

5. Queen Elizabeth II - Queen of Canada and head of state



Overview:

This activity introduces students to Queen Elizabeth II's role as Queen of Canada and head of state. Students will learn about the Queen's influence on the Canadian government through the Governor General. Students will also learn about the Canadian honours system. Students will research and create profiles of individuals who have been honoured by the Crown for their contributions to Canada.

Time:

1 hour

Subject/topic:

Social studies, history, humanities, Canadian and world studies

Grade:

4 - 12

Materials:

- The Queen of Canada fact sheet
- An Honourable Canadian research handout
- Device with internet connection (not included)

Learning objectives:

Students will:

- Learn a brief history of Queen Elizabeth II's life and duties.
- Develop new vocabulary words, such as "accession," "coronation," and "monarch."
- Explain why the Queen is important to Canada and vice versa.

Lesson Description

Minds on:

Students will watch a [video](#) of Queen Elizabeth II attending the state opening of Canada's Parliament in 1957. Once the video is over, students will engage in a discussion about the Queen's role as head of state and what that may look like in Canadian governance.

Action:

Once the discussion is over, students will read the Queen of Canada handout and fill in the blanks to learn about the role of the Governor General and the Canadian honours system. Afterwards, students will complete the An Honourable Canadian worksheet by researching an individual who has received a Canadian honour.

Conclusion:

Students will compile their research into a final profile with a drawing or a picture of their chosen honourable Canadian and share it with the class. Students may use the An Honourable Canadian template provided or create their own.

Lesson Implementation

Minds on

As a class, begin by showing students a [video](#) of Queen Elizabeth II attending the state opening of Canada's Parliament in 1957. Once the video is done, have a discussion with students.

Use the following guiding questions and ideas to generate discussion:

- Why do you think the Queen is addressing the Canadian Parliament?
- What is the importance of having the Queen in Parliament?
- Did you know that Queen Elizabeth II is also the Queen of Canada as well as Canada's head of state? What do you think that means?
- Do you know who in our Canadian government represents the Queen?
- What other ways does the Canadian government show its relationship to Canada's head of state, the Queen?

Action

Next, distribute the Queen of Canada fact sheet to students and have them work in pairs or small groups to research and find the answers to the questions provided. Take up the answers as a class.

Afterwards, explain to students that they will be selecting an individual who has received a Canadian honour and creating a profile about them. Give each student a copy of the An Honourable Canadian research handout and allow time for students to use the links at the top of the handout to research an individual that is of interest to them.

Optional adaptation: If teachers would like students to have different individuals to research, teachers can create a signup sheet where students write their name and the person they are researching.

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Connection to the Canadian Geography Framework:

Concepts of Geographic Thinking

- Interrelationship
- Patterns and trends

Inquiry Process

- Formulate questions
- Gather and organize
- Interpret and analyze
- Evaluate and draw conclusions
- Communicate

Geospatial Skills

- N/A

Sources and additional resources

- [The Canadian Crown](#)
- [Our Canadian Monarchy](#)
- [The Monarchy in Daily Life](#)
- [Canadian Honours](#)
- [The Governor General's Constitutional Duties](#)
- [The Governor General](#)
- [The Lieutenant Governors](#)

Conclusion and Consolidation

Once students have completed their research about their individual, encourage students to draw a picture of this individual and outline their achievements by creating a profile card. On this card, students are to include:

- Individual's name
- Home community (Where are they from?)
- Occupation
- Type of Canadian honour they received
- What did they achieve to be recognized with this honour?
- A picture of the individual

Afterwards, post these profile cards around the classroom and arrange a gallery walk so that other students can learn about these individuals. Allow time for students to share what they have learned. Conclude the lesson by having students complete an exit card with a reflection on what they have learned about the importance of the Canadian honours system.

Extend your geographical thinking

- Students can **nominate someone** for an honour.
- Students can look at the different honours that exist in other Commonwealth countries.
- Students can create a map of Canada highlighting where the researched individuals lived.

Modifications

- Students can work in pairs or individually.
- This activity can be completed in the classroom or virtually.
- Students can create an online poster about their individual or write a story or poem highlighting their achievements.
- For older students, students can create a timeline or an Esri StoryMap to highlight their individual.

Assessment Opportunities

- Teachers can assess students based on their participation in class and contribution to class discussions.
- Teachers can collect handouts for assessments.
- Students can assess other students during the gallery walk of their completed projects.

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The Queen of Canada fact sheet

<p>Who is the Queen of Canada? What is her role?</p>	
<p>Who represents the Queen in Canada? What is the name of the individual in this position today?</p>	
<p>Who are the lieutenant governors and what do they do? Who is the lieutenant governor of your province?</p>	
<p>What are the different kinds of Canadian honours?</p>	
<p>Who is the Queen of Canada? What is her role?</p>	

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An Honourable Canadian research handout

Use the following links to discover and learn about a Canadian who received a Canadian honour for their contributions to Canada:

- [The Order of Canada](#)
- [Governor General Announces 135 New Appointments](#)
- [Canadian Honours recipients database](#)

My chosen honourable Canadian

Name:

Type of honour and year:

Why were they honoured? What about their work interests you?
