

CANADA: a profile



Canada's flag depicts the **maple leaf**, the Canadian symbol which dates back to the early 18th century.



The Royal Coat of Arms

Canada, being part of the **British Commonwealth**, shares the **Royal Coat of Arms** with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Motto

From Sea to Sea

Anthem

O Canada

Royal anthem

God Save the Queen

Capital

Ottawa

Largest city

Toronto

Official languages

English, French

Status

Parliamentary democracy and federal constitutional monarchy

Government

The British Monarch
Governor-General
Prime Minister

Area

9,984,670 km² (the 2nd country in the world)

Population

33,160,800

Density

3.2/ km²

Currency

Canadian dollar (\$) (CAD)

Time zone

(UTC = Universal Coordinated Time)
-3.5 to -8

Internet TLD

.ca

Calling code

+1



The **Royal Canadian Mounted Police** is one of the Canadian symbols, along with the **maple leaf**, beaver, Canada goose, common loon and the Crown.



Ice Hockey, the national winter sport in Canada, is represented by the **National Hockey League (NHL)** at the highest level.



The name **Canada** comes from the word **kanata**, meaning **village** or **settlement**. **Jacques Cartier**, the explorer of Canada, misused this word to refer to not only the village, but the entire area of the country.



The **Horseshoe Fall** in Ontario is the largest component of the **Niagara Falls**.

CANADA: A FACTFILE



1. The Official Name of the Country

Canada is a country occupying most of northern North America, washed by the Atlantic Ocean in the east, by the Pacific Ocean in the west and by the Arctic Ocean in the north. It is the world's second largest country by total area after Russia.

The name *Canada* comes from the Indian word *kanata* meaning “a village” or “a settlement”. By 1545, the European books and maps began to call this region Canada.

The capital of the country is *Ottawa*. It became the capital of the country in 1857 by the British Queen Victoria's decree.

2. The National Symbols



The *National Flag of Canada*, also known as the *Maple Leaf*, and *l'Unifolié* (French for *the one-leafed*), is a red flag with a white square in its centre, depicting an 11-pointed red maple leaf. It was officially adopted in Canada to replace the British Union Flag. The flag made its first appearance on February 15th, 1965; the date is now celebrated annually as *National Flag of Canada Day*.

The maple leaf and the maple tree are the national flora symbols of Canada.



A maple tree

The Arms of Canada, also known as the Royal Coat of Arms of Canada or, formally, as the Arms of His/Her Majesty in Right of Canada, appeared on November 21st, 1921.

The motto of Canada is *A Mari Usque Ad Mare* (Latin). It means *From Sea to Sea* in English.

'*O Canada*' is the national anthem of the country, while '*God Save the Queen*' is the royal one. The national anthem exists both in English and in French.

English	French
<p>1. O Canada! Our home and native land! True patriot-love in all thy sons command. With glowing hearts we see thee rise, The True North, strong and free, And stand on guard, O Canada, We stand on guard for thee.</p> <p>Refrain:</p> <p>O Canada, glorious and free! We stand on guard, we stand on guard for thee. O Canada, we stand on guard for thee!</p> <p>2. O Canada! Where pines and maples grow, Great prairies spread and lordly rivers flow, How dear to us thy broad domain, From East to Western Sea, Thou land of hope for all who toil! Thou True North, strong and free!</p> <p>3. O Canada! Beneath thy shining skies May stalwart sons and gentle maidens rise, To keep thee steadfast through the years From East to Western Sea, Our own beloved native land! Our True North, strong and free!</p>	<p>1. Ô Canada! Terre de nos aïeux, Ton front est ceint de fleurons glorieux! Car ton bras sait porter l'épée, Il sait porter la croix! Ton histoire est une épopée Des plus brillants exploits, Et ta valeur, de foi trempée, Protégera nos foyers et nos droits, Protégera nos foyers et nos droits.</p> <p>2. Sous l'oeil de Dieu, près du fleuve géant, Le Canadien grandit en espérant. Il est né d'une race fière, Béni fut son berceau; Le ciel a marqué sa carrière Dans ce monde nouveau, Toujours guidée par sa lumière Il gardera l'honneur de son drapeau, Il gardera l'honneur de son drapeau.</p> <p>3. De son patron, précurseur du vrai Dieu, Il porte au front l'aureole de feu, Ennemi de la tyrannie, Mais plein de loyauté, Il veut garder dans l'harmonie Sa fière liberté, Et par l'effort de son génie, Sur notre sol asseoir la vérité, Sur notre sol asseoir la vérité.</p>

The main national holiday in Canada is *Dominion Day*. A dominion is the term once applied to the British colonies which became self-governing under the British Crown. The holiday is celebrated on July 1st as the anniversary of the dominion establishment.

3. The Status and Government

Canada is *a constitutional monarchy*. The British Monarch is the head of the state, who is represented by the Governor-General at the federal level and by the Governors at the state levels. Canada is also *a parliamentary democracy* as it has a parliament and strong democratic traditions.

There are three branches of government in Canada:

- *The Legislative Power*: the federal Parliament, which is made up of the Queen, the Senate (the upper house) and the House of Commons (the lower house). The members of the Senate are not elected in Canada. The seat of the Parliament is the Parliament House, which is situated on the Parliament Hill in Ottawa.



Parliament Hill, Ottawa

- *The Executive Power*: the Cabinet, a committee of the Privy Council which is appointed by the British Monarch. It is made up of Ministers of the Crown, all of whom are responsible to the elected House of Commons. The Cabinet is headed by *the Prime Minister*, who holds the position of the head of the government and chooses the ministers from the MPs.
- *The Judiciary Power*: the Supreme Court of Canada as the highest court and superior courts at the provincial and territorial levels.

In Canada, elections are held once in five years.

There are four political parties: the Conservative Party of Canada, the Liberal Party of Canada, the New Democratic Party (NDP) and the Bloc Québécois.

4. The Provinces and Territories



Canada consists of *ten provinces* (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec, Ontario, Newfoundland & Labrador, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia) *and three territories* (Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut). The provinces have a larger degree of autonomy from the federal government than the territories. Each has its own provincial or territorial symbols.

All the provinces have one-chamber, elected legislatures headed by a Premier, elected in the same way as the Prime Minister of Canada. Each province also has a Lieutenant-Governor representing the British Monarch.

5. The Geography and Location



Canada occupies the major northern part of North America, having the land borders with the United States in the south and with the US state of Alaska in the northwest. It stretches *within five time zones*: from the Atlantic Ocean in the east to the Pacific Ocean in the west; to the north lies the Arctic Ocean. The central part of Canada is called *the Canadian Shield*.

By total area (including its waters), Canada is the second largest country in the world, after Russia, and the largest on the American continent. Canada has the longest coastline in the world: 243,000 kilometres.

Canada has more lakes than any other country (more than 2,000,000 ones) and it has a large amount of the world's fresh water. Some of the lakes are *the Great Bear* (the largest one), *the Great Slave*, *the Winnipeg*, *The Huron*, *the Superior*, *the Erie* and *the Ontario* are the four of the five Great Lakes, that are both in the United States and in Canada.

There are several rivers in the country. The most important of them are *the Saint Lawrence River*, *the Mackenzie River* (the longest one) and *the South Nahanni River*. The latter is home to *Virginia Falls*, a waterfall about twice as high as Niagara Falls, which belong to the world's greatest waterfalls, a major source of hydroelectric power.

The main mountain chains are *the Canadian Cordilleras* and *the Canadian Rockies*. Both chains stretch across the North American continent and are in the USA and Canada. *The Appalachians* stretch in the south of the country.

The Canadian mountains have many high peaks. The highest peak is *Mount Logan* (6,050 m). It is the highest in Canada and the second highest in North America after *Mount McKinley* (6,193 m) in Alaska, the USA.

Canada has a continental climate, but the average temperatures across the country vary, depending on the location.

6. The Environment

The fauna of Canada includes mammals (млекопитающие), reptiles, amphibians, fish, birds and insects. Canada is known for its mammals such as the American bison, the arctic hare, the badger, the beaver, the black bear, the bobcat, the coyote, the grizzly bear, the red fox and many others.



A bobcat



A grizzly bear

The Canadian birds are the American robin (дрозд), the black-capped chickadee (синица-черноголовка), the ruby-throated hummingbird (колибри), and the whooping crane (журавль).



A black-capped chickadee



A ruby-throated hummingbird

In Canada, there are approximately 17,000 species of trees, flowers, herbs and other flora.

There are many forests, woods and national parks in Canada. The largest national park in the world – *Wood Buffalo* – is also in Canada.

7. The Population

Canada is a multinational country. There are about 34 ethnic groups. 83% of the total population are white.

The largest ethnic groups are *Canadians of British origin* (44%) and *Canadians of French origin* (28%). 25% are the other *Canadian Europeans* (of Scottish, Irish, German, Italian, etc. origin). The Aboriginal peoples, the Indians and Eskimos, are called *the First Nations* (3%).

40% of the population identify themselves as Canadians.

8. The Languages: English and French

Canada's two official languages are English and French. They have an equal status in the federal courts, the Parliament and in all the federal institutions. The public has the right to receive the federal government services in either English or French. The official language minorities are guaranteed their own schools in all the provinces and territories.

English and French are the mother tongues of 60% and 23% of the population respectively. They are the languages most spoken in the country. 98.5% of the Canadians speak English or French: 67.5% speak English only, 13% speak French only, and 18% speak both.

The English-versus-French struggle between French-speaking Quebec and the other nine provinces, where English is the majority language, remains high. The Charter of the French Language in Quebec makes French the official language in this province. Although 85% of the French-speaking Canadians live in Quebec, there are a lot of people, who speak French in Ontario, Alberta and some other provinces. Ontario has the largest French-speaking population outside Quebec. French is used as a language of instruction, in courts and for other government services in addition to English.

There are about 50 universities in Canada. The Laval University in Quebec and Montreal University are French-language ones, i.e. their students are taught in French only.

The movement for Quebec's independence is still a political issue, and the differences between French Quebec and English Canada do not just apply to the languages only. The French influence of Quebec can be seen in architecture, music,

food and religion. With little in common culturally, it is not difficult to realize that the relations between French Quebec and English Canada are quite tense. Quebec feels its differences, but these sentiments are neither understood nor appreciated by the rest of the country. It is for these reasons that many Quebecers favour the formation of a sovereignty association relationship with the other provinces of the country.

Several aboriginal languages have an official status in Northwest Territories. Inuktitut is the majority language in Nunavut, and one of the three official languages in this territory.

Some non-official languages are important in Canada, too. They are Chinese, Italian, German and others.

9. The Religions

Religious pluralism is an important part of Canada's political culture. Most of the Canadians are Christians. Catholics make up the largest group (43.6% of the Canadians). The largest religious institution is the United Church of Canada.

About 17% of the Canadians do not belong to any religion.

10. The History

15,000 years ago: The first people come to the new land from Asia. Today they are known as Indians.

5,000 years ago: The ancestors of the Eskimos come to Alaska.

1,000 years ago: The vikings, the first European visitors, try to settle in northern Newfoundland.

1497: The English seaman John Cabot proclaims the new land as the property of the English monarch.

1534: The French explorer Jacques Cartier discovers the Gulf of St. Lawrence. He is now regarded as the founder of Canada.

1535: Jacques Cartier misuses the native word *kanata* meaning "a village" or "a settlement" to refer to the entire new land, calling it Canada.

1608: The French explorer Samuel de Champlain founds Quebec City.

1663: Canada becomes a province of France. The French call it New France or French Canada.

1759 – 1763: The British capture Quebec and later obtain control of New France.

1774: The French retain the rights to their own language, religion and civil law.

1791: Canada is divided into the English-speaking Upper Canada (now Ontario) and the French-speaking Lower Canada (now Quebec).

1841: The two colonies (the Upper and Lower Canadas) are united under the name *the Province of Canada*.

1849: English and French are proclaimed as the two official state languages.

1857: Ottawa becomes the capital of Canada.

1867: The country becomes a confederation and assumes the name *the Dominion of Canada*. Dominion Day is celebrated on July 1st.

1931: Canada becomes entirely independent of Great Britain in its domestic and foreign policies. The head of the state is the monarch of Britain represented by the Governor-General.

1960: French-speaking Quebec gets strongly separatist.

1976 – 1995: The sovereignty sentiments in Quebec are very strong. To please the Quebecers, the province is recognized as *a distinct society*. In the 1980 sovereignty referendum, the separatists are defeated by 60% of the vote only.

11. The Currency and Economy

The Canadian dollar is the currency of Canada. It is subdivided into 100 cents. The Canadian banknotes depict the country's famous people.



Wilfrid Laurier (the seventh Prime Minister of Canada)

John A. Macdonald (the first Prime Minister of Canada)

Queen Elizabeth II

William Lyon Mackenzie King (the tenth Prime Minister of Canada)

Robert Borden (the eighth Prime Minister of Canada)

In the 20th century, Canada became a highly developed industrial country, entirely independent of Britain only to find itself more dependent on the United States than it had been on Britain. Most of the Canadian companies belonged to the US capital, being “daughter” companies of the US big concerns. In 1969 the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Trudeau, said in Washington, “Living next to you is, in some ways, like sleeping with an elephant. No matter how friendly and even-tempered is the beast, if I may call it that, one is affected by every twitch and grunt.”

Canada has tried to veer away from Washington's policies and to put an end to its dependence on the world's leading powers, especially Britain and the USA.

At present, Canada is one of the world's richest nations with a high income, a member of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Group of Eight (G8). Canada has a free market economy with slightly more

government intervention than the United States, but much less than most European nations. Canada has traditionally had a lower per-capita gross domestic product (GDP) than its southern neighbour, but higher than the large western European economies. Today Canada closely resembles the US in its market-oriented economic system, its pattern of production and its high living standards.

Atlantic Canada has vast offshore deposits of natural gas. Large oil and gas resources are centred in Alberta. Hydroelectric power is a cheap and clean source of renewable energy in Quebec, British Columbia, Newfoundland & Labrador, Ontario and Manitoba.

Canada is one of the few developed nations that is a net exporter of energy. It is one of the world's most important suppliers of agricultural products, such as wheat, and other grains. Canada is the world's largest producer of minerals. It also has a large manufacturing sector.

Canada is highly dependent on the international trade, especially the trade with the United States. Since 2001, Canada has successfully avoided economic recession and has maintained the best overall economic performance in the G8. Since the mid-1990s, Canada's federal government has steadily paid down the national debt.

12. The Largest Cities of Canada

Canada is a country of large cities. The most important among them is the capital of the country, Ottawa. It is situated on the picturesque bank of the Ottawa River. The name of the city comes from the Indian word meaning "trade" because, for a very long time, Ottawa has been a large trading centre. The suburbs of the city house different industrial factories: electronic enterprises, food processing factories, paper mills and others. Ottawa is called a city of bridges. There are more than 20 bridges in the city. Ottawa is famous for its walks, along which about a million of tulips bloom in spring.



Ottawa, the capital since 1857; Rideau Hall (the official residence of the Governor General), the National Museum of Canada (collections representing the Indian and Eskimo cultures), the Public Archives of Canada, the Royal Canadian War Museum, the Royal Canadian Mint, Ottawa University (with classes for English- and French-speaking students).



Montreal, the major city in the province of Quebec; Canada’s financial, commercial and industrial centre; the largest French-speaking city in the world after Paris; Mount Royal Park, James Street (known as “Wall Street of Canada”), Notre Dame de Montreal (the most famous church, its name resembles “Notre Dame de Paris”), the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts; the residential areas are divided into French-speaking and English-speaking neighbourhoods.



Toronto, the largest city in the province of Ontario; a large port, an international airport, an industrial and manufacturing centre, an artistic and musical centre with the Art Gallery of Toronto, the Royal Conservatory of Music, the Royal Ontario Museum; a student centre with the University of Toronto, Ryerson Institute of Technology, York University.



Edmonton, the capital of the province of Alberta; the University of Alberta.



Calgary, the administrative and financial centre of Canada's oil industry; the Provincial Institute of Technology and Art, Mount Royal College, the Allied Arts Centre, the Philharmonic Orchestra, the Jubilee Auditorium.



Vancouver, the youngest and most dynamic city of the country, the largest city in the province of British Columbia, noted for its large Oriental population and, due to this, colourful folk festivals, including the annual Vancouver Festival of the Arts.

13. The Culture and Science in Canada

Canada is a multicultural society. The French and British traditions and the constant infusion of the United States' culture give the Canadian nation and culture their complex three-dimensional character. The Canadians have always struggled for their cultural identity against the cultural influence of the French, the British and especially of their southern neighbour, the USA. Due to this struggle, Canada is not just a blender counterpart of these cultures. The peoples of Canada have created a country that is decidedly different, being quite original and distinctive. The national sense of cultural unease has produced a torrent of great outstanding people, who display the distinct Canadian spirit in their creative work and heritage. Below are just a few of them.

Literature



Stephen Butler Leacock, a humorist and satiric writer: numerous stories, ironic and even bitterly satiric of the modern human society and its “moral” values.

- *Dyson Carter*, a writer: “Russia’s Secret Weapon” (“Секретное оружие России”, a book about the Soviet science), the novels “Tomorrow Is With Us” (Будущее за нами), “Fatherless Sons” (СЫНОВЬЯ БЕЗ ОТЦОВ).
- *The contemporary writers* of the last decades of the 20th century are Margaret Atwood, Alice Munro, Robertson Davies, Michael Ondaatjee, Mordecai Richler, Réjean Ducharme, Brian Moore.

Fine Arts, Music, Opera

Masters of fine arts (painters, sculptors) and of music (singers, musicians, composers) are often associated with particular societies and their cultures. If the works of these masters are known all over the world, it helps their nation to be recognized as a cultural society in the world, too. Canada is proud of its talented men and women, whose creative heritage contributes to the country’s cultural identity and traditions.

The Canadian outstanding modern artists are A.A. Bronson (mixed media), Ken Danby (a painter), Nina Raginsky (a photographer), and Brett Davis (a sculptor).

Among *the Canadian modern musicians* are Leonard Cohen, Joni Mitchell, Neil Young.



George London, a famous Canadian bass-baritone singer

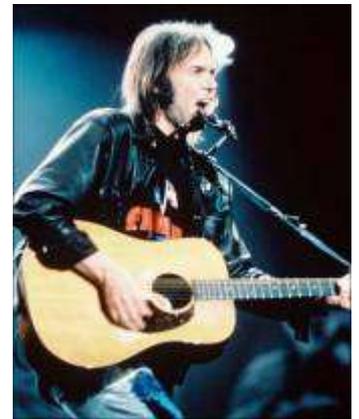
Popular Music



Avril Lavigne



Celine Dion



Neil Young

Acting



Carrie-Anne Moss
Spider-Man («Человек-паук», 1994-1998)
Matrix, The... Trinity («Матрица», 1999)
Matrix, Reloaded («Матрица:Перезагрузка», 2003)



Jim Carrey
The Mask («Маска», 1994)
Dumb and Dumber («Тупой, еще тупее», 1994)
Liar, Liar («Лжец, лжец», 1997)
Bruce Almighty («Брюс всемогущий», 2003)



Pamela Anderson
Show Girls («Шоугерлз», 1995)
Scary Movie 3 («Очень страшное кино – 3», 2003)

Science

Canada is a leading country in scientific research and technological innovations:

- *Frederick Banting* and *John MacLeod*, physiologists, the Nobel Prize for the discovery of insulin;
- *Gerhard Herzberg*, a physical chemist, the Nobel Prize for research in chemistry;
- *Ludwig Bertalanffy*, a biologist: the general system theory;
- *Clement Boman*, the Nobel Prize for research in power engineering (“Global Energy”) in 2007.

14. The Mass Media in Canada

Canada has a well-developed media sector. The Canadian television broadcasting industry is either public or private. The country has 130 television stations and about 2000 radio stations.

Almost all the Canadian cities have many daily newspapers and some community and neighbourhood weeklies. The bilingual cities, like Montreal and Ottawa, have important papers in both French and English.

The Canadian two national newspapers are *The Globe and Mail* and the *National Post*. *Le Devoir* is the French-language national newspaper.

15. The Sports in Canada

Canada's official national sports are ice hockey (winter) and lacrosse (summer). Lacrosse is a Canadian national game of Indian origin. Ice hockey is a national pastime and the most popular sport in the country. Due to this, in the National Hockey League (NHL) there are more Canadian players than from all the other countries combined.

After hockey, the other popular sports include curling (an ice game) and football; the latter is played professionally in the Canadian Football League (CFL). Golf, baseball, skiing, soccer, volleyball and basketball are popular among young Canadians.

Canada has hosted several international sporting events, including the 1976 Summer Olympics, the 1988 Winter Olympics, and the 2007 FIFA U-20 World Cup. Canada has also been the host country for the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver and Whistler (the province *British Columbia*).