



District 5360 Youth Exchange Information Sheet #10 – Random Facts & Trivia about Canada



Canadian Discoveries, Inventions, and Innovations:

- Java, the computer language (James Gosling, 1994)
- Basketball (James Naismith, 1892)
- Insulin (Frederick Banting & Charles Best, 1921)
- Zipper (Gideon Sundback, 1913)
- Electron Microscope (James Hillier & Albert Prebus, 1939)
- Blackberry (Mike Lazaridis, 1942)
- Walkie-talkie (Donald L. Hings, 1942)
- Snowblower (Arthur Sicard, 1925)

Canadian Weather Records:

- Highest recorded temperature: 45°C at Midale and Yellowgrass Saskatchewan, July 5, 1937
- Lowest recorded temperature: -63°C at Snag, Yukon Territory, February 3, 1947
- Greatest snowfall in one day: 118.1cm at Lakeise Lake, British Columbia, January 17, 1974

Information from the CIA World Factbook:

- Canada's area: 9,984,670 km² (9,093,507 km² land & 891,163 km² water)
- The border with the United States is 8,893km long (including 2,477km with Alaska)
- Canada has 202,080km of coastline
- The lowest point in Canada is sea level
- The highest point in Canada is Mount Logan (5,959m)
- Approximately 90% of the Canadian population lives within 160km of the US Border
- The population of Canada is 33,098,932 (July 2006 estimate)
- The GDP Per Capita (PPP) is \$35,200 (2006 estimate)
- The national unemployment rate is 6.4% (2006 estimate)
- Canada has 48,467km of railway
- Canada has 1,042,300km of roadway

What is a Canuck?

"Johnny Canuck" was a popular moniker that was used to describe Canadian soldiers in WWII. Although some believe it was a putdown, legend has it that Johnny Canuck was based on a Canadian folk hero – A great logger who was a skater and a hockey player in his spare time.

Why is Alberta known as the “Princess Province”?

It was named after Princess Louise Caroline Alberta who was the fourth daughter of Queen Victoria.





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Why do Canadian Geese fly in a V-shaped formation?

They are able to take advantage of the updraft produced by the wings of the bird ahead, giving each bird better support when they are aloft.

Who discovered Canada?

- ◆ While there is no record as to whom first set foot on Canadian soil, it is thought that people travelled from Siberia to Alaska between 10,000 to 25,000 years ago. Today's First Nations people are their descendants.
- ◆ While some people attribute the first discovery to the Vikings, John Cabot or Jacques Cartier it hard to distinguish whom first discovered the land that we call Canada.

What do totem poles signify?

Totem Poles have a wide range of different functions. For example, the Haida used elaborately carved poles in the construction of houses and as frontal poles that also served as the doorway. Of greater importance were poles used as grave monuments and memorial columns.

How do the Inuit cut ice when building Igloos?

Contrary to popular belief, igloos are not made of ice but are constructed of blocks of hard snow that are cut using a special long knife.

Who was the first Prime Minister of Canada?

Sir John A. Macdonald held office from 1867 to 1873 and again from 1878 to 1891. He was originally from Glasgow, Scotland.

How many Prime Ministers have there been?

Since confederation (1867), there have been 27 Prime Ministers. Only four of those were not born in Canada.

Who was Canada's first (and only) female Prime Minister?

Kim Campbell. She served as Canada's 24th Prime Minister from June to October 1993.

How did the RCMP come to be?

Originally it was supposed to be called the North-West Mounted Rifles, the idea of a national police force had been under consideration since 1869. Sir John A. Macdonald changed the name to the North-West Mounted Police upon creation of the force in 1873. Later in 1904, King Edward VII honoured the force with the prefix "Royal" in recognition of service during the South African War (1899-1904). In 1920, in effort to make more of a national police force, the Royal North-West Mounted Police absorbed the Dominion Police Force and thus created the Royal Canadian Mounted Police that we know today.





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When was the first Calgary Stampede?

The first Calgary Stampede was launched on September 2, 1912 with a parade of cowboys, cowgirls, and Native Canadians. Although it was a great success, the next Calgary Stampede was not held until 1919.

When was the National Hockey League formed?

The National Hockey League was founded in 1917 in Montreal after a series of disputes within the (Canadian) National Hockey Association (NHA). The first NHL season began in 1917-18 with five teams: The Ottawa Senators, the Quebec Bulldogs, the Montreal Canadiens, the Montreal Wanderers, and the Toronto Arenas made up the league.

Another league, the Amateur Hockey Association of Canada (AHAC), had been formed in 1886. A team from this organization won the first Stanley Cup championship in 1893. The Cup, which had been donated to the league in 1892 by Canada's Governor General, Lord Stanley of Preston, was a trophy to be awarded to the top amateur team in Canada. By 1910, however, the Cup was being challenged by professional teams.

Who was the first female to play in the NHL?

Quebec born, Manon Rheame played goal for the Tampa Bay Lightning in a pre-season game on September 23, 1992.

Who was the first Canadian to be on a NBA All-Star Team?

Victoria's Steve Nash is one of the league's best point guards. Since first playing in the NBA in 1996, he was first named to the All-Star team in 2002. In 2005 and 2006, Steve Nash was named the league's Most Valuable Player becoming the first Canadian and second foreign-born player to win the award.

Who directed the highest grossing film of all time?

The 1997 film Titanic, directed by Ontario's James Cameron, is both the most expensive film ever made as well as the highest grossing film of all time. Cameron's other commercial successes include the Terminator series, Aliens, Point Break and True Lies. He is also an accomplished screenwriter writing most of his own movies including Rambo II

What famous Canadian invented the telephone?

Alexander Graham Bell. He lived in Brantford, Ontario and Braddock, Nova Scotia.

What misunderstanding gave Canada its name?

In 1535 French explorer Jacques Cartier heard the Huron-Iroquis word Kanata (meaning village or settlement) and misunderstood the word believing it to be the word for the entire territory that they were in.





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How long is the Trans-Canada Highway?

At 7,821km (4860 miles), the Trans-Canada Highway is the longest paved road in the world. Completed in 1962, it runs from St. Johns, Newfoundland through all ten provinces to Victoria, BC.

Who invented Basketball?

Ontario's Dr. James Naismith created the game in 1892 while working at a YMCA in Springfield, Mass. At least 10 of the players on the first team were students from Quebec.

What are Canada's official sports?

Both invented in Canada, Lacrosse is our official summer sport while hockey is our cherished winter sport.

Who was the first person to sail around the world solo?

Nova Scotia's Joshua Slocum made the journey from 1895 to 1898 on his boat "The Spray". Slocum, who couldn't swim, disappeared while at sea in 1909.

Where is Canada's longest bridge?

At just under 13km (8 miles) in length, the Confederation Bridge is the longest in the country. The bridge, joining Cape Jourimain, New Brunswick with Borden-Carleton, Prince Edward Island, opened in 1997. It is the world's longest bridge over ice-covered waters.

Who was the world's strongest man?

Louis Cyr, born in St. Cuprien de Napierville, Quebec in 1863 was one of the foremost professional strongmen of the 19th century. In 1895, he performed what is considered his greatest feat, lifting 1,971kg (4,337 lbs) on his back. Over a century later, Cyr's lift is still considered to be a world record.

Why is the CN Tower so tall?

The world's tallest freestanding structure was built to solve the problems with television and other communication transmission signals in the Toronto area. Completed in 1976, at just over half a kilometre high (553.33m, or 1,815 ft., 5 inches), the tower is nearly twice the height of Toronto's tallest building and continues to dominate the city's skyline.

What animal is on the Canadian quarter?

The Caribou

How many oceans touch Canada?

THREE - the Atlantic on the east, the Pacific on the west and the Arctic to the north





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What is the most recent territory in Canada called and when was it formed?

Nunavut, April 1, 1999

When was the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms included in the Constitution Act?

1982 (no, that isn't a typo) – Unlike the majority of democratic countries whose basic laws derives from one document, Canada's basic laws derive not only from a set of documents known as Constitution, but also from a set of unwritten laws and conventions.

True or False? Superman was created by a Canadian?

TRUE

What is a Chinook?

From the Chehalis Indians Chinook refers to a warm westerly wind that blows east from British Columbia over the Rocky Mountains and blankets the foothills with warmth, changing the temperature rapidly. Sometimes the change can be extreme, maybe even rising 15 degrees in a quarter of an hour.

What is the Canadian national anthem called?

O Canada -- although it has been sung since the late 1800's, it wasn't proclaimed Canada's National Anthem until 1980.

Canada's National Animal is a Rodent!

Our BEAVER is indeed a rodent and has been described by the Canadian Encyclopaedia as having "had a greater impact on the history and exploration of Canada than any other animal or plant species"

Which was the tenth province to join Confederation? Newfoundland

Who was the first French-Canadian Prime Minister of Canada? Sir Wilfrid Laurier

Who led the Metis in the rebellions at Red River in 1870 and in the northwest in 1885?

Louis Riel

What was the name of the system of safe passages and safe houses that allowed American slaves to escape to freedom in Canada?

The Underground Railroad

How many time zones in Canada?

SIX





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How many national parks are there in Canada?

46

What is the name of the tallest mountain in Canada?

Mount Logan at 6050 m (19,850 feet) is the tallest (although not the highest mountain in Canada). Sir William Edmond Logan was one of Canada's greatest surveyors and scientists. Interesting fact: In October 2000, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien announced that Mount Logan would be renamed Mount Pierre Elliott Trudeau. After a public outcry against the idea, the name Mount Logan, was kept.

Some Famous Canadians...

Musicians – Joni Mitchell, Alanis Morissette, Neil Young, Shania Twain, Celine Dion, Bryan Adams, Avril Lavigne, Sum 41, Nelly Furtado, Leonard Cohen. Barenaked Ladies, Paul Brandt, Diana Krall, Nickelback, Sarah McLachlan, Paul Schaffer

Actors – Mike Myers, Jim Carrey, Dan Aykroyd, John Candy, Michael J. Fox, Keifer Sutherland, Brendan Fraser, Howie Mandel, Rick Moranis, Leslie Neilson, Matthew Perry, Jason Priestley, Keanu Reeves, William Shatner, Martin Short, Tom Green, Alex Trebek, Hayden Christensen, Ryan Gosling, Ryan Reynolds

Actresses – Pamela Anderson, Carrie-Anne Moss, Neve Campbell, Kim Cattrall, Elisha Cuthbert, Rachel McAdams, Evangeline Lily

Artists – Robert Bateman (Painter), Emily Carr (Painter, Writer), Yousuf Karsh (Photographer), Arthur Lismer (Painter), James MacDonald, (Painter), Michael Snow (Painter, Sculptor, Film Maker), Tom Thomson (Painter), Frederick Varley (painter).

Athletes – Kurt Browning (Champion Figure Skater), Wayne Gretzky (Hockey player – highest scorer in history), Scott Goodyear (IndyCar driver), Ned Hanlan (Champion Rower – played by Nicholas Cage in "The Boy in Blue"), Gordie Howe (Hockey player – second highest scorer in history), Ferguson Jenkins (Hall of Fame pitcher), Guy Lafleur (hockey player), Mario Lemieux (hockey player, 4x NHL scoring champion), Bronco Nagurksi (NFL football player – charter member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame), Bobby Orr (hockey player – named best defenseman eight consecutive years), Paul Tracy (IndyCar driver), Gilles Villeneuve (Formula One driver), Jacques Villeneuve (IndyCar driver – 1995 Indy 500 winner, 1997 Formula One World Champion)

