

## Basic facts

Canada is the **second largest** country in the world. Its capital city is **Ottawa**. It has borders on the United States in the south and has more than 32 000 000 inhabitants. The currency is **Canadian dollar**.

## What is the climate like?

Canada has mild springs, hot summers and severe winters. The weather in the north is extremely cold.

## What time zones are there in Canada?

Canada encompasses **six time zones**.

## Canadian history

The country was discovered by the **Vikings** about 1000 years ago. In the 15<sup>th</sup> century it was rediscovered by the Europeans and occupied by French. It became an **English colony** in 18<sup>th</sup> century. The original inhabitants came from Asia across the **Bering Strait**.

## What do you know about Canadian lakes?

There are some 2 million lakes in Canada.

The most famous lakes are **Great Lakes** comprise **Lake Superior, Huron, Erie and Ontario**.

The largest lake is **Great Bear Lake**.

## What are the rivers of Canada?

The longest river is the **Mackenzie**.

**The St. Lawrence** is Canada's most important river which provides a seaway for ships from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean.

Others rivers are **Yukon, the Fraser, the Columbia, the Nelson**.

**Niagara Falls** lies on the border with the USA and Canada.

## What are the mountains of Canada?

Canada's terrain has a lot of mountain ranges: Appalachians, Rocky Mountains, the Coastal and Mackenzie Mountains, the Melville Hills... .

The highest mountain is **Mt Logan** (6,050m).

## Are there some national parks in Canada?

Canada maintains 38 **national parks**.

Typical Canadian animals living in the national parks include: **bison, prairie dogs, rattle-snake, moose, cougars, bears**, beaver, mink, fox, Canada goose, black duck, deer etc.

**Which materials are produced in Canada? What is grown and bred there?**

Canada is **rich in raw materials (crude oil, natural gas)** and it produces **wheat, leather, timber and maple syrup**.

Important agricultural products are **wheat, beef, cattle, barley**.

Important fishing products are **salmon, cod, lobster**.

Canada produces **motor vehicles, food products, machinery, wood, petroleum, chemicals and chemical products**.

**What political status does it have?**

Canada is a member of the **British Commonwealth of Nations** so its official head is the Queen of the United Kingdom represented by the Governor-General. Canada has the democratic Parliament.

**Describe the national flag:**

Canada has the national flag with a red maple leaf. (Canada is a big producer of maple syrup)

**How is Canada divided?**

Canada is divided into 10 provinces.

**What is the population like?**

Half of the population is **British**, 30% **French** and the rest are **Indians** and **Eskimos** or **Inuits**.

The official language is **English** and **French**.

**Do you know any Canadian cities?**

The largest cities are Toronto, Calgary, Vancouver and Montreal.

**Possible answers:**

1. I have never been to Canada. I was in Canada a year / two..... years ago.
2. I would like to visit.....
3. Famous people from Canada are Brian Adams (singer), Pamela Anderson Lee (Baywatch actor), Alexander Graham Bell (the inventor of telephone), Sandra Bullock (actress), Jim Carrey (actor), Leonard Cohen (poet and singer), Celine Dion (singer), Wayne Gretzky (hockey player), Alanis Morissette (singer), Matthew Perry (actor, Friends), Keanu Reeves (actor), Jack Warner (co-founded Warner Bros.).

4. Canadians like playing ice hockey as it was invented there, lacrosse and curling.

5. National symbols are maple leaf and beaver.

6. Famous Canadian sports personalities are Aleksandra Wozniak (tennis player), Wayne Gretzky (ice hockey player)...

**Test**

severe winter

maple leaf

wheat

encompass

salmon

cod

beef

cattle

barley

French

Eskimo

moose

bison

cougar / mountain lion

fox

beaver

leather

timber