

ACTIVITY TWO: WHERE CANADIANS LIVE

Objectives:

- To know where the people live
- To recognize how Canadian population is distributed
- To compare the distribution of Canadian and American people

Materials:

- Text pp. XXX
- Wall maps of Canada and the United States
- Figure Two: Provinces, Capitals and Major Cities
- Figures Sixteen or Seventeen: Outline Map of Canada
- Table One: Population and Area, Canada and the U.S.

Procedure:

1. List the ten provinces and three territories on the blackboard. Record students' comments on what they know about each province. Have them estimate the most populated and least populated provinces.
2. Distribute Figures Sixteen or Seventeen: Outline Map of Canada. Ask students to:
 - a. Draw a line 150 miles north of the United States-Canada border.
 - b. Shade the area as the populated portion of Canada.
 - c. List Canadian cities located in the shaded area.
3. Have students construct a bar graph showing the population of the ten provinces using Table One: Population and Area, Canada and the U.S. Include in the graph the population of their state.
4. Using only the map, have students rank the ten provinces in order of area. Validate estimates with land areas shown in Table One. Discuss whether there is any relationship between the area and population of provinces.
5. Compare where Canadians and Americans live. Discuss possible reasons for the population distribution and how the distribution might influence the outlook of people. Make a list of the advantages and disadvantages of Canadians living close to the United States border.
6. Conduct a class quiz with the use of a wall map of North America or the students' map of Canada. Some questions to ask students are:
 - a. What five states are located near where most Canadians live?
 - b. How many states and how many provinces border the United States-Canada boundary?

- c. Which capital city of Canada is farthest from the U.S. border?
- d. Which Canadian provinces do not border the United States?
- e. Which city is farthest north: Seattle, Chicago, Toronto or Halifax?

Notes for Teaching:

This activity enables students to understand where Canadians live and changes in the distribution of Canadian population, especially the growth in the West. The activity may take one to three periods depending on how much help students will need with graph construction and interpretation.

Having students become familiar with Canadian provinces and their relative size is necessary to help them understand where Canadians live. Construction of a bar graph illustrates a comparison of provincial populations. It may be necessary to review horizontal bar graph construction: arrange population data from largest to smallest; select an appropriate scale for plotting population; approximate population figures; and label graph. Interpretation should include comparison among provincial figures and between Canadian and U.S. population figures. Stress comparison of Canadian population figures with the student's state and selected states listed in Table One.

Two points about Canadian population should be stressed. First, most Canadians live in a band 150 miles from the Canada-U.S. border. Second, most Canadians live in cities located in the band.

Points of comparison between Canadians and Americans are: There are about 10 Americans for every one Canadian. Most Canadians live near the border whereas Americans are concentrated along the Atlantic Coast, the Midwest and the sunbelt, including California. Western growth is both a Canadian and American occurrence. The advantages of being close to the border are that Canadians have easy access to the United States for trade and tourism. The disadvantages derive from the overwhelming American influence, for example, American domination of Canadian culture and the cross-border flow of pollutants such as acid rain.

The quiz can be conducted orally in class. Answers to the questions are: a) New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, Ohio, and Michigan; b) 13 states and 7 provinces; c) St. John's; d) Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland; and e) Seattle.