

# CGC1P Unit 3: People, Places and Patterns

## Activity 3: Cultural Diversity and Traditions

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### Overview

We have a rich tapestry of traditions from many parts of the world. We are a cultural mosaic. As Canadians, we respect the cultures of many people. People are encouraged to keep their own customs and traditions when they move to Canada. In this activity the student will examine why Canada has so many diverse cultures and peoples living here.

### Lesson

#### ***Evidence of Cultural Diversity: Christmas Traditions***

Have you noticed the traditions of Christmas here in Canada? Where do these traditions come from? They come from a variety of ethnic groups.

The Christmas tree originated in Germany. German settlers to Canada brought the tradition with them.

The traditions involving holly originated in Ireland. It was one of the main plants that grew in Ireland during that time of year. With its green and bright red clusters, holly made great decorations.

And what of Santa Claus? Christmas has been linked with Saint Nicholas. Saint Nicholas is pronounced as Sinter Claus in Dutch. From this pronunciation came the myth of Santa Claus.

#### ***Christmas traditions are an example of ethnicity.***

While Christmas is a Christian religious holiday, there are several other world religions which have contributed to the multiculturalism of Canada. Some of these include Judaism, Buddhism and Islam.

#### ***The People, The Traditions and their Country of Origin***

We have a rich tapestry of traditions from many parts of the world.

Food examples include:

- baklava from Greece
- pasta from China
- pizza from Italy
- tortilla from Mexico
- shawarma from Lebanon

Other examples of contributions of various cultures in Canada include:

- Lacrosse from the First Nations of Canada.
- Tae Kwon Do from Korea.

- fireworks from China.
- toboggans from First Nations in Canada.
- snowshoes from First Nations in Canada.
- saris from India.

Canada is said to be multicultural because we show acceptance of all cultures and encourage people to maintain and celebrate their cultural heritage.

### ***How Canada Has Become Multicultural***

People have immigrated to Canada from various countries of origin, including Britain, China, Germany, Greece, Holland, Hong Kong, Ireland, Korea, India, Italy, and Mexico.

How did Canada become so diverse? Canada has been populated by people from all around the world. We are known as a multicultural society because we have citizens from many cultures, with many ethnic origins. As Canadians, we respect the cultures of many people. People are encouraged to keep their own customs and traditions when they move to Canada. These citizens may have a mother tongue other than French or English; eventually, most also learn to speak English or French.

Movement from one area to another is called migration. Only the First Nations people were in Canada originally. All others have come from various parts of the world. People who move into an area are immigrating to that area. Most of Canada is composed of immigrants. If we are not of Aboriginal ancestry, we or our ancestors immigrated to Canada sometime in the past 400 years.

### ***Pull Factors***

Some immigrants were attracted (pulled) to Canada. Maybe they were attracted by the promise of free land a hundred years ago. Or perhaps they heard from others how wonderful Canada is. Other pull factors might include the opportunity of a good education, living in relative peace, and/or reuniting with family and friends already living in Canada.

According to the United Nations, Canadians have a very good quality of life. Because of our excellent quality of life, Canada was ranked the top country to live in for several years around the millennium, a significant achievement and a terrific pull factor.

The people who came from China during the nineteenth century to build the railroads were pulled to Canada by the promise of jobs. These Canadians now form one of many visible minorities in Canada today.

Do you remember the Underground Railroad from the United States? That's an example of people feeling pushed to leave their old country. Many African-Americans left the United States over a hundred years ago to escape slavery. Now in Canada, these Canadians form another significant group among the many visible minorities in Canada.

Examples of push factors for recent immigrants might be the need to leave their old country to escape war, the lack of jobs in their origin country, or because there was a lower quality of life.

## **Present Day Immigration Requirements**

In order to immigrate to Canada, people must be evaluated according to a point system. While an immigrant who meets the points requirement can become a landed immigrant, a refugee does not need to qualify by way of the Points System. Both groups can and do become citizens of Canada in different ways, if they qualify.

According to the Government of Canada as reported on the CBC, Canada needs immigration to continue growing. Without immigrants our population would decline. Why is this a problem? One reason is if our population declines, we have fewer people helping to pay for health care and other services, which means those who are left will have to pay more.

## **Assignment**

1. How are Christmas traditions evidence of Canada's cultural diversity?
2. Why is Canada recognized as a multicultural society? How has Canada become so multicultural?
3. What are pull factors? Provide 3 examples.
4. Complete the following Immigration Canada worksheets.

# Immigration Canada: The Points System

## DO THEY HAVE ENOUGH POINTS TO IMMIGRATE TO CANADA?

*NOTE: None of these applicants is a refugee. Anyone claiming refugee status would not use the points system.*

### ALEM

Alem lives in Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia. He is 41 years old, married, and has a family of three girls and two boys. He has completed twelve years of schooling, followed by three years studying to be an engineer at a university in Ethiopia (bachelor degree). For the last eight years he has worked as a civil engineer, planning projects to bring water to rural villages in his country. His wife, Alia, also has a bachelor degree in engineering. Alem has basic skills in English, and does not speak a word of French.

**ENOUGH POINTS?**

### TRICIA

Tricia lives in Wellington, New Zealand. She is 54 years old, and has not completed high school. English is her first language. She has worked as a clerk in a law office for fifteen years, and has a certificate in business studies. She wants to move to Winnipeg to join her sister and family.

### ZEYNAB

Zeynab is 38 and lives in Jakarta, Indonesia. She has a Ph. D. in computer science (she finished twelve years of schooling, and eight more years of university). She has been working for the last ten years for an electronics company designing microchips. Although English is her second language, she speaks it like a native speaker. She is no longer married, but has two girls. She also has several cousins who live in Toronto.

### KRYSTYN

Krystyn is 19 years old, and lives in Bucharest, Romania. She has just finished high school, and took French and English classes throughout. She speaks English quite well, and speaks French very well (Romanian and French are much more similar than Romanian and English). She is not married, but has an aunt and uncle who live in Vancouver.

### LOUIS

Louis is 34 years old, and is a skilled radiological technician, who has worked in a hospital in Sao Paulo, Brazil for 3 year). He finished twelve years of school and then earned a diploma in radiology requiring three years of study. He speaks Portuguese, his first language, and enough English to get by. He is not married and has no children, but has already found a job in Edmonton that has been approved by HRDC Canada.

Person	Age	Education	Language	Experience	HRDC?	Adaptability	TOTAL PTS
ALEM							
TRICIA							
ZEYNAB							
KRYSTYN							
LOUIS							

## Requirements For Immigration to Canada

**You must have a minimum of 80 points to qualify for immigration to Canada.**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Maximum 10 points</b>
10 points if your age is between 21-44 years.	<b>10</b>
For every year over 44 and less than 21 deduct 2 points. So if you are 49 years old you scored 0 points.	

<b>Education</b>	<b>Maximum 25 points</b>
Doctorate & master's degrees and total of 17 years of full-time study	25
Bachelor's degree requiring 3 years full-time studies and total of 15 years of full-time study <i>OR</i> Diploma, trade certificate or apprenticeship requiring 3 years full-time studies and total of 15 years of full-time study/training	20
Diploma, trade certificate or apprenticeship requiring 2 years full-time studies and total of 14 years of full-time study/training	15
Diploma, trade certificate or apprenticeship requiring 1 year full-time studies and total of 13 years of study/training	10
High school and a total of 12 years of full-time study	5

<b>Language Ability (English &amp; French)</b>	<b>1st language</b>	<b>2nd language</b>
High proficiency	16	4
Moderate proficiency	8	0
Basic proficiency or no abilities	0	0

<b>Work Experience</b>	<b>Maximum 25 points</b>
One year of recent skilled work experience	10
Two years of recent skilled work experience	15
Three years of recent skilled work experience	20
Four years of recent skilled work experience	25

<b>Arranged Employment in Canada approved by HRDC</b>	<b>10 points</b>
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<b>Adaptability</b>	<b>Maximum 10 points</b>
Spouse's or common-law partner's education	
- Masters or Ph.D.	5
- Bachelor degree or three year diploma	4
- one or two year post-secondary education	3
Minimum one-year full-time authorized work in Canada*	5
Minimum two years full time post-secondary study in Canada*	5
Informal offer of employment in Canada in keeping with past experience or education	5
Family relationship in Canada. Brother, sister, mother, father, grandparent, aunt, uncle, niece or nephew who is a resident of Canada and is either a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident.	5