



Activity 10: Immigration and Citizenship

Suggested Level: **Intermediate**

Subjects: **Mathematics, Geography, History, Citizenship**

Overview

In this activity, students complete a series of graphs showing Canada's immigration patterns over time. They are then asked to take on the role of an immigrant applying for Canadian citizenship, after which the entire class performs a mock citizenship ceremony. (3 class periods)

Note: See Teacher's Guide for general background to the census and census vocabulary.

Learning Objectives

- to examine Canadian immigration patterns
- to learn graphing techniques that can be used to illustrate immigration data
- to understand the requirements and process of becoming a Canadian citizen
- to appreciate the rights and responsibilities of Canadian citizenship

Materials

- Handout 1: Graphing Immigration
- Handout 2: Becoming a Citizen

Getting Started

Begin with a general discussion of the census—what it is and how it is carried out. (See the Teacher's Guide.)

Census Activity

1. Go over Handout 1 with the students and make sure that everyone understands the instructions for graphing. Examine the results together as a class.
2. In Handout 2 students put themselves in the place of an immigrant student who is applying for Canadian citizenship. Read through the Introduction on pages 7 and 8 with them, and then help them get into the scenario as described in the first paragraph of the Activity section on page 8. They should then complete Questions 1, 2 and 3 of this section on their own. When they are making up their citizenship tests in Question 3, you may need to go over how to properly formulate multiple-choice questions.

For the last part of the activity the class will come together to perform a mock citizenship court. The aim here is to help students appreciate the rights and responsibilities inherent in Canadian citizenship. You should lay the groundwork by first discussing with them some of the things we value about being Canadian. This discussion will give the person playing the judge some ideas for his or her short speech. Many of these values are laid down in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*:

- democratic rights, such as the right to vote
- legal rights, such as the right to a fair trial
- equality rights, such as the right to protection against discrimination
- mobility rights, such as the right to live and work anywhere in Canada
- Aboriginal peoples' rights
- basic freedoms, such as freedom of thought, freedom of speech, and freedom of peaceful assembly

At the end of the activity, give a copy of the citizenship certificate to everyone in the class.

Note: The booklet *A Look at Canada*, published by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, is an excellent resource on the subject of citizenship. It is available on their web site (<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/citizen/look/look-00e.html>).

Extension/Enrichment

- Attend a citizenship ceremony or invite a citizenship official to visit the class to observe your ceremony and to answer questions.
- Invite a person in your school or community who has recently received citizenship to visit your school and talk about their experiences.

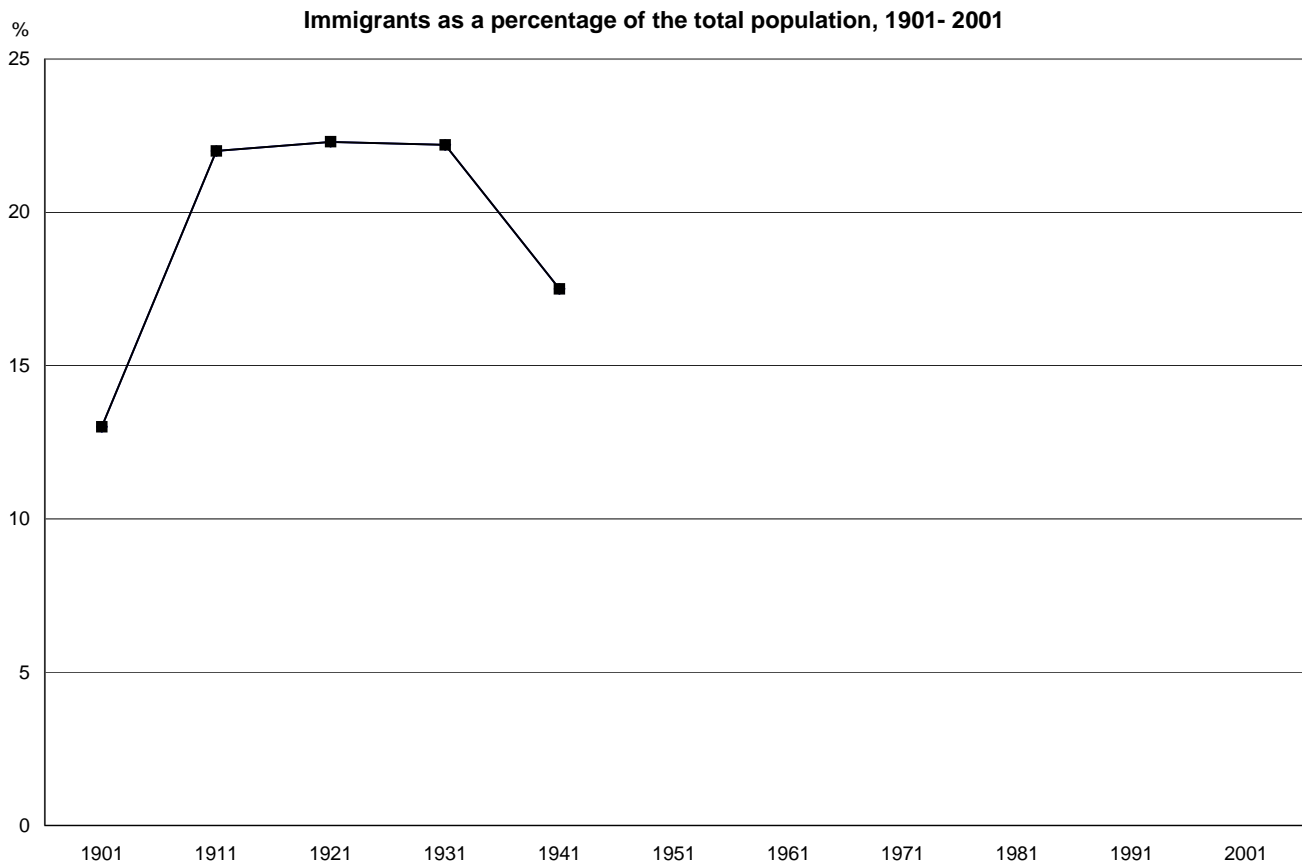
Handout 1: Graphing Immigration

Introduction The immigrant population of Canada consists of people who were born in other countries and have been granted the right to live in Canada permanently. Many of these people immigrated many years ago; some have come more recently. The most recent figures from the 2001 Census add to the picture we have built up over the years about immigration patterns in Canada. In Handout 1 you will be graphing some immigration statistics. Follow the instructions at the beginning of each graph.

Graph 1 The census takes a snapshot of the population at a certain point in time. The graph on this page tells us that 13% of the population enumerated in the census of 1901 were immigrants. The remaining 87% of the population were born in Canada. Use the data below to graph the statistics for other census years.

Census Year Percentage of immigrants in the total population

1901	13.0
1911	22.0
1921	22.3
1931	22.2
1941	17.5
1951	14.7
1961	15.6
1971	15.3
1981	16.0
1991	16.1
2001	18.4



Handout 1: Graphing Immigration (continued)

Graph 2

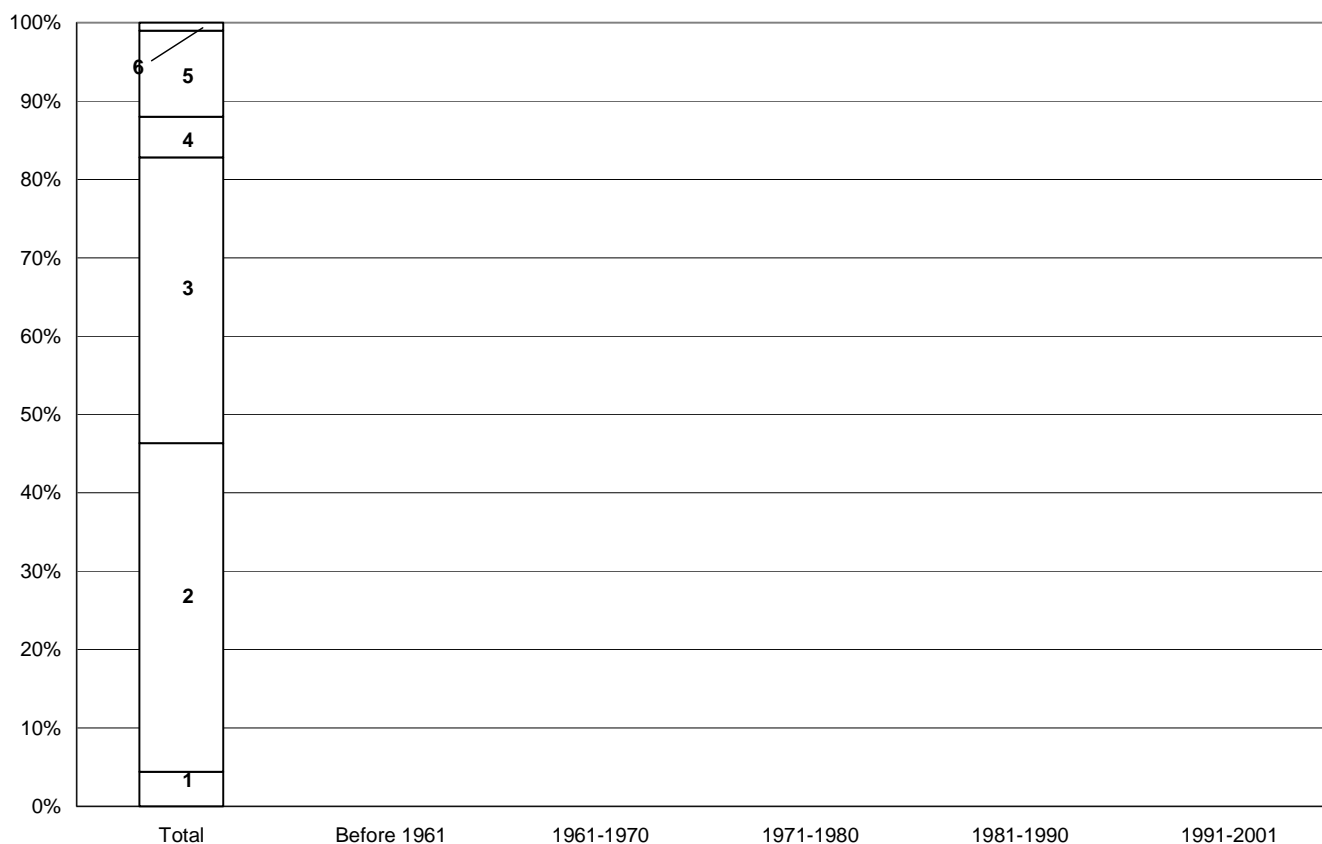
People who have immigrated to Canada were born in many countries all over the world. Statistics Canada has arranged these countries by source areas, and you can see them on the map on the next page. To begin the exercise, use the colour key on the map to fill in the legend for the graph on this page. Then colour the stacked column according to the legend.

This stacked column shows the places of birth of all people who have ever immigrated to Canada. The next five columns, which you will construct, show the statistics for people who immigrated during specific time periods. Notice how the proportion of immigrants from the different areas has changed over time.

Use the data below to construct your columns, and colour the segments according to the legend. (You will not need to write in numbers on your columns since you have already created a colour-coded legend.)

Place of birth	Total	pre-1961	1961-1970	1971-1980	1981-1990	1991-2001
United States	4.4	3.9	6.3	6.7	4.0	2.8
Europe	42.0	90.5	69.2	36.2	25.6	19.5
Asia	36.5	3.2	12.1	33.3	47.2	58.2
Africa	5.2	0.5	3.2	5.8	5.7	7.6
Caribbean, Central and South America	11.0	1.4	8.0	16.5	16.5	10.9
Oceania and other countries	1.0	0.4	1.2	1.5	1.0	0.8

Immigrant population by place of birth and period of immigration



1. United States 2. Europe 3. Asia 4. Africa 5. Caribbean, Central and South America 6. Oceania and other countries

Map of Immigration Source Areas



Use the colour key below to fill in the legend in Graph 2 on page 4.

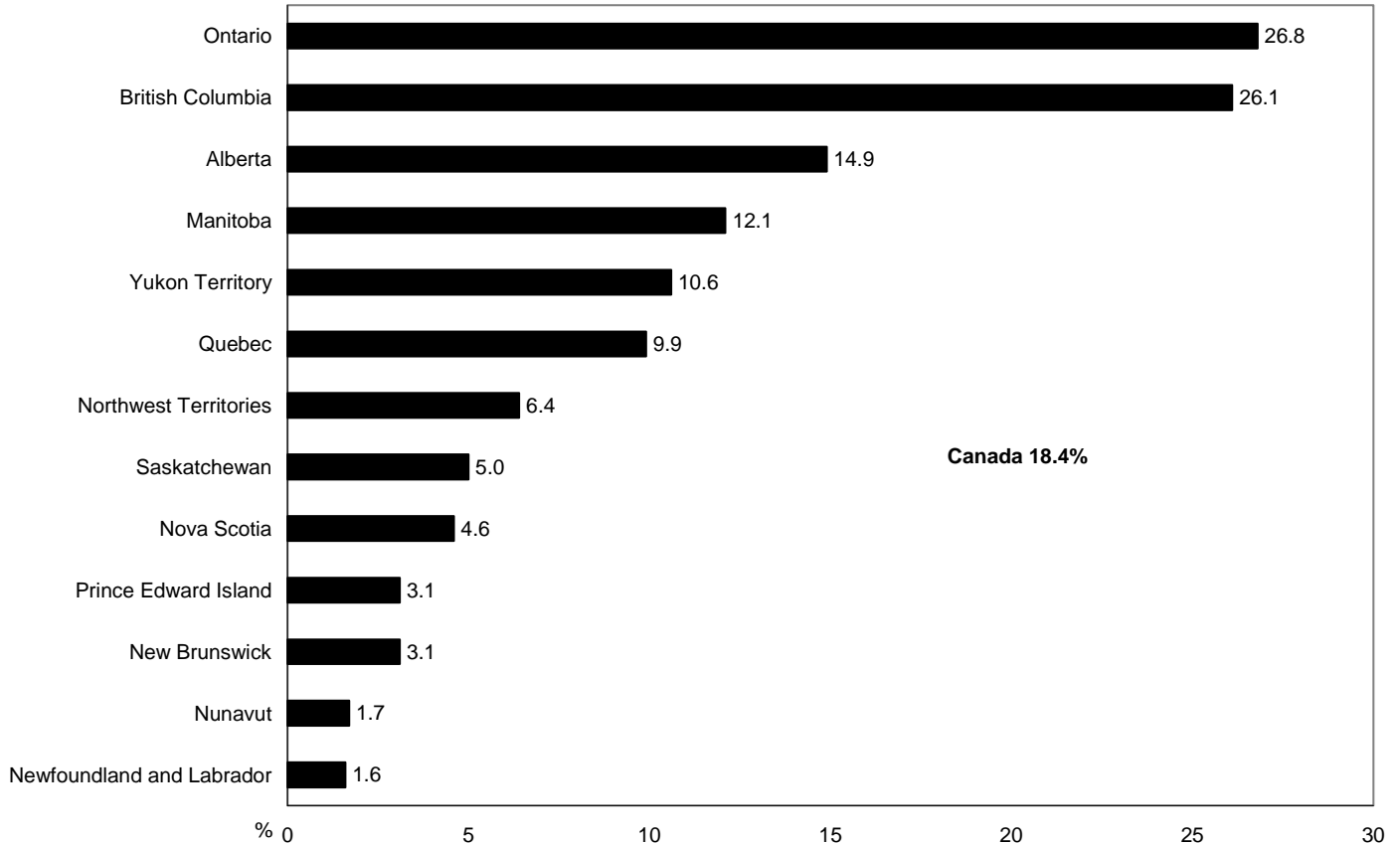
- 1. United States..... red
- 2. Europe..... yellow
- 3. Asia..... orange
- 4. Africa..... blue
- 5. Caribbean, Central America and South America..... green
- 6. Oceania and other countries..... mauve

Handout 1: Graphing Immigration (continued)

Graph 3

Now let's look at some smaller areas of the country. By examining the two graphs on this page, you can see that immigrants have tended to settle in certain places rather than in others. Graph 3, which has been filled in for you, shows the figures for the provinces and territories. Ontario leads with 26.8% of its residents having immigrated from other countries. What is the percentage for your province or territory _____?

Immigrants as a percentage of total provincial population, 2001



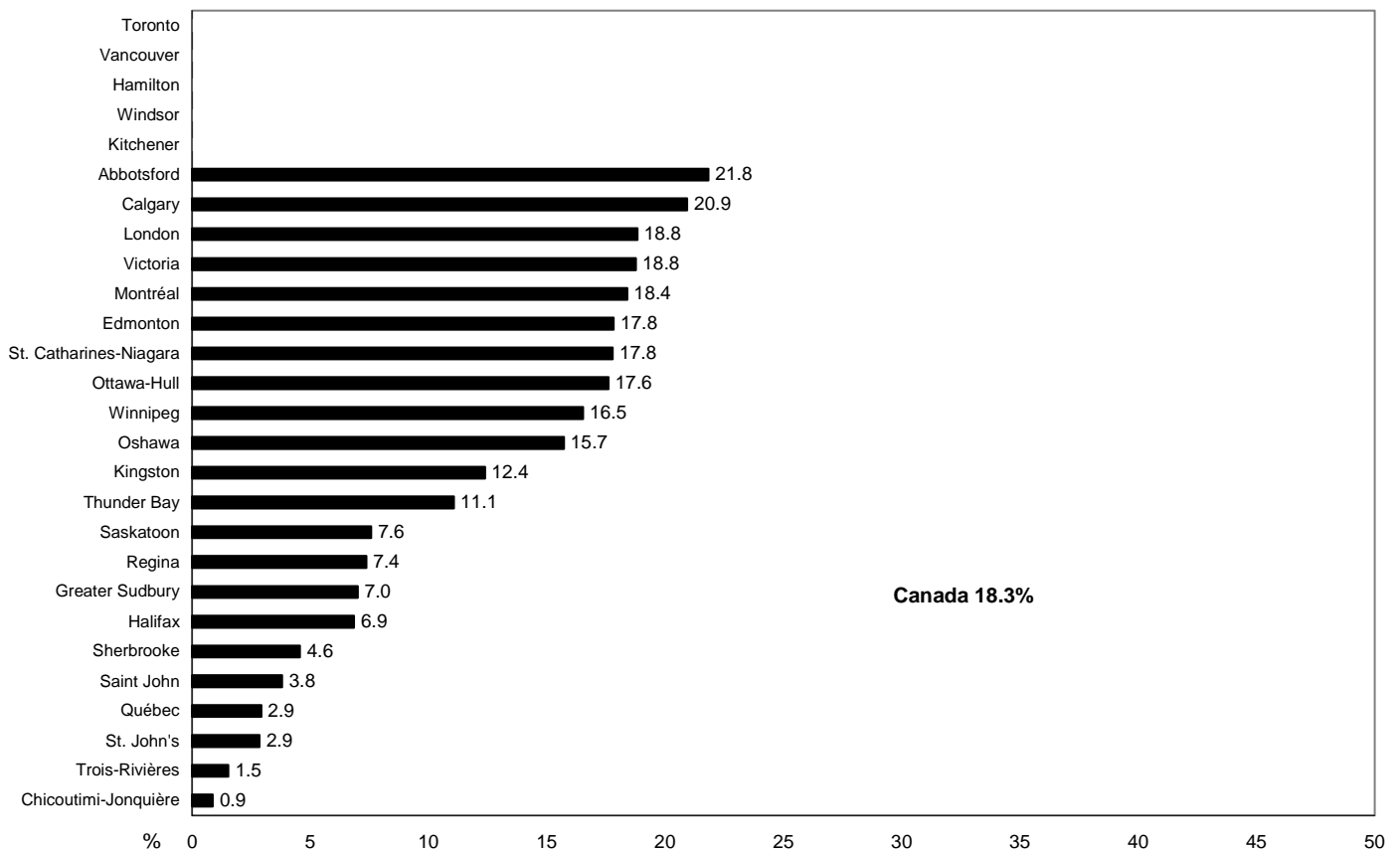
Handout 1: Graphing Immigration (continued)

Graph 4

This graph shows the statistics for census metropolitan areas (CMAs). As you can see, immigrants have been attracted to some of these large urban centres more than others. Fill in the missing bars in the graph using the data below from the 2001 Census.

CMA	Percentage of total CMA population
Toronto	43.7%
Vancouver	37.5%
Hamilton	23.6%
Windsor	22.3%
Kitchener	22.1%

Immigrants as a percentage of total CMA population, 2001

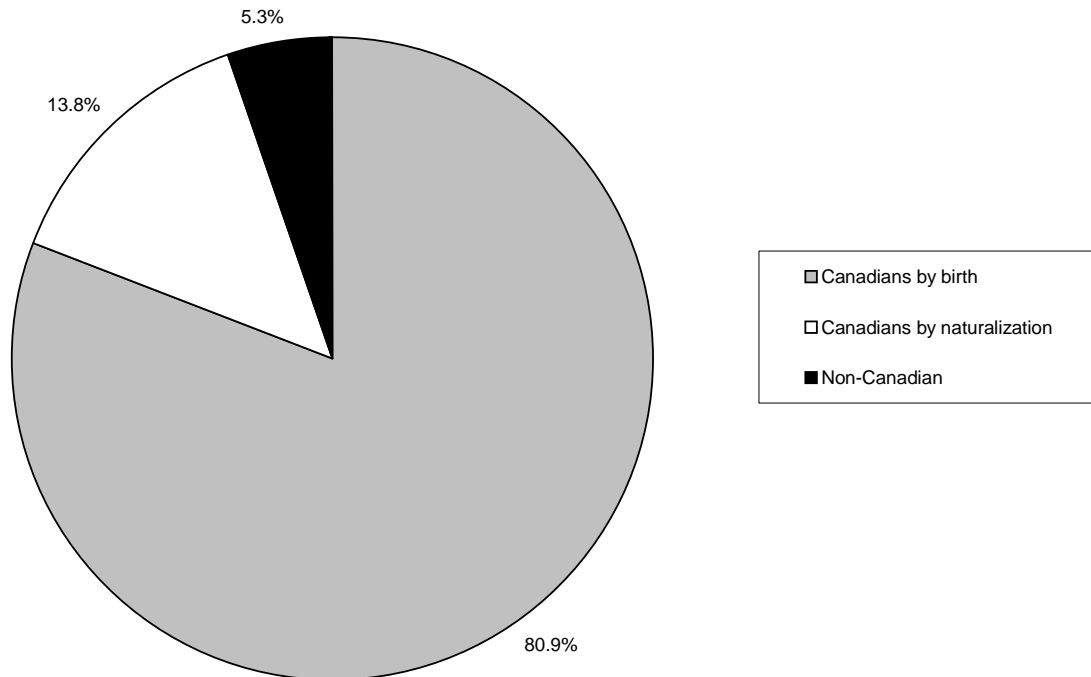


Handout 2: Becoming a Citizen

Introduction

Most people do not realize that Canadian citizenship is a relatively new idea. As recently as 50 years ago, Canadians were considered to be British subjects residing in Canada, not Canadian citizens.

People can become Canadian citizens in one of two ways: either they were born in Canada (citizens by birth), or they are immigrants who have applied for and been granted citizenship (citizens by naturalization). This pie chart shows the citizenship status of the total Canadian population at the 2001 Census:



If you know that the 2001 census recorded 30,007,094 in the total population, work out how many immigrants have become naturalized Canadian citizens _____. All these people have decided to take on the rights and responsibilities of being Canadian citizens and have gone through the citizenship process. In this section you will put yourself in the shoes of one of these people. You will need to read through the information on The Citizenship Process before you can begin the Activity portion on the next page.

The Citizenship Process

Applying for citizenship

Before you can apply for citizenship, you must fulfill certain requirements: You must be 18 years of age or older. (Parents apply on behalf of children under 18.) You must have lived in Canada for three out of the four previous years and have legal status as a permanent resident. You must also be able to speak English or French.

Next, you need to assemble your pieces of documentation. These include your immigration landing record, two pieces of identification such as a driver's license or bank card, and two small photographs taken within the last year. The photocopies of the documents and the photographs are then mailed along with your application form and a fee of \$200 to the citizenship office in Sydney, Nova Scotia.

Handout 2: Becoming a Citizen (continued)

The Citizenship Test

It takes a couple of months to process an application. If it is approved, the citizenship office will send a letter telling where and when you can write your citizenship test. They will also send you a booklet called *A Look at Canada* to help you study for the test. This booklet contains information about Canada's history, geography and government, and about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Many people also take language or citizenship courses which are offered in many local areas. Only people aged 18 and older need to write the test. It contains 20 multiple-choice questions of which 12 must be answered correctly.

Citizenship Court

Once you have passed the test, the final step in the citizenship process is to attend a citizenship court. This is a formal ceremony presided over by a citizenship judge where candidates take the Oath of Citizenship and receive their certificate of Canadian citizenship. Children are included in the citizenship ceremony.

Generally the ceremony is conducted in a regular courtroom; however, frequently the citizenship officials hold courts in school auditoriums or community centres to better involve the community in the citizenship process. More details about this ceremony are given on page 10 where the class is asked to perform a citizenship court.

Activity

Put yourself in the shoes of a young person who has recently immigrated to Canada and now has decided to apply for Canadian citizenship. Here is the scenario: You are 18 and immigrated to Canada with your family from _____ (country) four years ago. Your family lives in _____ (town and province) and you have been attending the local high school. You now feel very much at home and have decided you want to be a full-fledged participant in your adopted country. Accordingly, along with the rest of your family, you have decided to apply for Canadian citizenship. Since you attend school and have lots of friends, you are very comfortable in English.

1. Give some of your reasons for applying for citizenship.

2. Make a checklist of the things you will have to do before you can send off your application.

3. After a few months, you receive a letter in the mail from the citizenship office saying that your application has been accepted and telling you the time and place of your citizenship test. Now it's time to study. Below are a few study questions from the booklet *A Look at Canada*. If you don't already know the answers, do some research in the library.

Handout 2: Becoming a Citizen (continued)

Study Questions

- What are the three main groups of Aboriginal peoples?
- Why did early explorers first come to Atlantic Canada?
- Who were the first settlers in the area where you live?
- What are the Prairie provinces?
- Which province in Canada is the smallest in land size?
- What does Confederation mean?
- Which four provinces first formed Confederation?
- When is Canada Day and what does it celebrate?
- What are the three levels of government in Canada?
- How are members of Parliament chosen?
- Name the Prime Minister of Canada and his party.
- Name all the federal political parties in the House of Commons and their leaders.
- Which federal political party is in power?
- What is the capital city of the province or territory in which you live?
- What are the major industries of your city, province, region today?

From what you have learned in your research, make up a citizenship test of 5 multiple-choice questions. Each question should have four choices. Trade tests with a partner and answer each other's questions. How did you do?

Mock Citizenship

Congratulations! You have been successful in your test and have received a "Notice to Appear to Take the Oath of Citizenship." You will take the oath along with a group of other new Canadians at a citizenship court. You are aware that the ceremony marks an important occasion in your life. Come together as a class and conduct a mock citizenship court.

Players

citizenship judge; clerk of the court; RCMP officer; a group of new Canadians receiving citizenship. The rest of the class can be friends or family of those receiving citizenship.

In a real ceremony the three officials would be in uniform: the judge and clerk in the black robes of the court, and the RCMP officer in their red Mountie uniform.

The scene

The classroom is set up as a courtroom: judge's bench and chair at the front, a Canadian flag fastened to the wall, chairs set out in front of the bench facing the judge for the people receiving their citizenship.

Materials

enough citizenship certificates for all those receiving citizenship

Handout 2: Becoming a Citizen (continued)

Procedure

1. The ceremony is conducted in both official languages. The clerk directs those receiving citizenship and their guests to their seats in the courtroom. When all are present, the clerk tells all to rise while the RCMP officer and the judge enter the courtroom, RCMP preceding. The officer and the clerk stand on either side of the bench while the judge sits behind it. All others then sit down.
2. The RCMP officer opens the court in the name of Her Majesty, The Queen.
3. The clerk introduces the participants to the judge, saying something like. “Your Honour, these people assembled here have qualified for Canadian citizenship and appear before you to take the Oath of Citizenship.”
4. The judge thanks the clerk and the RCMP officer and addresses opening remarks to the people receiving citizenship. These remarks take the form of a short speech in which the judge talks about some of the things we value in our Canadian society, and instructs the participants on the rights and responsibilities of Canadian citizenship. These are given below.

The Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship

Under the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, Canadian citizens are guaranteed the right to:

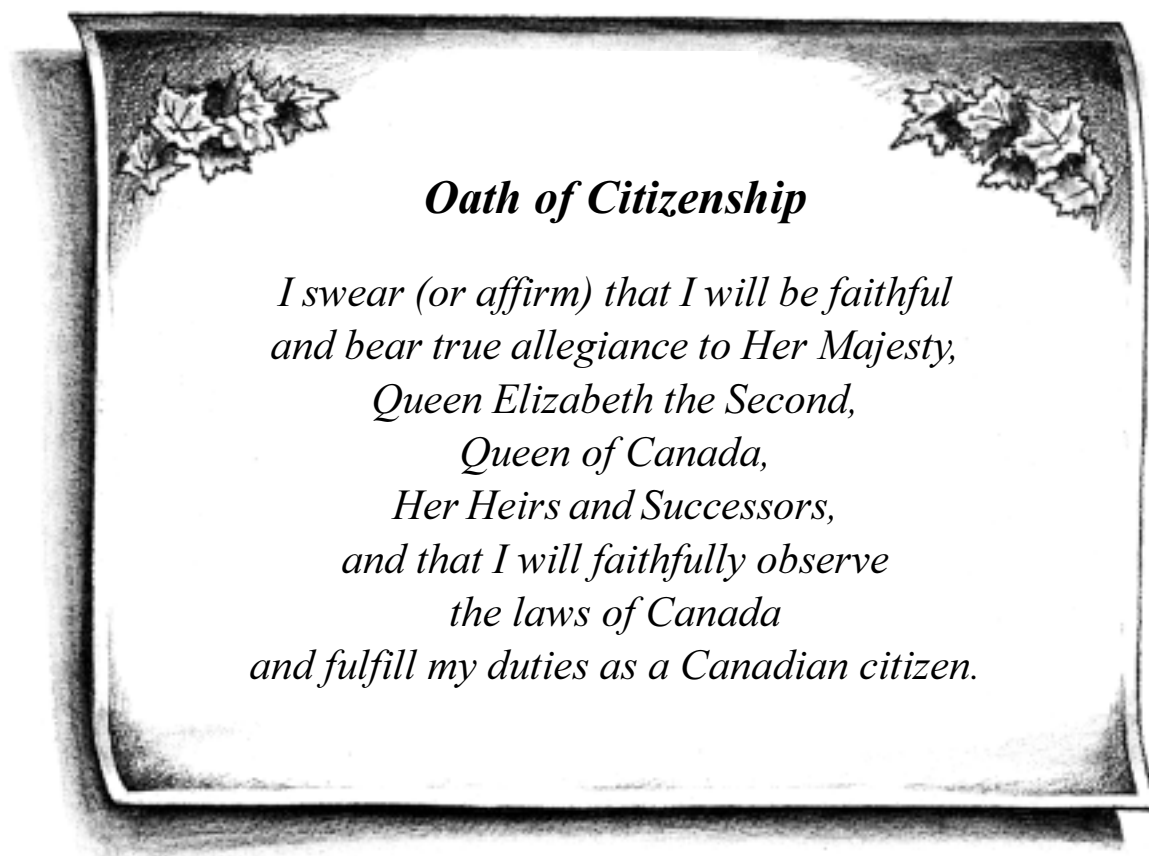
- Be candidates in federal, provincial and territorial elections
- Be educated in either official language
- Apply for a Canadian passport
- Obey Canada’s laws
- Vote in federal and provincial or territorial elections
- Enter and leave Canada freely

As Canadian citizens, we share the responsibility to:

- Vote in elections
- Help others in the community
- Care for and protect our heritage and environment
- Express opinions freely while respecting the rights and freedoms of others
- Eliminate discrimination and injustice

Handout 2: Becoming a Citizen (continued)

5. After this short speech, the clerk tells all to stand and raise their right hand to take the Oath of Citizenship. The participants repeat the oath line by line after the judge.



6. The judge then comes and stands in front of the bench for the presentation of the certificates of citizenship. The clerk calls out the names of the participants one by one and each comes to the front of the courtroom to shake hands with the judge and receive their certificate.
7. The judge offers final congratulatory remarks and welcomes the new citizens to the Canadian family. This family is now richer because of the inclusion of people from different backgrounds and cultures.
8. Everyone sings "O Canada."
9. The RCMP officer declares the ceremony closed.