

HERITAGE-RELATED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Suggestions for classroom activities on heritage themes can be found in many teacher resource books, curriculum guides, resource packages, and commercially prepared sources. The following list includes ideas gathered from teachers at all levels.

Use these activities as part of a study on heritage or to provide guidance to individuals or small groups of students as they start projects. A survey of student interests and personal heritage experience is another valuable starting point for heritage project development.

1. Make a bulletin board called "For the First Time Canada...". Put up information about when and how things happened for the first time in this country. For example, talk about the first Canadian postage stamp, the invention of the telephone, or any other examples of inventiveness in Canada.
2. Construct a calendar with pages for each month of the school year and hang it on the wall of the classroom. Each month write down a significant event in Canadian history and the year it happened. Prepare a schedule of important events that will happen in Canada during the next year and either provide a copy to each student or display it in classroom.
3. Learn more about a First Nations, Métis, or Inuit community. Discuss what is unique and special about their lives and history.
4. Collect different Canadian stamps and discuss the significance of the images on them.
5. Collect stamps all year as a class project and in June, create collages based on a student chosen theme, using the stamps.
6. Make a mobile for your classroom incorporating the symbols you think best represent what it means to be Canadian.
7. For "show and tell", bring something from your family's past that has special significance.
8. Make a scrapbook about your community and Canada and send it to a school in another province or country so that they can learn more about you and your home.
9. Learn more about some of Canada's early explorers.
10. Find out what was happening in Canada on the day you were born.
11. Every month, draw a picture representing a Canadian person, place or symbol and explain the meaning of your picture.

12. Make a family tree with each branch representing the cultural heritage of each student.
13. Interview someone knowledgeable about the history of your community or municipality.
14. As a class, invent a board game using questions about Canada's history, culture, economy, and political structure.
15. Interview your parents and write down what they do for a living. What do their jobs involve? Did their type of work exist 20, 50, 100 or 150 years ago? If no, why not? If yes, how was it different?
16. Ask students who are members of the Scouts, Brownies, Guides, 4-H Clubs, etc., to describe what they do and why they like it.
17. In your gym or hall, set up a booth for each of the provinces and territories and hold a Canadian Information Fair for the school.
18. Invite people from your community to speak to your class about being Canadian.
19. Bring an old-fashioned lunch. Have a "box social".
20. Have an old-fashioned picnic and play games that were popular many years ago.
21. Find out what people ate for dinner one hundred years ago and recreate one of their meals.
22. Try cooking with heritage recipes (bread, ice cream, butter, cheese).
23. Invite a museum curator, archivist, or environmentalist to tell you more about their jobs.
24. Name three things Canadians invented that make our lives easier today.
25. Make a list of all the provincial trees. Which ones grow only in Canada?
26. Find out which animals are native to Canada and where they live.
27. Learn more about Canada's endangered species. How many have lived in your area? Write to Environment Canada, the World Wildlife Fund or the Canadian Wildlife Service for more information.
28. Write a story about a day in the life of a Canadian bird. What would you see?

29. Study farming, mining, or forestry practices in the area.
30. Graph different cultures and their population in the area.
31. Cut out pictures from the cartoons in your daily newspaper to create your own cartoon in which the characters discuss their lives as Canadians.
32. Sewing and mending by hand—try it: darn a sock.
33. Make a list of things in your home that were made in Canada.
34. Spend a couple of hours without electricity. What was challenging about this experience?
35. Throughout history, people have organized “work bees” to build barns, clear land, or make goods. Have your own work bee to clean up the litter in a local area or help someone in need.