

Cool in Canada

1 WARMER

Work in pairs and write ten things that you associate with Canada into the maple leaf.



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2 WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Skim-read the article to find the words that fit in the gaps. The paragraph number is given to help you

1. areas that the world is divided into for measuring time _____ (para 1)
2. interesting or attractive in a slightly old-fashioned way _____ (para 1)
3. a sport in which you slide down a snowy hill on a vehicle without wheels _____ (para 2)
4. the heights of places above sea level _____ (para 4)
5. people who are related to you who lived a long time ago _____ (para 5)
6. a sauce made from the juices of cooked meat mixed with flour _____ (para 6)
7. a verb meaning *to do some work without getting paid* _____ (para 7)
8. structures that children play on by climbing up steps and coming down a slope on the other side _____ (para 8)
9. solid objects that someone makes as a work of art by shaping a substance such as stone, metal or ice _____ (para 8)
10. one of many areas into which Canada is divided _____ (para 9)
11. a wild area far away from a city usually with many trees _____ (para 10)
12. the part of a person that many people believe continues to exist after death _____ (para 11)
13. the oldest and most respected people of a tribe _____ (para 12)
14. old stories about things in the past (that are probably not true) _____ (para 12)
15. the ability to control your own behaviour _____ (para 12)

Definitions from www.macmillandictionary.com

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COOL IN CANADA

by Talitha Linehan

1 Canada is cool – and cold! Well, at least in winter, when it becomes a wonderland that's great for winter sports. It is the world's second-largest country and has six time zones. From beautiful Vancouver on the West Coast with its mountains and café culture to the French-speaking province of Québec with its fun ice festivals and quaint villages, Canada has something for everyone. In January, the country is covered in snow and temperatures of minus 30° Celsius are normal. Here, three young Canadians talk about winter in Canada.

Action, fun and French

2 "Hi! My name is **Christelle Doyon**. I live in Québec City, in the province of Québec in eastern Canada. Winter is my favourite season. Canada, especially Québec, is beautiful in winter. There's snow everywhere, and everything looks white and clean and new. The light reflects off the snow, so it never gets very dark. Everyone goes ice-skating on the lakes. Kids go tobogganing in the parks. We build big snowmen and have snowball fights. It's fun!

My sport

3 Of course, winter is also the best time to go snowboarding, which is my passion. I started snowboarding when I was six and took part in my first international race at 13. Snowboarding is cool in Québec but there's nothing like Banff Lake Louise, in the western province of Alberta, and the mountains of Whistler where some of the 2010 Olympic events will happen. Those mountains are really high and have many different types of snow. Everything's white and blue, and you feel really close to the sky.

4 At the end of 2008, the team and I spent a few weeks training in Whistler. It's important to get used to the altitudes and temperatures there. It would be an amazing experience to take part in the Winter Olympic Games. Snowboarding is a sport that Canada is very proud of and one of our biggest hopes for a medal.

My home, my language

5 The coolest thing about my country is that it has two big cultures: Canadian and French-Canadian. My ancestors came from Belgium, and my family is proud to be French-Canadian. French Canada is basically the province of Québec, and it's very different to the rest of the country: we see things a lot more like Europeans than like Americans. We agree with Europeans about many things. And we speak French.

6 I started learning English when I went to an English-speaking school at 13. I understood a bit before then but I couldn't really speak it. Usually I only speak English to people who aren't French-Canadian, like my snowboarding coaches and team mates. We love our crêpes, our bakeries and our chocolate. We drink more wine than most other Canadians. We also have a famous kind of fast food called *poutine* – which is made of French fries, gravy and cheese. It sounds strange but it's really good."

Winterlude wonderland

7 Every year, Canada's capital city, Ottawa, becomes a winter wonderland for the Winterlude festival. During three weeks in February, hundreds of thousands of visitors come to join in the fun, and more than 800 people volunteer to help out. **Aimée Begley**, from Gatineau, in the eastern province of Québec, loves the festival and volunteered for the first time in 2009.

8 "Winterlude is amazing! You can learn about what people in different countries like to eat, how they live and what arts and crafts they make. There are also huge slides made of snow and ice, and lots of other outdoor activities. My favourite thing is to watch people building the ice sculptures at Confederation Park. Last year, one of the sculptures was a big pirate ship. Once, there was a huge castle made of ice that was lit up by coloured lights. That was the coolest thing ever! There's something to do every day. So when you come here, wrap up warm, enjoy a beaver tail – a delicious pastry with cinnamon and sugar – and join the party!"

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What it means to be Cree

- 9 Before Europeans arrived, First Nation tribes lived all over Canada. The Cree, with about 200,000 people in Canada and parts of the US, are the biggest tribe. **Caleb Turner** is one of 2,500 Cree on Moose Factory Island, in the Moose River in the eastern province of Ontario.
- 10 In winter, it's below freezing and the island is covered in snow. Kids play ice hockey, drive snowmobiles or go camping. "Sometimes we spend a day in the bush," says Caleb. "We build fires, go hunting and ice-fishing. It's a lot of fun."
- 11 Cree teens are like other Canadian teens but they have their own language, religion and traditions. Cree believe all things, especially people and animals, have a spirit. When someone dies, the spirit continues on its journey without the body.
- 12 The tribal Elders keep the Cree history, language and legends alive through story-telling and giving advice. The Cree language is the most common native language in Canada. Caleb believes his culture helps him in many ways. "Cree culture is very strong. Learning respect and discipline makes us more responsible than other teens."

What animals to look for

More than 15,000 **polar bears** live in Canada. See them in Churchill, in the mid-western province of Manitoba, between September and November.

Bald eagles have a wingspan of more than two metres and a dark brown body with a white head and tail. Most of them are found along the Pacific coast in the province of British Columbia.

Wolves live in parts of Canada where there are few people – especially in the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

About a million **moose** live in forests all over Canada.

Buffaloes are Canada's largest land animals. See them at the Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary, Northwest Territories, or in Wood Buffalo National Park, Northwest Territories and Alberta province – this park is as big as Switzerland!

Where to go

Banff and Jasper National Parks, Alberta

Big mountains, fast-flowing rivers, huge glaciers and deep, blue lakes – these two parks in the Rocky Mountains are packed with wildlife like moose, wolves and bears.

Whale-watching in British Columbia

The Pacific Rim National Park, on Vancouver Island, is one of the world's best places for whale-watching between February and November.

Dog-sledding in Ontario

The Algonquin Provincial Park is Ontario's oldest and largest park. Explore it with the help of a team of furry friends and a comfy sled!



Vancouver

Canada's coolest city has everything! Visit the chic SoMa (South Main) district, bohemian Commercial Drive, crazy Chinatown or spend time with the hippies in Kitsilano. For outdoor fun, go to Whistler and Cypress mountains, Stanley Park and Second Beach.

www.pc.gc.ca

www.vancouver.ca/visitors.htm

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3 FIND THE INFORMATION

Write full answers to these questions.

1. What are winter temperatures in Canada like?

2. What language do people in Québec speak?

3. What fun things can you do outside in Québec in winter?

4. Where will some of the 2010 Winter Olympic Games take place?

5. What can you see and do at the Winterlude festival?

6. What is a 'beaver tail'?

7. What are the Cree and where do they live?

4 TEEN TALK: IT'S MY PASSION

Look back at the article and answer the questions.

When you say that something *is your passion*, you mean that:

- a. you like it.
- b. you love it.
- c. you hate it.

What does Christelle say *is her passion*? _____

What *is your passion*? _____

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5 WRITING: AN EMAIL

Answer the question before completing the task below.

a. According to Christelle, what is *the coolest thing about her country?*

b. Write an email to Christelle and tell her about your country in winter. Include information about all or some of the following:

- winter temperatures
- sports and festivals
- special food
- wildlife
- places to visit
- the coolest thing about your country

To: Christelle

From: Me

Subject: My country in winter

6 WEBQUEST: CLASS PROJECT

Choose one of these topics and make a poster or PowerPoint slide show; then present it to your class.

- Winter sports in Canada
- Vancouver
- Winterlude in Ottawa
- Whale-watching in British Columbia
- Canadian wild animals and birds
- Banff and Jasper National Parks
- First Nation tribes (e.g. the Cree)

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KEY

2

1. time zones
2. quaint
3. tobogganing
4. altitudes
5. ancestors
6. gravy
7. volunteer
8. slides
9. sculptures
10. province
11. bush
12. spirit
13. tribal Elders
14. legends
15. discipline

3

1. It is cold with lots of snow. Temperatures of minus 30° celsius are normal
2. French (as their first language) and also English
3. ice-skating on the lakes; tobogganing in the parks (kids); building snowmen; having snowball fights
4. in the mountains of Whistler
5. You can learn about what people in different countries like to eat, how they live and what arts and crafts they make. There are also huge slides made of snow and ice, and lots of other outdoor activities as well as ice sculptures. And you can eat a special pastry called a beaver tail.
6. a delicious pastry with cinnamon and sugar
7. The Cree are a First Nation tribe from Canada. They live on Moose Factory Island in the eastern province of Ontario.

4

- a. you love it.
 - b. you love it.
- Christelle's passion is snowboarding.

5

Christelle says that the coolest thing about her country is that it has two big cultures: Canadian and French-Canadian.