



LESSON  
PLANS

# CITIZENSHIP CHALLENGE

## Citizenship Challenge Sea, Army and Air Cadets Learning Tool

### INTRODUCTION

The objective of the Cadet Learning Tool is to prepare cadets to participate in the Historica Canada *Citizenship Challenge*, a national contest that asks students to take a mock citizenship exam.

Based on the Sea, Army and Air Cadets qualification standards and training programs, the learning tool will help cadets become more familiar with Canada, develop leadership skills and encourage active citizenship.

## Canada's History

### 1 WAR JOURNALS

Have cadets choose a military conflict mentioned in the "Canada's History" chapter of the *Discover Canada Study Guide*:

- War of 1812
- Rebellions of 1837
- Boer War
- The First World War
- The Second World War

Independently, have cadets write a one- to two-page creative narrative from the perspective of a person living through that time period. Assignments should be written using the first person perspective and retell the events that their subject would have witnessed. The journal entry should include facts about the military conflict; *The Canadian Encyclopedia* can be used as a reference.

### 2 HISTORICAL SKITS

Divide the cadets into groups; assign each group one of the historical moments listed below. Provide cadets 30 minutes for research and to prepare a one-minute skit based on their assigned historical moment. Have each group present their skits to the rest of the group.

- Underground Railroad
- Building the Intercontinental Railway
- Halifax Explosion
- The Official Languages Act
- The Fur Trade
- The Residential Schools Apology
- Canada's National Anthem

The *Citizenship Challenge* is based on the *Discover Canada Study Guide*, the same booklet used by newcomers to study for the citizenship test.

Resources to use with these activities:

➤ **Discover Canada Study Guide**

[citizenshipchallenge.ca/resources/study-guide](https://citizenshipchallenge.ca/resources/study-guide)

➤ **Citizenship Challenge Worksheets**

[citizenshipchallenge.ca/resources/educational-resources](https://citizenshipchallenge.ca/resources/educational-resources)

➤ **The Canadian Encyclopedia**

[thecanadianencyclopedia.ca](https://thecanadianencyclopedia.ca)



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### Canadian Symbols

#### 1 CANADA'S MILITARY SYMBOLS

Independently or in groups, have cadets choose one of the following symbols mentioned in the *Discover Canada Study Guide* (p. 38-41). Cadets will prepare a three- to five-minute presentation on the history and meaning of the symbol. Cadets can prepare a slideshow (using applications such as Prezi and PowerPoint) or a bulletin board.

- The Maple Leaf
- The Canadian Crown
- The Peace Tower
- The Memorial Chamber
- The Books of Remembrance
- The V.C. (Victoria Cross) Medal

This could be a five-minute oral presentation using the cadets' own examples and rationale, or a longer research project ending in a formal debate. Cadets can then reflect and vote on the most persuasive presentation.

#### 2 IMPORTANT DATES

Dates in Canadian military history such as November 11 (Remembrance Day) and April 9 (Vimy Day) are nationally recognized as important dates of observance.

Have cadets imagine they are members of a committee to choose the next notable date in Canadian military history to be designated a national public holiday. Divide the group into "judges" and "presenters."

Independently, the "presenters" will write a persuasive speech outlining why the "judges" should select the notable date in Canadian military history they have chosen and researched. Following the presentations, the "judges" will debate and vote.

### Additional Activities

#### 1 QUESTION AND ANSWER WORKSHEETS

The *Citizenship Challenge* Worksheets are available as free downloads. Questions can be completed at either a junior level (fill in the blank) or at a senior level (short answers).

#### 2 GUEST SPEAKER

Explore personal stories of diversity and multiculturalism by inviting a *Passages Canada* speaker for a group visit. Book your free visit at [passagescanada.ca](http://passagescanada.ca). To introduce your cadets to stories of service, invite a veteran or currently-serving Canadian Forces member from *The Memory Project Speakers Bureau* for free. Visit [thememoryproject.com](http://thememoryproject.com).

#### 3 ORGANIZE A TRIP

Organize a trip to your provincial legislative building, city hall or another government institution, where cadets can learn more about Canadian symbols, modern Canada and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

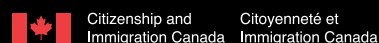


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### Modern Canada

#### 1 CANADA PANEL DISCUSSION

► Recommended for cadets in Years Three and Four

Divide the cadets into groups. Explain to the cadets that they are to take on the roles of leading young thinkers who have been asked to identify the issues, events and developments that will transform Canada in the 21st Century.

Their task is to examine several key questions about how Canada's recent past has prepared it for the challenges of the future. Have each group formulate their own argument and prepare a short presentation on one of the questions below. Hold a panel discussion, during which each group presents their arguments and responds to questions from the larger group.

- How have modern Canadian ideas, policies and events prepared us for the future?
- What issues have we not yet resolved and what new challenges lie ahead?
- How can we maintain or improve our balance of peace, prosperity and diversity?
- What can individual Canadians do to make a meaningful contribution to our society?
- How can we play a meaningful role in the world of the 21st century?

Alternatively, groups can consider a specific issue that is at the centre of Canadian politics, such as Aboriginal and environmental issues. Continue the rest of the activity as above.

#### 2 PEACEKEEPING TIMELINE

Independently or in groups, have cadets create a timeline representing the history of peacekeeping in Canada, from its creation to Canada's current involvement. The timeline should identify key conflicts, dates and people.

Encourage cadets to be creative, they can make an electronic version (using applications such as Prezi and Timetoast) or a paper version. *The Canadian Encyclopedia* can be used as a reference.

### The Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship

#### 1 DEBATING THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A CANADIAN CITIZEN

Assign a different right or responsibility from the *Discover Canada Study Guide* (p. 8-9) to each cadet. Have them argue that their right or responsibility is the most significant aspect of Canadian citizenship. This could be a five-minute oral presentation using the cadets' own examples and rationale, or a longer multi-day activity research project ending in a formal debate. Cadets can then reflect and vote on the most persuasive presentation.

#### 2 COMMUNITY INTERVENTION PROPOSAL

Begin with a group discussion on the importance of community service. Ask cadets what changes they would see in their community.

Independently, have cadets write a proposal for a "Community Intervention." Interventions are simple one-time events (installation, activity, charitable event, etc.) with the goal of creating stronger sense of community. The interventions are meant to showcase cadets' ideas for creating a better community.

The proposal should include the title, a description and the objective of the intervention. Cadets can include the inspiration behind their intervention. To further expand the activity, have cadets include the logistical aspects of their intervention: required staff or volunteers, location and budget, etc.

Cadets can present their interventions in a Heritage Fair or Science Fair style showcase, in which the cadets share their proposals and vote for the best one.



## How Canadians Govern Themselves & Federal Elections

### 1 BEHIND CANADA'S SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

After reading the "How Canadians Govern Themselves" & "Federal Elections" chapters of the *Discover Canada Study Guide*, review cadets' knowledge by asking them questions on the principles and structures behind Canada's government and democracy. Questions could include:

- What are the three branches of the Canadian government?
- What does **federal state** mean?
- What does **constitutional monarchy** mean?
- What are the responsibilities of a senator?
- In your province or territory, what are the members of the legislature called?
- What is the role of the Commissioner?

### 2 WHAT MAKES A GOOD LEADER?

Discuss the skills, qualities and responsibilities cadets believe are necessary to work in government. Discussion questions could include:

- What do you think are the characteristics of a leader?
- Why should personal integrity be an important quality of leadership?
- What skills do you think members of Parliament and of the legislature should have before being elected?
- What do you think motivates someone to become a politician? Do you think these are positive motivations? Why or why not?

Following the group discussion, have cadets complete one of the following tasks by incorporating facts, concepts and themes from the reading:

- A. Individually, have cadets write a help wanted advertisement for a position in government mentioned in the *Discover Canada Study Guide* chapters (p. 28-29). Cadets should include a comprehensive job description, ideal personal qualities and background, and the type of qualifications that a successful applicant should have.
- B. Individually, have cadets imagine they are candidates for a federal election and need to write the introductory speech for an upcoming debate. The one-page speech should include their political party, electoral district, electoral platform and motivations for running.