

4. Being a Canadian Citizen

This activity examines Canadian citizenship and the benefits and privilege it extends.



Materials Needed:

Book *“From Far and Wide: A Canadian Citizenship Scrapbook”* by Jo Bannatyne-Cugnet

Video *“Voices of Africa”* (DVD player)

BLM 6-1

Teachers should preview all video content before screening it for students. Lengths are approximate running times. Before use, consider classroom and community sensitivities, and age-appropriateness.

Voices of Africa

In a remote African village, viewers will meet a community of people that survive on less than one meal a day, struggle through drought, no education, and disease, where women carry the daily burdens of home, family and income. Yet it is an inspiring story of hope, as we learn of the many challenges they face, yet witness the joy and pride of a community that have found that education is the answer to elevating themselves from poverty.

Length: 11:20 minutes

Many people from other parts of the world aspire to become Canadian citizens.

To introduce the idea of citizenship, its benefits and the responsibilities that go with it, read aloud to students, *“From Far and Wide: A Canadian Citizenship Scrapbook”* by Jo Bannatyne-Cugnet.

This is the story of Xiao Ling Li and her parents. On a snowy February morning, they take part in a citizenship ceremony. The recitation of the Oath of Canadian Citizenship, the singing of the national anthem and the wonderful welcoming party afterward help create a day filled with memories for a new Canadian family.

Play the video *“Voices of Africa”*, which tells the story of a community in Africa and illustrates the social and economic challenges that often encourage people to move to a country like Canada.

Then, use **BLM 6-1** and have students participate in a citizenship test much like the one that all immigrants must write in order to become Canadian citizens. Take time afterwards to discuss the

BLM 6-1 Being a Canadian Citizen

Choose the answer that best answers each question.

1. From where did the European settlers in Canada come?
 - a. France
 - b. Germany
 - c. England
 - d. Italy

2. Why did early explorers first come to Atlantic Canada?
 - a. To establish agricultural communities
 - b. To escape religious persecution
 - c. To mine coal
 - d. To fish and trade with Aboriginal peoples

3. When did settlers from France first establish communities on the St. Lawrence River?
 - a. 1200s
 - b. 1700s
 - c. 1900s
 - d. 1600s

4. What did the government do to make immigration to Western Canada much easier?
 - a. Built the Trans-Canada Highway
 - b. Built the St. Lawrence Seaway
 - c. Offer cheap land
 - d. Built the railway across the Prairies to the Pacific Coast

5. What is the Canadian Constitution?
 - a. A system of laws and conventions by which our country governs itself
 - b. The laws that govern the provinces
 - c. The laws that formed the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories
 - d. Municipal or local laws



BLM 6-1 Being a Canadian Citizen

6. Who was the first Prime Minister of Canada?
 - a. Louis Riel
 - b. Sir John A. Macdonald
 - c. Lester B. Pearson
 - d. Abraham Lincoln

7. What part of the Constitution legally protects the basic rights and freedoms of all Canadians?
 - a. The British Charter of Rights and Freedoms
 - b. The Canadian Charter of Rights
 - c. The Canadian Charter of Freedoms
 - d. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

8. List four rights that Canadian citizens have.
 - a. Right to have a job, vote, drive, go to school
 - b. Right to go to school, work, have a bank account, travel
 - c. Right to travel, live anywhere, work anywhere, get married
 - d. Right to be educated in either official language, vote, apply for a Canadian passport, enter and leave Canada freely

9. Where are the Great Lakes?
 - a. Between Ontario and the United States of America
 - b. Manitoba
 - c. Northern Quebec
 - d. Atlantic Canada

10. Which country lies on Canada's southern border?
 - a. United States of America
 - b. Central America
 - c. Mexico
 - d. Washington

BLM 6-1 Being a Canadian Citizen

11. How does a Federal bill become a law?
 - a. The Lieutenant Governor must approve the bill
 - b. Approval by a majority in the House of Commons and Senate and finally the Governor General
 - c. The Queen must sign the bill
 - d. Approval by the Members of the Legislative Assembly

12. Name two responsibilities of municipal (or local) governments.
 - a. Snow removal and policing
 - b. Recycling and education
 - c. Taxation and firefighting
 - d. Parks and highways

13. What three requirements must you meet in order to vote in a federal election?
 - a. Canadian citizen, 18 years or older, and on the list of electors
 - b. Canadian citizen, 21 years or older, and on the list of electors
 - c. Living outside of Canada for fewer than five years, Canadian and 21 years old
 - d. Working for the federal government of Canada, 21 years old and Canadian

14. What do you mark on a federal election ballot?
 - a. The candidate's name
 - b. The number for the candidate
 - c. An "X"
 - d. The voter's name

15. How is the Prime Minister chosen?
 - a. The Queen appoints the Prime Minister
 - b. The Governor General with the Senate appoint the Prime Minister
 - c. The leader of the party with the most elected representatives becomes the Prime Minister
 - d. The MPs vote on the Prime Minister



BLM 6-1 Being a Canadian Citizen - Answer Key

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