

Our Flag - A Symbol of Canada (Level 1)

The purpose of LessonPlansCanada.com© is to provide well-structured and interesting reading texts and other classroom activities. These lesson plans are aimed at both ELL students of all age groups as well as at grades 5-8 non-ELL students. Each basic lesson plan consists of a reading text, a worksheet, and one or two supplemental activities, depending on the package purchased. Answer sheets and teacher guides are also included.

Our Flag - A Symbol of Canada (Level 1) is aimed at ELL students who would be enrolled in a high-beginner level class in most high school and adult ELL classes. The vocabulary used is more sophisticated than the Beginner Level and the use of simple idiomatic English is occasionally used. Sentences are generally short and clear in meaning. The Flesch-Kincaid reading level for the text is 5.6.

Prior knowledge of Canadian history is not necessary to benefit from the reading. A simple explanation of the democratic and parliamentary process would be helpful.

The following resources were used in writing the texts:

- Lunn, Janet and Christopher Moore. The Story of Canada. Toronto: Key Porter Books Ltd., 1992.
- Owens, Ann-Maureen and Jane Yealland. Canada's Maple Leaf: The Story of Our Flag. Kids Can Press: Toronto, 1999.
- Trottier, Maxine and Brian Deines. Our Canadian Flag. Scholastic Canada Ltd.: Markham, ON, 2004.
- Archbold, Rick. "A Flag for Canada". 2009. Author's Blog. July 2009. <http://www.flagforcanada.com>
- Canada. Canadian Heritage. The National Flag of Canada. 17 Nov 2008. Jul 2009. <http://www.pch.gc.ca>

Photo credit:

- "Flag of Canada flying in the wind" by Makaristos. 2006.



Our Flag - A Symbol for Canada

1) Every country in the world has a flag. A flag is a symbol of a country. A symbol is a kind of picture that tells us something without using words.

2) Canada's flag is red and white. In the center of the flag is a red maple leaf. The background is white. There is a red bar on each side of the flag. The bar on the right stands for the east coast of Canada. The Atlantic Ocean is on the east coast. The bar on the left stands for the west coast of Canada. The Pacific Ocean is on the west coast.

3) The colours red and white were chosen for the flag. They had been the colours of both France and England. These two countries were the first European countries to explore and settle Canada.

4) In the early 1960's the Canadian government debated (talked about) making a new flag. The red and white flag became the official flag of Canada on December 31, 1964. The red maple leaf design was chosen out of thousands that were sent to Ottawa from across the country. The new flag was presented to the country and world on February 15, 1965 during a special ceremony in Ottawa, our capital city.

5) There are no laws about how our flag should be treated. We can find the flag on clothing, pins, bags, postcards, and other items. Most Canadians are proud of their flag and treat it with respect.

Vocabulary

Flag (noun)

Symbol (noun)

Background (noun)

Bar (noun)

Coast (noun)

Explore (verb)

Settle (verb)

Government (noun)

Official (adjective)

Design (noun)

Laws (noun)

Proud (adjective)

Respect (noun)

Fast Facts



- Each province and territory has its own flag.
- The red colour that is used on the flag was chosen because it does not turn to orange in the sun.
- A real maple leaf has 26 points but the flag leaf has only 11 because it looks better on a flag blowing in the wind.

Worksheet: Fix It!

Correct the statements below so that they agree with what you read in “Our Flag - A Symbol for Canada”. The incorrect answer is underlined. Replace it with the correct word. The first one has been done for you.

1. Canada’s red and blue flag is a symbol of our country.
Correct Word: White
2. Canada’s flag has a flower leaf on it.
Correct Word: _____
3. The two bars on the flag stand for two territories.
Correct Word: _____
4. Red and white were once the colours of England and Spain.
Correct Word: _____
5. Our government began thinking about a new flag in the late 1960’s.
Correct Word: _____
6. People sent in millions of designs for the flag
Correct Word: _____
7. There are some laws about how the flag should be treated.
Correct Word: _____

Worksheet: Answer It!

Read *Fast Facts* on page 2. Answer the questions below with short answers.

1. Canada has its own flag. What other parts of Canada have one too?

2. A certain shade of red was chosen for Canada's flag. Why?

3. Why does the flag only have 11 points on its maple leaf?

Worksheet: Finish It!

Using the vocabulary words on page 1, complete these sentences. Use each word once.

1. Our flag became _____ on December 31, 1964.

2. The _____ colour of the flag is white.

3. Canadians are _____ of their flag.

4. Canada has a _____ and so do the provinces and territories.

5. France was one of the first European countries to _____ Canada.

6. England was an early European country to _____ Canada.

7. The maple leaf on the flag is called a _____ of Canada.

8. The _____ on each side of the flag is red.

9. We have no _____ about how to treat the flag.

10. The _____ for the flag was chosen from thousands.

11. The Pacific Ocean is found on the west _____ of Canada.

12. In 1965 the _____ of Canada picked the new flag.

13. All flags should be treated with _____.

Our Flag - A Symbol of Canada Answer Sheet

Answer Sheet: Fix It!

Correct the statements below so that they agree with what you read in "Our Flag - A Symbol of Canada". The incorrect word is underlined. Replace it with the correct word. The first one has been done for you.

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Canada's red and <u>blue</u> flag is a symbol of our country. | WHITE |
| 2. Canada's flag has a <u>flower</u> leaf on it. | MAPLE |
| 3. The two bars on the flag stand for two <u>territories</u> . | COASTS |
| 4. Red and white were once the colours of England and <u>Spain</u> . | FRANCE |
| 5. Our government began thinking about a new flag in the <u>late</u> 1960's. | EARLY |
| 6. People sent in <u>millions</u> of designs for the flag. | THOUSANDS |
| 7. There are <u>some</u> laws about how the flag should be treated. | NO |

Answer Sheet: Answer It!

Read "Fast Facts" on page 2. Answer the questions below with short answers.

- Q1. Canada has its own flag. What other parts of Canada have one too?
A1. THE TEN PROVINCES AND THREE TERRITORIES ALL HAVE THEIR OWN FLAGS.
- Q2. A certain shade of red was chosen for Canada's flag. Why?
A2. THE SHADE CHOSEN WOULD NOT TURN TO ORANGE IN THE SUN.
- Q3. Why does the flag only have 11 points on its maple leaf?
A3. IT LOOKS BETTER WHEN IT IS BLOWING IN THE WIND.

Answer Sheet: Finish It!

Using the vocabulary words on page 1, complete these sentences. Use each word once.

1. Our flag became OFFICIAL on December 31, 1964.
2. The BACKGROUND colour of the flag is white.
3. Canadians are PROUD of their flag.
4. Canada has a FLAG and so do the provinces and territories.
5. France was one of the first European countries to SETTLE or EXPLORE Canada.
6. England was an early European country to SETTLE or EXPLORE Canada.
7. The maple leaf on the flag is called a SYMBOL of Canada.
8. The BAR on each side of the flag is red.
9. We have no LAWS about how to treat the flag.
10. The DESIGN for the flag was chosen from thousands.
11. The Pacific Ocean is found on the west COAST of Canada.