada's shield, but it had a Union Jack in the corner.



A flag often represents something important about the people. What do each of the symbols on the shield mean?

Canada's New Symbol

In 1964, Lester Pearson was Prime Minister of Canada. Canada was changing. He thought Canada needed a new symbol of its identity because the Red Ensign was too British to stand for all Canadians. He announced that Canada needed a new flag. He did not realize that choosing a new flag would start a great debate.

The flag debate got everybody talking about who Canadians were, and how we could all be represented by one flag. People debated at home, in stores, and on the street. Everyone had strong feelings about which symbols best represented Canada. The leader of the Opposition, John Diefenbaker, wanted a flag that included the British Union Jack.

Why did people feel so strongly? Canada had grown in many ways throughout the years. Canadians felt a new pride in their country. They wanted to be sure they had the right flag. Canadians were disagreeing, but together they were also creating the symbol of their country.



My grandparents remember their families being upset when the Red Ensign was taken down. To them, it was a symbol of their identity.



My family told me that Québec has always proudly flown its fleur-de-llys flag.



Voices of Canada

Flag

The flag is the symbol of the nation's unity, for it... represents all the citizens of Canada without distinction of race, language, belief, or opinion.

Maurice Bourget, Speaker of the Senate, February 15, 1965

Thinking It Through

- When Lester Pearson represented Canada at the UN, he realized that many people did not understand that Canada was independent of Britain. This was because Canada used the British flag. When our first peacekeeping forces went to other nations, they were often mistaken for British soldiers because their uniforms had the Union Jack on them.
- How does this context help you understand why Pearson was so determined to give Canada its own unique flag?



What symbols do you see? Research this flag. Give reasons for its importance to Québécois.

The Great Debate



My baba said her family wanted a flag with a symbol that was not British or French. They felt this would help people who had come to Canada from other countries feel that they belonged.



My great-great-grandfather fought in World War I under the Red Ensign. So at first, my family wanted to keep it.



Every Canadian had an opinion about what should go on the flag. Many designs were suggested. The maple leaf was an early favourite. Other people suggested the beaver, or a sheaf of wheat, the Rockies, or a codfish. Some made bumper stickers showing their favourite image.

People marched on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. Some protested in favour of one design, while others protested in favour of another. Many Canadians of British heritage protested against any change at all. They still loved the Red Ensign. Some Francophones, especially in Québec, preferred flags with the fleur-de-lys because it represented their heritage and language.

The final decision on the flag had to be made in Parliament. A special committee took over. They argued for months. They met 41 times and looked at more than 2000 designs. In the end, the committee chose three finalists. When the final vote was taken, the winner was the flag we have today.



These are all symbols that can represent Canada. Who might have wanted each one as the symbol for the new flag? What do you think are good criteria for choosing a flag?



I wonder why the maple leaf was chosen as a symbol of Canada. Maple trees sure don't grow where I live! But I do feel proud when I see our flag raised.

Canada's new flag was raised for the first time over the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa on February 15, 1965. It took just a short while for Canadians to get used to it. Soon the flag was everywhere—on backpacks of Canadians travelling abroad, on Olympic uniforms, and flying from poles in front of people's houses.

Today it is hard to imagine Canada without the maple leaf flag. It is a symbol of our identity. A group of Canadian students were asked what the flag meant to them. They said "peace," "pride," and "freedom."



These hikers are in the Rocky Mountains. Why do you think they have Canadian flags on their backpacks? Why would Canadian hikers display Canada's flag when they travel in other countries?

Thinking It Through

- Do you think there are people from other countries who would not show the flag of their country when they travel? Why?



The maple leaf flag is the only flag of Canada my family has ever known. People all over the world recognize our flag.

More About . . .

The Flag

Here is some of what Sunjeet learned from his research on the flag:

- The red maple has been a Canadian symbol for a long time. First Nations such as the Haudenosaunee harvested the sap every spring. The first Europeans learned how to use syrup, and it became part of their way of life, too.
- The maple leaf tells people that Canada is a land of natural beauty.
- Red and white are traditional colours of England and France. Our flag recognizes the role of both peoples in our history.
- The red bars on each side represent oceans on the west and east.

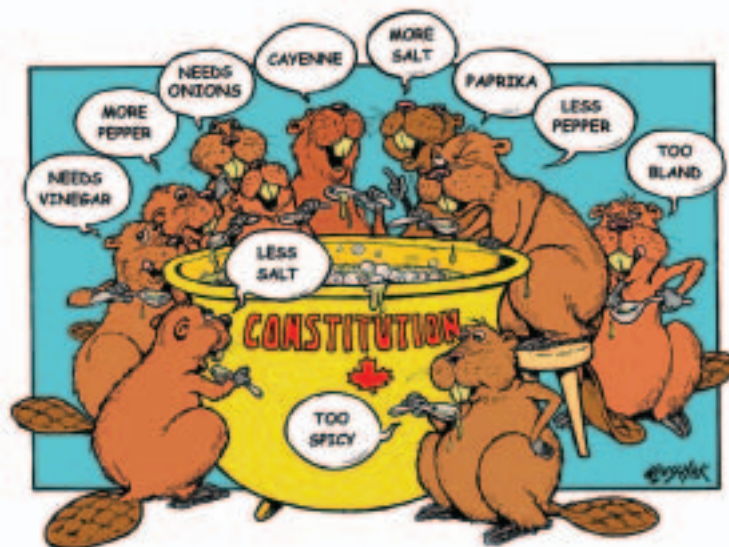
How Will Canada Be Governed?



Are there rules about how rules are made and how the government works?

Just like a classroom, a country has a set of rules about how it will be governed. The rules are called the *constitution*. A constitution outlines the main beliefs of a country and the roles of the different parts of the government. It is the highest law in the land. It shapes, and is shaped by, a country's identity.

At the time of Confederation, Canada's Constitution was put in place by the British North America Act, or BNA Act. It was passed in Britain in 1867, when Canada was created. If Canada wanted to change its Constitution, it had to ask the government in Britain. The Statute of Westminster had given Canada more independence, but Britain still controlled our Constitution. This was because Canadians could not decide on the rules for changing, or amending, the Constitution. In 1980, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau announced it was time for Canada to control its Constitution.



Skill Smart

- To change the Constitution, all or most of the provincial and territorial governments in Canada have to agree. Look closely at the cartoon on this page. Think about the symbols that the cartoonist has used. Discuss what the pot symbolizes. Count the number of beavers. What do you think they symbolize? Do the beavers agree about what should go in the pot? What is the cartoonist's point of view about changing the Constitution?

Canada Gains Control of Its Constitution

The prime minister and premiers met several times to discuss how changes might be made. One night, after hours of talking, nine provinces and the government of Canada came to an agreement. They wrote a new Constitution, including rules for making changes.

When the new Constitution was written in 1981, the premier of Québec did not agree with it. He believed it did not do enough to permit the government of Québec to protect its language and culture. As a result, Québec did not sign the new Constitution. Since 1981, there have been many discussions to try to find a way to include Québec in the Constitution. It remains a challenge for the future.

On April 17, 1982, the new Constitution was officially made the law of Canada with the passing of the Canada Act by Britain. This was one more step toward becoming a truly independent country.



The new Constitution was signed in Ottawa by Prime Minister Trudeau and Queen Elizabeth II. At last, we had a “made-in-Canada” Constitution. Who else do you think is in the photo?

Aboriginal Peoples and the Constitution

Do you remember that Canada’s Aboriginal people were not included in talks about Confederation? In 1980 it looked like they would be excluded again. The first draft of the new constitution did not mention any rights for Aboriginal people.

Aboriginal leaders arranged for a train called the “Constitutional Express” to travel from Vancouver to Ottawa. There, they demonstrated on Parliament Hill, reinforcing that Aboriginal rights should be included in the Constitution. The treaties that had been signed in the past had established these rights, but Aboriginal people wanted them written down in the Constitution.

Aboriginal voices were heard: Section 35 was added. It reads: “The existing Aboriginal and treaty rights of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed.”



Larry Pierre was from British Columbia’s Okanagan Valley. He was one of 100 people who walked out of the First Nations Constitutional Conference on May 1, 1980, demanding First Nations participation in the Constitutional talks.



At the Remembrance Day service, why was the Charter of Rights and Freedoms on the stage? What is it? Why is it important to Canada?

The Charter of Rights and Freedoms

What would you think if any of the following situations happened?

- The student with the highest marks in Alberta is not allowed to accept a prize because of her race.
- Some people are not allowed to sit anywhere in a movie theatre. They have to sit in the last few rows because of their ethnic background.
- Some people are not allowed to go to medical school because of their religion.
- Two workers do the same job, but are paid different amounts because one is a woman.
- Québec has an English-language school system for its Anglophone minority. But other provinces do not have French-language public schools for their Francophone minorities.

You are probably thinking, “Not fair!” At one time, though, these situations did happen in Canada. Canadians have always had many freedoms and rights that other countries do not have. For a long time, however, these rights were not written down in a Constitution. That meant they could be interpreted differently, or even ignored. Also, they did not apply to provincial laws.

When Canada gained control of its constitution in 1982, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms was added. Because the Charter is part of the Constitution, it is very difficult to change any of the laws that protect us.



Voices of Canada

Protection for All

In a country like Canada—vast and diverse, with eleven governments, two official languages and a variety of ethnic origins—the only way to provide equal protection to everyone is to [honour Canadians’] basic rights and freedoms in the Constitution.

Jean Chrétien, Minister of Justice, 1980–1982

Most of the rights and freedoms... in the Charter are not *totally* new and different. Indeed, Canadians have tended to take most of them for granted over the years. The difference is that now they will be guaranteed by our Constitution...

Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Prime Minister, 1968–1979 and 1980–1984

The Charter of Rights

- gives us the freedom to believe what we like, and to speak and write about our opinions.
- gives citizens the right to choose their government through elections.
- gives people the right not to be arrested without being given a reason and gives them the right to a fair trial.
- gives citizens the right not to be subjected to cruel and unusual punishment.

More About...

The Charter

The Charter gives rights to all Canadians. It also gives “collective” rights to official-language groups and peoples in Canada. Francophone minorities throughout Canada and the Anglophone minority in Québec have the right to be educated in their first language.



These Mounties are guarding the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. It was on display to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the signing of the new Constitution. The Charter reflects the values of Canadians. We believe people should be treated equally, whatever their ethnic background, religion, or gender. We want our society to accept differences among peoples. The Charter also reminds us of the rights and the shared history of Canada’s founding peoples: the Aboriginal nations, the Francophones, and the Anglophones.



As travellers make their way along the Trail, they will be greeted at each province or territory by a Trans Canada Trail Gateway. The first one was opened on the Québec– New Brunswick border on June 19, 1997. The Trans Canada Trail is a team effort between the people, governments, and companies of the 13 Canadian provinces and territories. The Gateways symbolize the efforts of Canadians working together.

Thinking It Through

- Why do you think the Charter protects French and English as Canada’s official languages? Why is it important that the Charter protects treaty rights and other Aboriginal rights?
- What responsibilities do you think come with the rights set out in the Charter?

and Freedoms...

- forbids discrimination for reasons of “race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age, or mental or physical disability.”
- guarantees that Canada is a bilingual country, and that English and French are equally important.
- guarantees that Aboriginal peoples have special rights to the land, because they were here first and have rights according to treaties.
- states that we must respect the multicultural heritage of Canada.

What Should Canada's Role Be in the World?



A soldier from Trois-Rivières, Québec, talks with children at a checkpoint in Kabul, Afghanistan, in May 2004.

words matter!

Combat means fighting against an enemy.

For nearly forty years, Canada was one of the world's leading peacekeeping nations. Canadian soldiers helped to stop conflicts between countries from becoming worse.

But the world started changing. New conflicts were often not between two countries—they were civil wars. People in the same country were fighting each other. It was difficult to enforce and maintain peace.

By 2006, fifty years after Prime Minister Pearson suggested the idea of peacekeeping, Canada was involved in very few “peacekeeping” missions. Now, Canadian soldiers are often involved in **combat** in dangerous places such as Afghanistan. But many people don't agree that this is the role Canada should play. Should we only be peacekeepers or should we also fight wars in other countries?

We might call [Afghanistan] peace support... Our grandfathers would call it war.

Jack Granatstein, military historian

Peacekeeping is no longer a simple exercise... It's kind of scary. The Canadian military is more than capable of carrying out a new...role... But should we be playing that role? I think we should be asking our soldiers...if they are building a nation, if they are freeing people.

Sandra Perron, Ile Bizard, Québec—one of the first Canadian women soldiers to face combat duty

Not everyone believes that Canada should be sending troops to fight in other countries. Are there other ways that Canada can help make the world more safe and peaceful?

My parents think that Canada should give more money to countries that need food, medical supplies, and help to educate their children. People who are well fed, healthy, and educated are less likely to start wars.

My parents say that there is too much poverty at home in Canada. They believe our money should be used to improve living conditions here. But of course, when disasters like earthquakes and tsunamis destroy other countries, they always give money for relief aid.



A worker from Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières) helps refugees in Chad, Africa.

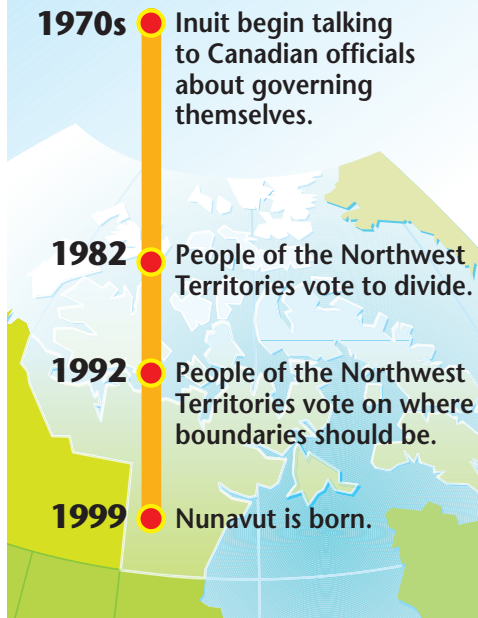
My aunt is involved in an organization called Médecins Sans Frontières, or Doctors Without Borders. MSF helps people in other countries when there is an emergency caused by a natural disaster or by war. It doesn't matter whose side the people are on, or what they believe. MSF helps everyone.

Over to You

1. Why might some people support Canadian troops going to fight wars in other countries?
2. What role do you think Canada should have in the world? Why?

Is Canada Still Changing?

The Creation of Nunavut



How long did it take for Nunavut to be created after the people voted to divide? Why do you think it took so long for decisions to be made?



Paul Okalik, the first premier of Nunavut, holds a model of a special coin. What symbols of Nunavut do you see in this picture?

Since 1982, Canada has been a fully independent country. Yet this does not mean we will never change. A good example is what took place on April 1, 1999. Fireworks lit up the skies over Iqaluit in the eastern Arctic. People there were celebrating the birth of a new territory in Canada—Nunavut.

The Creation of Nunavut

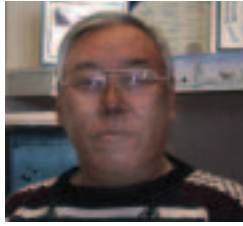
Before 1999, the Northwest Territories was a huge area—five times the size of Alberta. Most of the people living in the eastern part were Inuit. Their culture and language are different from those of the Dene and other groups, but the government in Yellowknife made decisions for all peoples in the territory. The Inuit felt that the government was too far away to understand what they needed. They wanted the right to make decisions for themselves. This is called self-government.

The Inuit talked with Canada's government for many years. At first they found it difficult to get the government's attention, but they kept trying, patiently and peacefully. Eventually, the government agreed to let the people of the Northwest Territories vote on their future. They voted to divide, and in 1999, Canada recognized the new territory of Nunavut. It was the first territory created by and for Aboriginal communities. Nunavut opened the way for other Aboriginal communities who want to self-govern.

Skill Smart

- Measure and record the distance between Iqaluit and Yellowknife, and between Iqaluit and Ottawa. Why do you think the people of Nunavut felt that the governments in Yellowknife and Ottawa did not understand them?

An Interview with Louis Angalik: Inuit Elder



What did the creation of Nunavut mean to you?

I was really happy because the Inuit could now use the Inuit traditions in governing ourselves. It is also a good thing for the people of Canada and the world. They will see more of Inuit culture now.

Have your hopes for Nunavut come true?

Yes, some have. We are Canadians, but with a different language and a different culture. When Nunavut was created, we started showing up more on television and on the Internet. People are more interested in us. We have the chance to show the world who we are.

How do you feel when you see the new Nunavut flag?

I like the flag. There was a contest to choose it, and I sent in my own design. Mine wasn't chosen, but I like the one that was.

What symbols did you use in your design for the flag?

It had an inuksuk. I also had a bear looking backwards. It's important to look behind every now and again, to see what you have been through. Then you turn and look forward again.

How do you feel about being Canadian?

I feel very comfortable and welcome. I feel attached to Canada.

What are your hopes for the future of Nunavut?

Now our communities are very young. There are many different dialects. We are learning to live together. We are also starting to write down our stories and histories. I used to fear that our stories and culture were being lost, but I don't have these fears anymore. Now we can maintain our language and culture.

More About . . .

Nunavut

- Nunavut has its own flag. The blue and gold symbolize the riches of the land, sea, and sky. The inuksuk symbolizes the heritage of the Inuit. The red represents Canada. The North Star stands for the leadership of Elders in the community.
- The people of Nunavut decide how to run their own schools, courts, and other services.
- "Nunavut" means *Our Land* in Inuktitut.



Thinking It Through

- What do you already know about Inuit traditions, stories, ways of life, and concerns? Why was it important to the Inuit to have their own government?

Build Your Skills!

Explore Context

Do some research on Canadian hockey teams in the Winter Olympics. Find out how many times the men's team has won the gold medal, and how many times the women's team has won gold. Make a chart or graph that shows the years in which each team won gold. Now analyze your chart or graph and tell how many times both teams have won gold in the same year. How does this information give you a context to better understand why Canadians were so happy after the 2002 Winter Olympics?

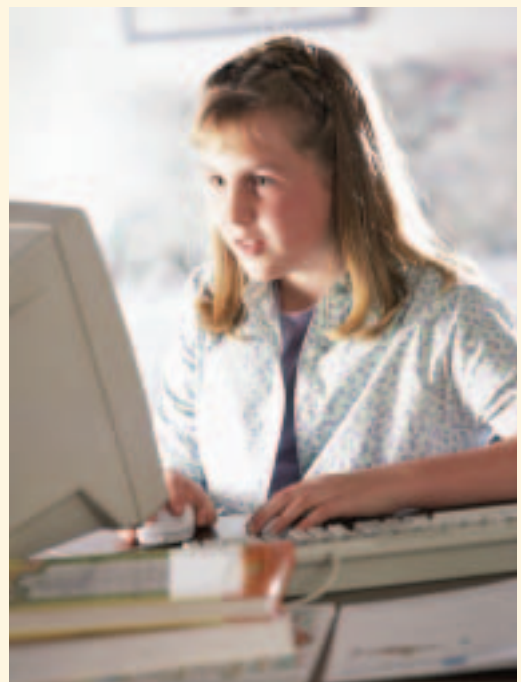
Think About Identity

Develop a list of ten words that describe what you think it means to be Canadian. Find a symbol for each word. Then use all ten symbols to create a poster about Canadian identity. Explain to your class why you chose each of the ten words and symbols.

Practise Your Research Skills

Research a place in the world where Canadians are or were involved in peacekeeping. Create a PowerPoint presentation to show your findings.

- Include a map.
- Report briefly on the problems in that area.
- Explain what kinds of work Canadian peacekeepers do there.





Putting It All Together



I went looking for information about our country's symbols. I found that the best way to keep all of the information organized was to make a chart.

Canadian Symbol	What I Think It Symbolizes
Poppies	All the Canadian soldiers who have fought in wars since 1914
The Statute of Westminster	Canada becoming more independent from Britain after World War I
Blue beret	Canada's peacekeepers
Maple leaf flag	How Canadians work together to make decisions
Constitution and Charter of Rights and Freedoms	The rights we have in Canada
Nunavut	How our country is still changing

Review what you've learned in this chapter:

- Why have other countries traditionally thought of Canada as a peacekeeping country?
- Why is it important to have a Canadian identity?



Take Time to Reflect

Design a flag for your family. Try to use symbols and colours that mean something to all the family members. Write a paragraph explaining why you chose those symbols and colours. Add the flag and explanation to your Canada Collection.