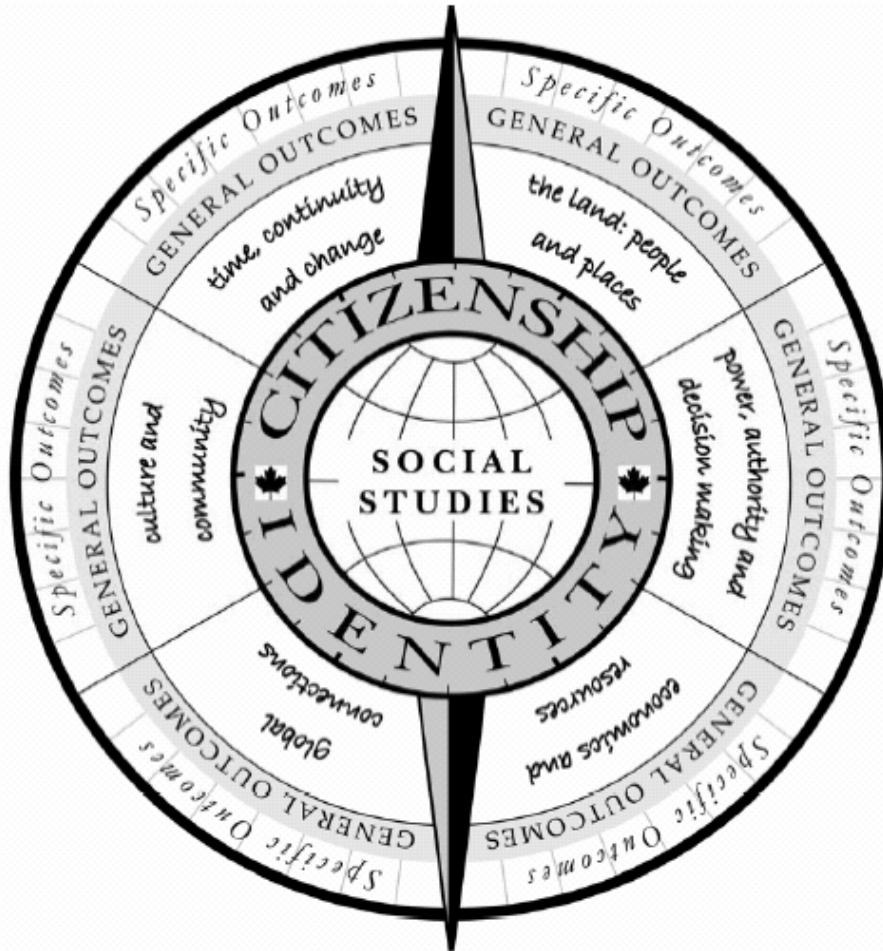


# Literature Connections to The New Social Studies Curriculum Canadian Symbols and Identity

...a sampling of quality literature and associated outcomes



Calgary Board of Education



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Alberta Initiative For School Improvement

## **Resource Connections to The New Social Studies Curriculum K-3**

### **Rationale**

Alberta Education has identified basic resources for use with each grade level in the new Social Studies Program of Studies. They continue to encourage teachers to integrate literature and supplementary resources to create a rich, deep and engaging curriculum.

The purpose of this document is threefold:

- ❖ To provide a number of exemplary literature and multi-media resources that best support the Social Studies outcomes.
- ❖ To assist the school staff in making informed decisions regarding literature resources connected to the new Social Studies outcomes.
- ❖ To guide and build capacity for educators to identify quality literature through the lens of social studies.

We have attempted to include resources that already reside in many school libraries as well as some of the newest titles available. It is not intended to be a comprehensive list but rather a listing of some of the types of books that best meet our CBE criteria.

The criteria used in selecting the materials included:

- 1) *Evaluation and Selection Criteria for Learning Resources*", Calgary Board of Education, March 1998.
- 2) Social Studies Skills and Outcomes congruency , *Social Studies K-12, Program of Studies Validation Draft*, September 2003, Alberta Learning.
- 3) Aboriginal consultation and verification, Curriculum Support Services, CBE
- 4) Francophone consultation and verification, Curriculum Support Services, CBE

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Thanks to all of the Calgary Board of Education teacher-librarians and teachers who have provided their time and ongoing guidance and support in the reviewing of these resources.

## **Canadian Symbols / Identity**

The dynamic relationship between citizenship and identity forms the basis for skills and learning outcomes in the program of studies (p.3, Social Studies Program of Studies).

The titles in this section are some of the exciting resources that celebrate Canadian Citizenship and Identity. As these are core concepts in the new program of studies, the authors feel the titles chosen support these concepts from K-6. Watch for this section to grow as new titles are evaluated and added. Indeed it will grow as teachers further select the literature that best supports Canadian Symbols / Identity for their students

### **Keywords: Dimensions**

- Geographic Thinking : Regions, Landscapes, Environment, Maps and Mapping, Symbols and Landmarks
- Historical Thinking : Time Continuity
- Canadian Symbols and Identity
- Francophone

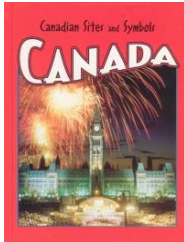
### **List of Reviewers:**

- AISI Alberta Initiative for School Improvement
- BL Booklist
- CM Canadian Review of Materials
- KR Kirkus Reviews
- NYTBR New York Times Book Reviews
- PW Publisher's Weekly
- Q:Q Quill and Quire
- SLJ School Library Journal
- SSS School Support Services



**Canadian Author**

## Canadian Symbols / Identity

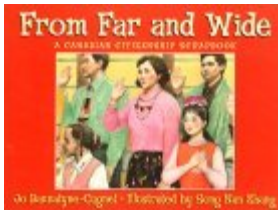



**Aspen-Baxter, Linda. (2004) *Canada*. Calgary: Wiegł Educational Publishers. \$22.95**  **ISBN 1553880188**

This book briefly covers the following topics: how Canada got its name, explanation of the parts of the coat of arms, history of the flag, animals that are symbols of Canada, national tree, provincial minerals and gemstones, features of the national mace, national parks and historic sites. Each chapter is presented on a two-page spread with good quality captioned photographs and fact boxes. Includes a brief glossary and index as well as a student quiz.

Previewed by Hawkwood Elementary.

**Skills and Processes: Canadian Symbols and Identity**



**Bannatyne-Cugnet, Jo. (1999) *From far and wide : a citizenship scrapbook*. Toronto, Ont.: Tundra Books. \$22.95**  **ISBN 0887764436**

Little Xiao Ling Li and her parents get ready for a special ceremony that will make them citizens of Canada. Along with other new citizens, Xiao Ling Li shares her feelings and understandings around this very important event in her life through a creation of a scrapbook. Colourful drawings complement the theme and invite the reader into the experience of becoming a new Canadian. At the end of the book, there is a two-page spread on "To Be Canadian" covering how to apply for Canadian citizenship, what a Canadian citizen is entitled to, responsibilities of Canadian citizens, and "O Canada" in English and French. The story provides a unique view of what it means to become a Canadian from a child's point of view. Excellent, much needed resource on the topic to support Social Studies units on Canada, immigration, and citizenship; ESL. Highly recommended. CORE Collection. Previewed by (SSS) Evaluation/Selection.

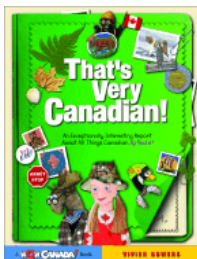
**Skills and Processes: Canadian Symbols and Identity**



**Barlas, Bob. (1999) *Welcome to Canada*. Milwaukee, Minnesota : Gareth Stevens. \$46.45** **ISBN 083682394X**

These informative overviews include short chapters on each country's land, history, government and economy, people, language, arts, leisure, and food. Enticing covers, bright full-color captioned photographs on each page, bold chapter headings, and easy-to-read print make the books attractive as well as user-friendly. Students working on reports will find the clear maps and "Quick Facts" sections particularly helpful. Inclusion of historical figures and contemporary authors, musicians, artists, and sports personalities add interest. Libraries needing material in addition to the "True Book" country series (Children's) might consider these titles. SLJ 2000

**Skills and Processes: Canadian Symbols / Identity**



**Bowers, Vivan. (2004). *That's very Canadian!: an exceptionally interesting report about all things Canadian*, by Rachel. Toronto: Maple Tree Press. \$29.95**  **ISBN 189706604X**

A fascinating book about everything that makes us Canadian! Chapter One looks at our official national symbols, Chapter Two features a double-page spread on symbols of each province and territory, and Chapter Three examines other distinguishing facets of our country such as bilingualism, Hockey Night in Canada, spellings, Mounties, etc. Table of contents, index, numerous colour photos, and cartoon characters. Part of the Wow Canada! series of books. Highly recommended. CORE. Previewed by Hillhurst Elementary & Queen Elizabeth Junior/Senior High.

**Skills and Processes: Canadian Symbols and Identity**

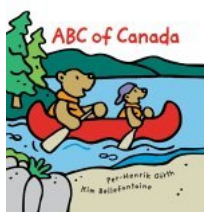


**Costain, Meredith. (2002) *Welcome to Canada*. South Yarra, Australia: Macmillan Library. \$ 18.20 ISBN 0791068730**

One and two-page chapters briefly describe the history, government, family life, leisure activities, food, religion, education, transportation, industry and agriculture of Canada. Also contains brief information about landscape and climate, plants and animals. Information is presented in an appealing format with lots of good quality format photographs and interesting features such as fact boxes, a recipe and a craft activity. Some common Inuktituk words are featured on the insides of the front and back covers. Useful for Social Studies

Grades 2 and 3 and beginning research projects. Grade 7 - Cultures; Multiculturalism; Beginning ESL. Elementary and Intermediate CORE Collections. Previewed by Hawkwood Elementary & (SSS) Evaluation/Selection.

**Skills and Processes: Canadian Symbols / Identity**

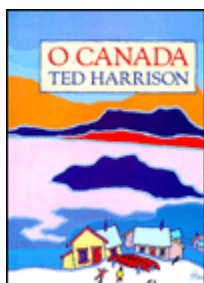


**Gurth, Per-Henrik. (2002) *ABC of Canada*. Toronto: Kids Can Press. \$14.95 ISBN 1553373405**

A simple Canadian alphabet book, representing all parts of Canada, has colourful cartoon-type illustrations. Each letter is given one page with a short sentence, e.g., Zz is for Zamboni cleaning the ice. A worthwhile addition to alphabet books could provide a pattern for students/classes to produce their own alphabet books. Primary and Elementary CORE Collections.

Previewed by Brentwood Elementary.

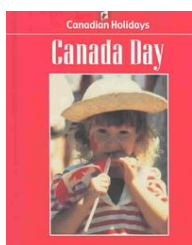
**Skills and Processes: Canadian Symbols / Identity**



**Harrison, Ted. (1992) *O Canada*. Toronto: Kids Can Press. \$18.95 ISBN 1550740873**

A wonderful interpretation of "O Canada" by Harrison as he takes a memorable journey across Canada from "east to western sea" painting his vision of each province and territory and celebrating the rich diversity of the country. Spectacular, bold, brilliant painting, on one page, accompanied by two lines of the anthem and a brief text which conveys Harrison's personal impression of the people and the land, on the opposite page. Includes the complete lyrics of the song, both verses, in both languages. Highly recommended. Previewed by Educational Media Team

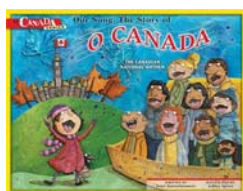
**Skills and Processes: Canadian Symbols / Identity**



**Kissock, Heather. (2003) *Canada Day*. Calgary: Weigl Educational Publishers. \$22.95 ISBN 1894705947**

A current look at Canada -- its many cultures and how we celebrate. Very readable, good colour photos, table of contents, bold-type keywords, quick facts, map schematic, quiz, glossary and index. Excellent for research. Canadian Culture - Canada - Holidays. **Highly recommended**. Primary and Elementary CORE Collections. Previewed by Crossing Park Elementary.

**Skills and Processes: Canadian Symbols / Identity**

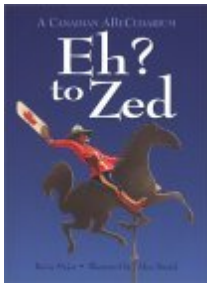



**Kuitenbrouwer, Peter. (2004) *Our song : the story of O Canada*. Montréal, Quebec: Lobster Press. \$19.95 ISBN 1894222679**

This book lets young readers experience the 100-year evolution of the Canadian National Anthem from its composition in 1880 to the moment it was officially proclaimed national anthem in 1980. Line by line in both official languages, "O Canada" is brought to life by beautiful collage

illustrations, and is accompanied by sheet music! (book description) Previewed by AISI Curriculum Support.

**Skills and Processes: Canadian Symbols / Identity**

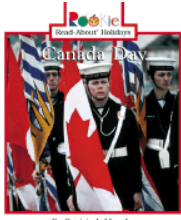


**Major, Kevin. (2000) Eh? to zed : a Canadian abecedarium.**   
**Red Deer, Alta.: Red Deer Press. \$11.95 ISBN 0889952728**

In this unique alphabet book, each page, covering one letter, includes 4 words, full of Canadian allusions, illustrated with a colourful collage. Each set of 8 words rhyme, e.g., "Arctic, apple, aurora, Anik; Bonhomme, Bluenose, beaver, bannock", & share a rhythm. Notes at the end comment on each word & many of the images. Resonant with many layers of meaning, these pages can be fun for readers of any age. The illustrations go beyond mere representation of the words to evoke images of Canadian art, crafts, history & culture. The words include places in every province & territory, famous

names, historical events, cultural icons, sources of Canadian pride. There is a wonderful sense of humour evident in both the text & images, e.g., to illustrate Ottawa, we have the Peace Tower buildings as a series of blocks, W & E (west block & east block). Could be used in any class that deals with Canadian cultures, identity, etc. **Highly recommended.** CORE Collection. Previewed at Central Memorial High.

**Skills and Processes: Canadian Symbols / Identity**



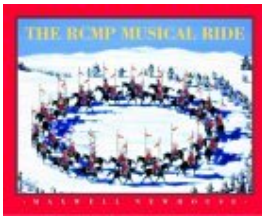
**Murphy, Patricia J. (2002) Canada Day.** New York: Children's Press.  
**\$27.00**

**ISBN**

**0516226622**

An easy to read book introducing readers to Canada Day. Describes the history of the holiday, the importance to Canadians and how Canada Day is celebrated. Previewed by (AISI) Curriculum Support.

**Skills and Processes: Canadian Symbols / Identity**

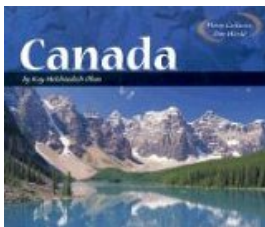


**Newhouse, Maxwell. (2004) The RCMP musical ride.** Toronto:   
**Tundra Books. \$22.99 ISBN 0887766838**

Beautifully illustrated with oil paintings and line drawings, this book describes fascinating information about this symbol of Canada. Descriptive writing that tells the history of the Ride, the story of the black horses, the training and equipment of both riders and horses, and famous horse stars. Mostly imperial measurements in this Canadian publication. Previewed by

Hillhurst Elementary.

**Skills and Processes: Canadian Symbols / Identity**



**Olson, Kay Melchisedech. (2004) Canada.** Mankato, Minn.: Blue  
**Earth Books. \$25.15 ISBN**  
**073682166X**

A look at modern day cultures in many lands--this series offers a look at legends ; city and country life; seasons ; family ; laws, rules and customs ; pets and sites to see in each country. The large text is simple, the photographs big and bright--a good series for introductory country research in the early elementary grades--content is very simplistic.

Includes maps, recipes, craft ideas, captions, glossary, useful addresses and Internet sites, index and contents. Elementary and Intermediate ESL. Previewed by Crossing Park Elementary.

**Skills and Processes: Canadian Symbols and Identity**



**Owens, Ann-Maureen. (1999) *Canada's Maple Leaf : the story of our flag*. Toronto: Kids Can Press. \$6.95 ISBN 1550745166**

Visually appealing, informative and easy to read book covers the history of our Canadian flag including the first flags over Canada, the Union Jack, the great flag debate, Joan O'Malley's maple leaf flag, flag day, flag etiquette, provincial flags with Nunavut, how to make your own Canadian flag, flag parts and relevant web sites. Also looks at "before flags" and signal flags and how to send a message. Includes numerous colour illustrations and maps, table of contents

and index. Unique source of Canadian information is useful for research or just browsing. Social Studies Grade 5, Social Studies 13, ESL, Late Literacy. Previewed at Brentwood Elementary & by (SSS) Evaluation/Selection; Calgary Herald November 13, 1999.

**Skills and Processes: Canadian Symbols / Identity**



**Pecota, Silvia. (2003) *Hockey across Canada*. Toronto: Sun Media Corporation. \$24.95 ISBN 0973709804**

This is a coast to coast look at Canada's most popular game, hockey. Each two-page spread covers one province or territory. On the left side of the spread is a short paragraph describing a child of the province going to play hockey. At the bottom of the page are some facts about the province including the capital city, motto, and for what the province is known. On the right side of the page is a painting showing a hockey

player dressed in something depicting the province (the Alberta player is wearing a cowboy hat) against a provincial scene (Alberta scene is a barn with a horse and foothills in the background). The gorgeous illustrations are digitally created oil paintings with photography. The paintings definitely depict stereotypes of each province and territory. Both girls and boys are shown playing hockey. General interest. Previewed by Hawkwood Elementary.

**Skills and Processes: Canadian Symbols and Identity**



**Renaud, Anne. (2004) *A bloom of friendship: the story of the Canadian tulip festival*. Montreal, Quebec: Lobster Press. \$19.95 ISBN 189422289X**

World War II facts, photos, and snippets of information load this book telling of the birth of the Dutch princess in Ottawa, and the gratitude thereafter of the Dutch people. Photos, maps and a timeline help the young reader learn more about the world of that period, and the connection of photographer Malak Karsh is clearly explained.

Previewed by Cecil Swanson School.

**Skills and Processes: Canadian Symbols / Identity**

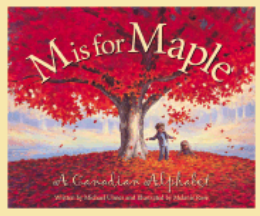



**Trottier, Maxine. (2004) *Our Canadian flag*. Markham, Ont.: North Winds Press. \$19.99 ISBN 043997402X**

Provides an excellent overview of the history, development, design and significance of our flag. Larger text, simple narrative explores the importance of this symbol while smaller boxes on each page provide fascinating details. Colourful paintings by Brian Deines cover one half of each page spread. Canadian. General Interest, English as a Second

Language, Social Studies. Highly recommended. CORE. Previewed by Hillhurst Elementary

**Skills and Processes: Canadian Symbols / Identity**



**Ulmer, Michael. (2001) *M is for maple : a Canadian alphabet*  Chelsea, Mich.: Sleeping Bear Press. \$22.95 ISBN 1585360511**

This is a pictorial alphabetical view of the many things that are Canadian. Each letter of the alphabet is represented by a name or word derived from some aspect of Canada, and each term is presented in rhyme and then further explained in a note. Clear combination of narrative and non-fiction explains important and quirky aspects of our country, e.g. A is for

Anne, B is for Banting and Best, C is for Canada, D is for Dionne, E is for "Eh", S is for Stampede. Accompanied by gorgeous, expressive and distinctive pastel colour illustrations that provoke proud feelings of what it is to be Canadian. Could be used by all grades including 1-5 for Social Studies community and history studies. Similar to Kevin Major's "Eh? To Zed", but different because this book provides rhyming verses. This is a must for every library. Highly recommended. Elementary and Intermediate CORE Collections. Previewed at Falconridge Elementary & Simons Valley Elementary

**Skills and Processes: Canadian Symbols / Identity**