



LESSON
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CITIZENSHIP CHALLENGE

Citizenship Challenge Boy Scouts Learning Tool

INTRODUCTION

The objective of the Citizenship Challenge Boy Scouts Learning Tool is to prepare Scouts for the Historica Canada *Citizenship Challenge*, a national contest that asks students to take a mock citizenship exam. Based on Scouts Canada qualification standards and training programs, the learning tool will help Scouts become more familiar with Canada, develop leadership skills and encourage active citizenship.

This guide was produced with the generous support of the Government of Canada. Historica Canada is the largest organization dedicated to enhancing awareness of Canada's history and citizenship. Additional free, bilingual educational activities and resources are available online at [The Canadian Encyclopedia \(TCE\)](http://The Canadian Encyclopedia (TCE)) and at www.citizenshipchallenge.ca.

Science Badge

Objective: I will explore and learn about one of the many areas of scientific pursuit.

Canadians are no strangers to the fields of invention and innovation. Many of our accomplishments in science, space and technology have far-reaching benefits for countless others in every continent. (*Learn more by reading the appropriate section of the [Discover Canada Study Guide](#).*)

Exploring Further

1. Conduct research to find out more about some of these great Canadian scientific minds: [Sir Frederick Banting](#) & [Charles Best](#), [Dr. Wilder Penfield](#) and Dr. John A. Hopps. TCE has articles on many famous scientists; start your research there. Take notes that answer the following questions:
 - a) When did they live and work?
 - b) How did their scientific discoveries/contributions improve the society in which they lived?
 - c) In what way is modern society affected by their accomplishments?



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2. Share your findings with your troop in one of the following ways:
 - a) Fill in the [Facebook account template](#) for one of the figures listed above. What groups might he belong to? Outline what this famous Canadian is best known for in three timeline posts and two different images with a caption for each one.
 - a. Deliver a PowerPoint presentation to your fellow Scouts to walk them through some of the major life events and accomplishments of the famous Canadian you chose.

Technology Badge

Objective: I will explore what it means to be an active and contributing citizen of the technological world.

Take a look at our five-dollar bill. On one side is a picture of former PM Sir Wilfrid Laurier and on the other is an image of the [Canadarm](#), an invention of a group of Canadian technology firms, led by Spar Aerospace, and the National Research Council. Imagine you have to give a presentation to the [Royal Canadian Mint](#) about who/what they should showcase on the next circulation of five-dollar bills. Create a compelling argument for one of the following Canadian innovators:

- a) [Alexander Graham Bell](#)
- b) [Sir Sanford Fleming](#) (creator of the worldwide system of standard time zones)
- c) Matthew Evan and Henry Woodward (inventors of the first electric lightbulb... they predated Thomas Edison!)
- d) [Mike Lazaridis](#) and [Jim Balsillie](#) (CEOs of the communication company responsible for the BlackBerry, one of the first successful instant-messaging devices)

Here are some questions to reflect on/consider while you are doing research for your presentation.

1. What was the breakthrough that led to the invention?
2. In what ways has the invention changed or shaped Canadian society?



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3. Has the discovery made an impact on the world stage? If so, how?
4. Why does the Canadian population need to know about this innovator?

Brainstorm with fellow Scouts. Canada is a tapestry of accomplishments from all segments of our population (young, elderly, Indigenous, French Canadian, LGBTQ+, etc.). How might you (individually or collectively) have a positive impact on your country in the future?

Summer Fitness Badge/ Winter Fitness Badge

Objective: I will participate in healthy and active summer/winter fitness.

Canadians over the years have participated in a wide range of sports and we have proudly produced a long list of athletes, from the amateur level to Olympic and Paralympic gold medalists. (Learn more by consulting the [Discover Canada Study Guide](#).)

Exploring Further...

Divide into small groups of three or four. Carry out some brief research on Canada's achievements in a particular Olympic sport. Working together, write a short description of the sport as well as the names and dates of some of the Canadian medal recipients and share your findings with your troop. As part of your discussion, explore the following questions:

1. What are some character traits these athletes seem to have in common? How might these qualities improve their athletic pursuits?
2. How does working collaboratively (in a team, for example) create a better learning environment?
3. In what way can a single person have an impact across an entire country (reflecting specifically on [Terry Fox](#))?
4. Brainstorm the positive impacts that sport/physical activity can have on a person.

Extension Activity: Your troop can create a Boy Scouts Olympic Competition, engaging in some activities such as the long jump, sprinting or an organized game of hockey.



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Divide into small groups and conduct some research on a famous Canadian athlete. Some examples of well-known sports figures are Olympians [Donovan Bailey](#) and [Chantal Petitclerc](#), Stanley Cup champion [Wayne Gretzky](#) and Canadian hero/icon [Terry Fox](#). Make sure you gather information about your subject that would normally be found on a sports trading card, such as a picture or drawing of the person, highlights of their career/sport, and how they played a role in shaping Canadian athleticism. Fill in the sports trading card template and share what you learned with the rest of your troop.

Patrol Leader tip: Make copies of completed cards for each member of your Scout troop so they can share and trade the cards.

Canada Badge

Objective: I will explore what it means to be an active and contributing citizen of my country, Canada.

Measuring 10 million square kilometres, Canada is the second largest country in the world! It shares a border with the United States to the south and is lined by three major bodies of water — the Pacific Ocean to the west, the Atlantic Ocean to the east and the Arctic Ocean in the north. Because of its size, Canada can be divided into different geographical regions. There are also many symbols that reflect this diverse geography and history that have taken on importance in expressing our national identity.

Exploring Further...

1. *Canada by Colours:* Our country can be divided into five distinct regions based on their geographical location and characteristics. Consult the [Discover Canada Study Guide](#) to colour in your map, using a different colour for each region. What makes them distinct from each other?
2. *What's in a Name?* Once your map is coloured, label the names and capital cities of the 10 provinces and three territories, along with our national capital. Can you trace the origin and history of each region's name?
3. *Canada and its People:* Canada is a highly multicultural society that prides itself on its openness and acceptance of others. Our national tapestry has been woven together over the years by three different groups that have left an imprint on our cultural identity. Among them are many Indigenous groups, the French Canadian population and the



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British. Divide into three groups to explore these identities further. What role has each played in how our society has progressed and developed throughout the centuries? How are these groups portrayed in the media?

4. *Oh So Symbolic:* Many important visual symbols are now associated with our Canadian identity. The [*Discover Canada Study Guide*](#) will give you some ideas of the more important ones (e.g. the [*fleur-de-lys*](#), [*the beaver*](#), the coat of arms, etc.). Choose a symbol, draw it and write up a few points about its importance to share with your peers. Once the troop has finished, play a game of Extreme Pictionary.

Patrol Leader tip: Extreme Pictionary encourages Scouts to expand upon what they learned about Canada's symbols. Have the troop split into two teams and take turns drawing symbols in response to a prompt. For an extra point, the drawer can explain the symbol's origin or importance to Canada.

5. *Timeline Canada!* Consult the appropriate sections of the [*Discover Canada Study Guide*](#) and choose a prominent historical figure or group (some examples include [*Jacques Cartier*](#), [*Samuel de Champlain*](#), [*Donnacona of the Iroquois*](#), [*Laura Secord*](#), [*Chief Tecumseh*](#), [*Louis Riel*](#), and [*Agnes Macphail*](#)). After you've found some brief biographical information (including contribution to the development of our country), decide how you would like to present what you've learned. Some examples of presentations are: role playing, staging an interview with the historical figure, or presenting the information in the form of a PowerPoint or on a poster.

Patrol Leader tip: Ensure that the presentations are in chronological order, thus creating our historical time line.

Looking for more ideas? Consult the Trail Cards for **Rideau Trail** (Citizenship), **Red Coat Trail** (Leadership) & **West Coast Trail** (Beliefs and Values) to inspire an adventure you'd like to try on your own.



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Community Badge

Objective: I will explore what it means to be an active and contributing citizen of my community.

Organize a rousing game of “Oh Canada” for your fellow Scouts. The object of the game is to see who is really “in the know” about our great country! Refer to the appropriate sections of the [*Discover Canada Study Guide*](#) to help prepare the necessary information. Scouts can divide into teams (each dealing with a particular branch or section of our government so that all questions will be different) and each team should draft four questions. Some examples might include:

1. Name the three parts of the Canadian Parliament.
2. What is the difference between an MP and an MPP?
3. How many countries make up the British Commonwealth?
4. What are the seven steps for a bill to become law?
5. What are the three levels of government in Canada?

Looking for more ideas? Consult the Trail Cards for **Rideau Trail** (Citizenship), **Red Coat Trail** (Leadership) & **West Coast Trail** (Beliefs and Values) to inspire an adventure you’d like to try on your own.



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Date: _____

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