

THE GATHERING PLACE

An Exploration of
Canada's Capital



READY-TO-USE STUDENT ACTIVITIES

- For Grades 5-8 Social Science/History
- Includes SMART Notebook® lesson options
- Additional online materials available

SUPPORTING EDUCATION ABOUT

- Canadian culture, identity and symbols
- Government, citizenship and democracy
- Canadian stories, heroes and celebrations



CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

CREDITS

The revised version of this resource was created by Classroom Connections on behalf of Canadian Heritage. For over 15 years, Classroom Connections has been creating and distributing innovative *(and free!)* educational resources to publicly funded schools across Canada.

To find out more about these organizations, please visit
www.classroomconnections.ca and **www.canada.ca/en/services/culture.html**.

Project Manager

Suzanne Anderson, Director of Programming, Classroom Connections

Interactive Technology Consulting

Sarah Richer, Technology Instructional Coach, Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

Contributing Writers *(to both the original and revised editions)*

Suzanne Anderson, Director of Programming, Classroom Connections

Nick Brune, Educational Writer; Teacher, Halton District School Board

Elspeth Deir, Elementary Education, Faculty of Education, Queen's University

Susan Hughes, Author, Educational and Children's Books

Stephen Hurley, Educational Consultant

John Myers, Curriculum Instructor, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto

Marc Sprack, Principal, Toronto District School Board

Design

Pixels in Blue

Editors

Lori Anderson, Jennifer Ralston

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ABOUT THIS RESOURCE

Canada's capital is more than just the seat of government. It is a place of national institutions, treasures and symbols that enable us to explore our history and identity as a people. It is where we gather to remember, to celebrate and to share the stories that define who we are as a nation.

A visit to the national capital can evoke feelings of pride and a sense of belonging as Canadians. Many young Canadians, though, have not yet had the chance to visit the capital. This resource was designed with them in mind. It provides an opportunity for youth to discover what their national capital means to them.

The activities in this guide explore how our capital represents the essence of our nation: our identity, our stories, and how we make the decisions that shape our country. Students unable to visit in person can interact with key features of the capital and see Canada's history and identity reflected in its streets, buildings and monuments. Students will develop a sense of how our national capital serves as a physical and metaphorical meeting place that belongs to all Canadians.

Canada's Capital

Although Ottawa, Ontario, is the official capital of Canada, Canada's Capital Region encompasses a broader area that includes the city of Gatineau, Quebec, and the surrounding urban and rural communities. Federal government buildings, national institutions, and other important sites and symbols are located on both sides of the Ottawa River.



Themes, Activities, Implementation Time and Grade Level

The term “theme” is used to describe a collection of activities that develop students’ understanding around a particular set of concepts. The length of time to complete these activities will vary with language levels, experience in co-operative learning and group dynamics. The teacher is the best judge of these factors. Teachers can select single activities, a group of activities that form one “theme,” or a set of themes for integration within the curriculum, depending on the time available.

The target level of the material varies from Grade 5 to Grade 8. Many activities can accommodate multiple grades by changing assessment criteria, altering the method of presentation or providing additional time to complete the assignments.

Curriculum Connections

The themes and concepts presented in this resource hold extensive and rich possibilities for meeting Ministry of Education curricular objectives/expectations in Social Science and History programs in provinces and territories across the country, including the competencies outlined in the Quebec Education Programme (QEP). Activities have been designed to maximize a variety of specific skill-based objectives/expectations and competencies such as critical thinking, problem solving, communication, social skills, and map and document analysis.

ABOUT THIS RESOURCE

Pedagogical Approach

The activities in this resource were created using a student-centred, activity-based education model. A student-centred approach assumes that youth learn best when encouraged to learn and explore for themselves and when they are addressed as individuals with unique beliefs, experiences and strengths. Activity-based learning increases students' involvement and widens the scope for learning.

It also incorporates multiple learning styles—often within the same activity—as students move from individual work to pair and group discussions. This method enhances each student's potential for learning and for internalizing complex concepts within a short time frame.

Group Work Wisdom for Activities

Consistent with the pedagogical approach outlined above, many of the activities in this resource are designed to encourage student interaction and collaboration through group work. It is by working with others that great change occurs, and the sharing of skills, voices and support strengthens each of our efforts. The following tips may be helpful in implementing effective group work within your classroom:

1. Try to keep group size at two to four students to increase the opportunity for all students to talk and participate.
2. Make sure you hold all students accountable by using one or more of the following strategies:
 - Tell students you will randomly call on them, so everyone in the group must be prepared to share group results.
 - Use the “Lettered Heads” technique. Letter students off (as A, B, C, D) and tell them you will be selecting a letter from each group to share group results.
 - At the end of a group activity, select one student from each group (based on a random characteristic such as shortest hair, red shirt, etc.) to go to another group and share what that group has done.
3. Take the time to teach one social, communication or critical thinking skill during each group activity, based on the skills required to complete the task. Have students assess how their group functioned in terms of these skills. There are over 100 skills in these areas, but here are some ideas:
 - Social skills: taking turns, sharing materials, using names, participating equally, waiting patiently
 - Communication skills: active listening, paraphrasing, accepting and extending the ideas of others, checking for understanding, disagreeing agreeably
 - Critical thinking skills: suspending judgement, examining both sides of an issue, considering all factors

Although we strongly recommend the use of group work as fundamental to achieving the objectives of the material, you can use the stimulus materials in multiple ways and can modify activities for individual students.

Program Developers

Classroom Connections creates, produces and distributes innovative, award-winning and bilingual educational materials for schools, community organizations and faculties of education across Canada. Since 1997, we have developed and delivered more than 18 free resource packages. Materials are provided free of charge because we believe that all children should have access to inspiring and motivating educational experiences. To make this happen, we secure project-based funding from grants, foundations, sponsorship and charitable donations.

The materials we produce are curriculum-aligned and ready to use, including step-by-step lesson plans and student handouts as well as background information and assessment tools. Each program is written by experts in content and pedagogy and pilot tested with youth across Canada. Our materials are reviewed and evaluated by subject specialists. Currently, 85% of Canadian schools, over 50 faculties of education and over 300 community agencies and non-governmental organizations are registered to receive our resources. To view or download our full range of materials, please go to www.classroomconnections.ca/resources.

THEME OVERVIEW

THEME	OVERVIEW	STUDENT MATERIALS
<p>1. A Capital Idea Page 7</p>	<p>Students explore the attributes, roles, functions and characteristics of Canada’s capital and begin to understand how our nation’s capital serves as a physical and metaphorical gathering place for all Canadians.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handout 1: Capital Clues • Handout 2: Tour Guide Checklist • Insert Map of Canada’s Capital Region • Photo Cards (on back of Insert Map)
<p>2. Gathering Where? Page 15</p>	<p>Students examine what makes a capital city unique and explore the factors and historical context that affect how a capital city is chosen.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handout 3: Capital Criteria • Handout 4: Canada’s Capital Chosen! • Handout 5: Weighing the Options • Assessment Rubric: On the Move
<p>3. Exploring Our Identity Page 23</p>	<p>Students explore the concept of Canadian identity and the role of the national capital in representing the shared vision and common values that connect us as a diverse and regional nation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handout 6: “I Am” Poem Template
<p>4. Celebrating Our Stories Page 29</p>	<p>Students explore Canada’s capital as a place where Canadians gather to remember the past; share stories about this land and its people; and celebrate their heritage, common values and accomplishments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handout 7: Who Am I? • Handout 8: Commemorating Canada • Assessment Rubric: Commemorating Canada
<p>5. Making Decisions Page 37</p>	<p>Students examine the role of our national capital in decision making and creating change for citizens, while exploring the actions and outcomes of youth making a difference.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handout 9: Making a Difference • Assessment Rubric: Commemorating Me!

GATHERING online

To access the online material, please go to www.canada.ca/GatheringPlace. The full Teacher's Guide, Insert Map and Photo Cards are available for download as pdf files. All additional materials are organized by theme. Throughout the resource, you will see **WWW** indicating that additional website materials are available.

THEME	ONLINE MATERIALS
<p>1. A Capital Idea</p> 	<p>SMART Notebook® Theme 1: Activities 1, 2 and 4 Flickr Gallery: Photo Cards Photo Cards and Insert Map pdfs Insert Map Answer Key pdf Capital Questions Handout (Activity 3, Step 3 discussion questions)</p>
<p>2. Gathering Where?</p> 	<p>SMART Notebook® Theme 2: Activities 1 and 2 Flickr Gallery: Ottawa Then and Now Link to Historical Maps of Canada</p>
<p>3. Exploring Our Identity</p> 	<p>SMART Notebook® Theme 3: Activities 1 and 2 Link to Defining Canada: A Nation Chooses the 101 Things That Best Define Their Country: Results Tables</p>
<p>4. Celebrating Our Stories</p> 	<p>SMART Notebook® Theme 4: Activities 1 and 2 Flickr Gallery: Commemorations Video: Commemorations Link to Canadian Heritage Public Art Link to Canadian Heritage Monuments Link to Decoding Art series on the Royal Canadian Navy Monument</p>
<p>5. Making Decisions</p> 	<p>Making a Difference Handout (Activity 3, Step 2 discussion questions)</p>

Additional updates to this version of The Gathering Place include the availability of SMART Notebook® lessons for teachers who have access to the technology. Because the technology is not in use consistently across the country, all lessons included in this resource are also completely stand-alone.

Please refer to the Gathering Online section (*page 5*) to get an overview of what is available, and visit <http://www.classroomconnections.ca/gatheringplace> to download specific files. We have purposefully kept the lessons straightforward for use by even new Smart Notebook® users. Teachers that are more experienced with the technology will no doubt come up with additional learning opportunities. We have posted the materials on SMART Notebook® Exchange (<http://exchange.smarttech.com/>) and we would love to see your additions and variations.



Note to Users

The Gathering Place was specifically designed as an interactive resource with many tactile manipulatives and a wide variety of strategies and modalities. We are not fans of using technology just because you can—we believe its use needs to be value added. As a result, the SMART Notebook® lessons are available to replace specific activities where it makes pedagogical sense.

Look for the **SN** symbol throughout the resource to indicate that SMART Notebook® lessons have been provided. Teachers will need to read through the complete activity to

see how the SMART Notebook® materials fit into the larger lesson. In addition, we suggest having the paper copy of the resource available during lesson presentation, as many helpful prompts for answers and teacher notes are included in the hard-copy version.

Even when using the SMART Notebook® option, we recommend that students also create hard-copy manipulatives (*e.g., the two-sided Capital Cards*). There are some activities that can't be effectively replaced using the shared whiteboard.

I'm New to This. Why Bother?

The interactive and collaborative qualities of this type of system are key reasons to integrate it into lesson activities. At the very least, it is fantastic for demonstration and maximizes limited computer resources. At its best, the research shows it can improve student attitudes towards instruction and stimulate positive participation in classroom activities. It also provides a great way to accommodate different learning styles. When used well it can be an exceptional tool for the constructivist educator.