

ACTIVITY ONE: BRAINSTORM CANADA

Objectives:

- To be aware of different American views of Canada
- To expand understanding of Canada and its people

Materials:

- Butcher paper and/or blackboard

Procedure:

1. List brainstorm rules on blackboard.
2. Provide introductory comments about Canada. Ask class, "What comes to mind when you hear the word Canada?" List student comments exactly as they are given.
3. Individually or in groups, have students sort brainstormed items into common groupings.
4. Label each grouping/column in a way that describes the terms listed (e.g., physical geography). Show grouping to the class and discuss their viewpoints of Canada.
5. Debrief class by discussing the following questions:
 - a. What do we, the class, know most about Canada?
 - b. Do you think we have an accurate view of Canada?
 - c. Suggest some differences and similarities between Canada and the United States.
 - d. What advantages are there for people in the U.S. to learn about Canada and its people?
6. Administer pre-test on Canada (see Activity Fifteen: Canada Quiz). Discuss results.
7. Consider Activity Twelve: Points of View.

Notes for Teaching:

Brainstorming allows students to generate ideas about a topic in an open-ended discussion. The rules for students are:

1. Any idea is acceptable.
2. Feel free to combine ideas or to piggy-back one upon another.
3. Many ideas are important—even if they are incorrect.
4. Speak right up.
5. Do not evaluate any idea—e.g., "That's a good/bad idea."
6. Do not provide explanations or promote particular ideas.

When introducing Canada, suggest that our views of a country are often influenced by personal experiences (e.g., travels, friends, media). Collectively, individual views can contribute to a greater understanding—the purpose of brainstorming.

Questions for debriefing can be written on the board for class discussion. Emphasis should be on the various views expressed in class (similar and different) and how viewpoints are influenced by personal experiences.

The pretest is for students to find out what they know. Results should NOT be used for grading, but rather as a starting point for studying Canada.