

# CITIZENSHIP QUESTIONS from “A LOOK AT CANADA” 2005 edition

## SECTION I: QUESTIONS ABOUT CANADA

### Aboriginal Peoples

- 1. Who are the Aboriginal peoples of Canada?**  
First peoples to live in Canada
- 2. What are the three main groups of Aboriginal peoples?**  
First Nations, Inuit and Metis
- 3. From whom are the Métis descended?**  
French fur traders or English traders and First Nations women
- 4. Which group of Aboriginal peoples make up more than half the population of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut?**  
Inuit
- 5. Why are the Aboriginal peoples of Canada working toward self-government?**  
To regain control over decisions that affect them and to manage their own affairs

### History

- 1. Where did the first European settlers in Canada come from?**  
France
- 2. Why did the early explorers first come to Atlantic Canada?**  
To fish and trade with the Aboriginals
- 3. What three industries helped the early settlers build communities in the Atlantic region?**  
Farming, fishing and shipbuilding
- 4. Who were the United Empire Loyalists?**  
They were settlers who moved to Atlantic Canada from the United States as a result of the American Revolution
- 5. When did settlers from France first establish communities on the St. Lawrence River?**  
Early 1600s
- 6. Which trade spread across Canada, making it important to the economy for over 300 years?**  
Fur trade
- 7. What form of transportation did Aboriginal peoples and fur traders use to create trading networks in North America?**  
Water transportation (via Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River)
- 8. What important trade did the Hudson Bay Company control?**  
Fur trade
- 9. What did the government do to make immigration to western Canada much easier?**  
Built the railway across the country

## **Confederation/Government**

**1. What does Confederation mean?**

It means “joined together”

**2. What is the Canadian Constitution?**

It is the system of laws and conventions that we use to govern ourselves

**3. What year was Confederation?**

1867

**4. When did the British North America Act come into effect?**

1867

**5. Why is the British North America Act important in Canadian history?**

It created the new country of Canada

**6. Which four provinces first formed the Confederation?**

Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia

**7. Which was the last province to join Canada?**

Newfoundland

**8. When is Canada Day and what does it celebrate?**

Canada Day is celebrated on July 1 and it is the anniversary of Confederation

**9. Who was the first prime minister of Canada?**

Sir John A. Macdonald

**10. Why is the Constitution Act of 1982 important in Canadian history?**

It gave the Parliament of Canada the power to change our Constitution without British government approval

## **Rights and Responsibilities**

**1. What part of the Constitution legally protects the basic rights and freedoms of all Canadians?**

Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

**2. When did the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms become part of the Canadian Constitution?**

1982

**3. Name two fundamental freedoms protected by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.**

Freedom of: religion, thought, belief, opinion, expression

**4. Name three legal rights protected by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.**

Life, liberty and security of person

**5. List three ways in which you can protect the environment.**

Recycle, walk, car pool, bicycle, use public transit, use public garbage containers, conserve energy and water

**6. Who has the right to apply for a Canadian passport?**

Canadian citizens

**7. What does “equality under the law” mean?**

Every Canadian has an equal right to the protection and services of the police and the courts

**8. Name (six) responsibilities of citizenship?**

Responsibilities include: to vote; to help others in the community; to care and protect heritage and environment; to obey Canada’s laws; to express opinions freely while respecting rights and freedoms of others; to eliminate discrimination and injustice

**9. Give an example of how you can show responsibility by participating in your community.**

Help your neighbours, volunteer in an election, work with others to solve a community problem, become a candidate in an election, join a community group such as an environmental group

**10. List four rights Canadian citizens have.**

Democratic rights, legal rights, equality rights, mobility rights , aboriginal rights

**11. What will you promise when you take the Oath of Citizenship?**

To be faithful and to bear true allegiance to the Queen; to observe the laws of Canada and to fulfill duties as a citizen

## **Languages**

**1. What are the two official languages of Canada?**

English and French

**2. Give an example of where English and French have equal status in Canada.**

Federal government services, criminal trials, Federal courts and institutions

**3. Where do most French-speaking Canadians live?**

Quebec

**4. Which province has the most bilingual Canadians?**

Quebec

**5. Which province is the only officially bilingual province?**

New Brunswick

## **Symbols**

**1. What does the Canadian flag look like?**

Red and white with a maple leaf in the middle

**2. What song is Canada’s national anthem?**

O Canada

**3. Give the first two lines of Canada’s national anthem.**

O Canada! Our home and native land!

True patriot love in all thy sons command

**4. Where does the name “Canada” come from?**

The First Nations word “kanata,” which means “village”

**5. Which animal is an official symbol of Canada?**

Beaver

- 6. What is the tower in the centre of the Parliament buildings called?**  
Peace Tower

## **Geography**

- 1. What is the population of Canada?**  
About 31 million people
- 2. What three oceans border on Canada?**  
Arctic, Pacific and Atlantic Oceans
- 3. What is the capital city of Canada?**  
Ottawa (Ontario)
- 4. Name all the provinces and territories and their capital cities.**  
See our sheet "Political Leaders and Representatives"
- 5. Name the five regions of Canada.**  
Atlantic, Central, Prairie, West Coast and North
- 6. Which region covers more than one-third of Canada?**  
Northern Region
- 7. In which region do more than half the people in Canada live?**  
Central area
- 8. One-third of all Canadians live in which province?**  
Ontario
- 9. Where are the Canadian Rockies?**  
They are in British Columbia and Alberta along the border
- 10. Where are the Great Lakes?**  
They are in Ontario along the border with the United States
- 11. Which mountain range forms a border between Alberta and British Columbia?**  
Rocky Mountains
- 12. Where are the Parliament buildings located?**  
Ottawa, Ontario
- 13. Which country borders Canada on the south?**  
United States of America
- 14. What are the Prairie provinces?**  
Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta
- 15. Which province in Canada is the smallest in land size?**  
Prince Edward Island
- 16. What is a major river in Quebec?**  
St. Lawrence River
- 17. On what date did Nunavut become a territory?**  
April 1, 1999

## **Economy**

- 1. What are the three main types of industries in Canada?**  
Natural resources, manufacturing and services
- 2. In what industry do most Canadians work?**  
Most work in service industries
- 3. What country is Canada's largest trading partner?**  
United States of America
- 4. Which region is known as the industrial and manufacturing heartland of Canada?**  
Central Canada
- 5. Which region of Canada is known for both its fertile agricultural land and valuable energy resources?**  
Prairie provinces

## **Federal Government**

- 1. Who is Canada's Head of State?**  
Queen Elizabeth II
- 2. Who is the Queen's representative in Canada?**  
The Governor General
- 3. What is the name of the Governor General?**  
Michaëlle Jean
- 4. What do you call the Queen's representative in the province?**  
The Lieutenant-Governor
- 5. What is Canada's system of government called?**  
Canada has a system of parliamentary government
- 6. What are the three parts of Parliament?**  
The Queen, the House of Commons and the Senate
- 7. Explain how the levels of government are different.**  
Federal, provincial and municipal governments each have different responsibilities – see page 30 for a list of these responsibilities.
- 8. What do you call a law before it is passed?**  
A bill
- 9. How are members of Parliament chosen?**  
They are elected by the Canadian people
- 10. Who do members of Parliament represent?**  
They represent the Canadian people
- 11. How does a bill become law?**  
A bill must be approved by a majority in both the House of Commons and the Senate
- 12. What are the three levels of government in Canada?**  
Federal, provincial or territorial and municipal

**13. Name two responsibilities for each level of government.**

The federal level is responsible for defense and citizenship; the provincial level is responsible for education and health care; and the municipal level is responsible for policing and firefighting

**14. What is the government of all of Canada called?**

It is called the federal government

## **Federal Elections**

**1. How many electoral districts are there in Canada?**

There are 308 electoral districts

**2. In what electoral district do you live?**

See our sheet “Political Leaders and Representatives”

**3. Who has the right to vote in federal elections?**

Canadian citizens who are at least 18 years of age

**4. What three requirements must you meet in order to vote in a federal election?**

You must be a Canadian citizen, 18 years of age and be on the list of electors

**5. What is written on an election ballot?**

The names of the candidates in the electoral district in alphabetical order are on the ballot

**6. What do you mark on a federal election ballot?**

You mark an X

**7. How is the government formed after an election?**

The party with the most elected representatives forms the government

**8. How is the prime minister chosen?**

The leader of the party in power becomes the Prime Minister

**9. When does an election have to be held according to the Constitution?**

An election must be called within 5 years of the last election

**10. Name all the federal political parties represented in the House of Commons and their leaders.**

See “Political Leaders and Representatives”; [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca)

**11. Which party becomes the Official Opposition?**

The opposition party with the most elected representatives is the Official Opposition

**12. What is the role of the Opposition parties?**

Their role is to oppose or try to improve government proposals

**13. Which party is the Official Opposition at the federal level?**

See “Political Leaders and Representatives”; [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca)

**14. Name the Prime Minister of Canada and his or her party.**

See “Political Leaders and Representatives”; [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca)

**15. Name your Member of Parliament and the party he or she belongs to.**

See “Political Leaders and Representatives”; [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca)

**16. What is a voter information card?**

A card sent to voters by Elections Canada telling them when and where to vote

**17. Who has the right to run as a candidate in federal elections?**

Canadian citizens who are at least 18 years of age

**18. Who do Canadians vote for in a federal election?**

They vote for the candidate they want to represent them in the House of Commons

**19. What do political parties do?**

They decide on the party platform, choose the party leader, choose the party's candidates, and campaign for party candidates in elections

**20. Which federal political party is in power?**

See "Political Leaders and Representatives": [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca)

**21. How are senators chosen?**

They are chosen by the Prime Minister and appointed by the Governor-General

**22. What should you do if you do not receive a voter information card telling you when and where to vote?**

Call Elections Canada or visit their website at [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca)

**23. After the federal election, which party forms the new government?**

The party with the most elected representatives

## **SECTION II: QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR REGION**

**1. What is the capital city of the province or territory in which you live?**

Victoria

**2. List three natural resources important to your region's economy today.**

Forests, minerals and water

**Questions 3. to 9. For specific questions about the political leaders please see "Political Leaders and Representatives".**