

TEACHER UNIT GUIDE: INFORMED CITIZENSHIP

This unit specifically explores how our Canadian Government functions. Students will learn about federalism, how a law is made, the structure of parliament and many other Canadian political structures that affect our daily lives.

Unit Goals

With each of the activities package are a set of goals. These goals correlate to ministry standards in Ontario, Canada and likely also parallel the standards in other regions.

Organization of the Unit

The unit is organized into a series of thematic activities packages. These themes are organized in such a manner as to improve clarity and help the student develop their own effective organizational skills. In addition, other proven educational strategies are also employed including differentiation, backwards design, project based learning and traditional methods.

Unit Themes

The following themes are covered within the unit:

- Canadian Federalism
- Parliament
- How a bill becomes law
- Canadian Elections
- Canadian Politics

Unit Guide

This unit guide is intended to help teachers understand how to use the unit resources. Within the package you will find:

Suggested Unit Resources: Resources that are helpful in the learning process.

Activities Checklist: A guide to help the teacher progress through the unit.

Unit Evaluations: A description of each of the final evaluations.

Additional Notes:

- Throughout the Activities Checklist there will be extension activities that help reinforce various themes. These extension could be activities, documentaries, games etc.
- Please note that a stable internet connection will be needed to complete these activities.
- I hope you find these resources useful in helping students learn!

Unit Resources

There are a variety of resources that can be utilized to complete this course. It is essential that you have an internet connection to access online resources. Prior to starting the unit be sure that you have the appropriate resources available.

Suggested Unit Resources			
Resource Name	Type	Notes	Duration
civicschannel.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This website is a free online civics textbook. It is utilized for a number of different lessons. 	NA
parl.gc.ca	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The official website for the Canadian Parliament. It is very useful for understanding how our parliamentary system works. 	NA
elections.ca	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elections Canada's official website. This website will help students access information about their respective member of parliament. 	NA

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Unit Checklist		
Theme	Files	Completion Checklist
<p>Federalism</p> <p><u>Summary:</u></p> <p><i>This activity is helps students understand the relationship between the different branches of government.</i></p> <p>(4.5 hours)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.1 Activities Package—Canadian Federalism • 2.2 Lecture—Canada’s Federal System of Government • 2.3 Lecture—Branches of Gov’t • 2.4 Guide to the House of Commons 	<p>Check off each activity as you progress through the activity package, “Canadian Federalism.” (2.1 Activities Package—Canadian Federalism)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Activity 1: Federalism? (<i>Mindmap</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Activity 2: The Levels (<i>Powerpoint</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Activity 3: Jurisdictions (<i>Checklist</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Activity 4: Branches (<i>Powerpoint</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Activity 5: Relationship (<i>Chart</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Activity 6: Executive (<i>Fill in the Blank</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Activity 7: Legislative (<i>Fill in the Blank</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Activity 8: Judicial (<i>Online Textbook</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Activity 9: Courtroom (<i>Online Animation</i>) <p>Teacher Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> As an intro to this topic first show students the YouTube clip entitled, “Rick Mercer Canada Explained.” <input type="checkbox"/> Once the package is complete go to the folder “Review Games.” Within this folder you will find review games related to the terms and concepts covered in this package.
<p>Canadian Cabinet</p> <p><u>Summary:</u></p> <p><i>This simulation helps students understand the different roles of Canadian cabinet ministers.</i></p> <p>(2 hours)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.1 Activities Package—Appointing Cabinet 	<p>Students will be taking on the role of Prime Minister and will be selecting members of parliament to serve in different ministerial positions (cabinet ministers). Complete each step from the activities package, “Appointing Cabinet” (3.1 Activities Package—Appointing Cabinet).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Your Task (<i>Instructions</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Step 1: Departments (<i>Checklist</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Step 2: Your MP’s! (<i>MP Information</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Step 3: Appointments (<i>Selecting Ministers</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Step 4: Analysis (<i>Impact of Appointments</i>) <p>Teacher Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Use student names from your class when choosing names for each of the MP’s. This makes it much more interesting for the students! <input type="checkbox"/> It works best if students do this activity in pairs.

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Unit Checklist		
Theme	Files	Completion Checklist
<p>Canadian Politics</p> <p><u>Summary:</u></p> <p><i>This package details how elections function, the beliefs of political parties and the process of law making.</i></p> <p>(3-4 hours)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.1 Activities Package—Canadian Politics • 4.2 Lecture—Canadian Elections • 4.3 Political Parties • 4.4 Lecture—Bill to Law 	<p>Check off each activity as you progress through the package, “Canadian Politics.” (4.1 Activities Package: Canadian Politics)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Activity 1: Elections (<i>Powerpoint</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Activity 2: Parties (<i>Powerpoint</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Activity 3: Your MP! (<i>Website</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Activity 4: Bill to Law (<i>Powerpoint</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Activity 5: Simulation (<i>Online Animation</i>) <p>Teacher Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Try and get a local MP or MPP to come into class and speak. This makes things much more real for students. <input type="checkbox"/> Once the package is complete go to the folder “Review Games.” Within this folder you will find review games related to the terms and concepts covered in this package.
<p>Bill to Law</p> <p><u>Summary:</u></p> <p><i>This game will help students better understand the process of how a bill becomes a law</i></p> <p>(2 hours)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.1 Teacher Instructions—Bill to Law Game • 6.2 Bill to Law Instructions (Powerpoint version) • 6.3 Bill to Law Student Sheet • 6.4 Extra Bills and Group Signs • 6.5 Bill to Law Game Sheet 	<p>Read over and complete each of the steps from the document, “6.1 Teacher Instructions—Bill to Law Game.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Step 1: Bill to Law (<i>Powerpoint</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Step 2: Students Design Bills <input type="checkbox"/> Step 3: Bill to Law Game (<i>Powerpoint</i>) <p>Teacher Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Before completing this simulation review the ppt. “Bill to Law.” <input type="checkbox"/> Signs are provided to help keep things well organized. <input type="checkbox"/> It is important to choose a confident “Speaker” for each house. <input type="checkbox"/> To keep things flowing you can also start bills in the Senate. Technically, a bill can start in either house, but needs to be approved by both in order to pass to the Governor General. <input type="checkbox"/> Preview the proposed bills prior to class to ensure they are appropriate.

Unit Evaluation		
Evaluation:	Files	Description
<p>The Great Canadian Twitter Debate</p> <p><i>(3-4 hours)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.3 Political Parties • 5.1 Evaluation—The Great Canadian Twitter Debate • 5.2 Twitter Debate Templates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This evaluation allows students the opportunity to re-search the different views of federal political parties. • Read the instructions detailed in the document, “5.1 Evaluation—The Great Canadian Twitter Debate.” <p>Teacher Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Students will need a little help understanding some of the topics (eg. What does public health care mean?). It is helpful to discuss these questions first as a class before doing the Twitter activity. In addition, students should review the main beliefs of each party from either the party websites or from the powerpoint entitled, “4.3 Political Parties.” <input type="checkbox"/> Afterwards you want to display the best dialogues on a bulletin board in the class.
<p>Unit Test</p> <p><i>(4-5 hours Review)</i></p> <p><i>(1.5 hour Test)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7.1 Unit 2 Study Tips • 7.2 Unit 2 Review Sheet—Informed Citizenship • 7.3 Review Crossword Puzzle • 7.4 Answers—Review Crossword Puzzle • 7.5 Unit 2 Test—Informed Citizenship • 7.6 Answers—Unit 2 Test—Informed Citizenship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This test will evaluate student understanding of the main themes covered in this unit. • In preparation for the test: <p>Teacher Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Set a date for the test two weeks in advance. <input type="checkbox"/> Read over “7.1 Unit 2 Study Tips” <input type="checkbox"/> Have students create a review package based on the <i>Unit 2 Review Sheet—Informed Citizenship</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Complete the <i>Review Crossword Puzzle</i> <input type="checkbox"/> An answer key for the test is included!