



Access English Centre
Immigrant Centre Manitoba
High Beginner Activity Plan



Canadian Culture #1 - A Glance of Canadian Culture

Objective/Goal:

This is a fun interactive activity for the participants to get to know more about Canadian culture. The repetitive drills will familiarize participants about the proper way of asking and answering general questions.

Materials:

Participants need: a worksheet of new words and pictures, a worksheet of matching game, scenario cards, two sets of play cards.

Facilitator needs:

- magnetic whiteboard
- whiteboard markers

Procedure: *Warm-up* 15 min
Work-out 60 min
Cool-down 15 min

1. Warm- up Activity: Whole group – Brainstorm. Write on the whiteboard: *How did you feel when you first arrived in Canada?* Then ask the group: *Were you happy? ... nervous? ... worried? ... sad? .. excited? ... confused?"*

On the whiteboard, write the following answers and ask the participants to repeat with you several time.

1. When I arrived in Canada, I was very happy.
2. When I arrived in Canada, I was very nervous.
3. When I arrived in Canada, I was very sad.
4. When I arrived in Canada, I was very excited.

Pair work: Pair the participants and ask them to work with their partners to practice the questions and answers on the whiteboard, such as Participant A asks Participant B "How did you feel when you arrived in Canada?" Participant B will answer " When I arrived in Canada, I was very happy."

2. Work-out Activity : *(Look at the Worksheet A on "A Glance of Canadian Culture")*

Whole group activity - First, hand out the worksheets. Then, lead the whole group to read out loud the following new words several time.

Second, ask the participants to highlight or cross out the words you read, and do the matching game.



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Lastly, randomly ask a few participants to make sentences by using the words in their own sentences.

Small Group Activity: Instruction: (Look at Worksheet B the Scenario's Cards) Tell the whole group that they will be playing a scenario's card game to share their understanding of the differences between their culture and Canadian culture / traditions. For example, "In my country, we get in line to get on the bus.." "In my country, we celebrate Ramadan. In Canada, many people celebrate Christmas." etc.

Group Activity 1: Groups of 3-4 participants to work on the scenario cards. They should read the scenarios first and then compare with their own culture and share with their group what they do at home. For example, "In my country, people use ashtray for cigarette butts."

Group activity 2: Groups of 3-4 participants to play the card game. Then ask them to take turns picking one card from the deck. If the card picked is:

- *spade - they will talk about the weather differences between Canada and their home country, such as, the seasons and the temperature*
- *heart - they will talk about the differences in public transit in Canada and their home country such as bus fare, schedule, services*
- *diamond - they will talk about the differences in the school systems in Canada and their home country such as private or public school*
- *club - they will talk about cultural differences such as holidays, traditions, how to greet people, etc.*

3. Cool-down Activity: Gather the whole group together and randomly pick a few participants to share their findings based on the 6 scenario cards that they had worked on or things they have learned since they came to Canada.













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Worksheet A

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>Get in line</p> |  | <p>Cut in line</p> |  |
| <p>Wait your turn</p> |  | <p>Cover your cough</p> |  |
| <p>Walk on the sidewalk</p> |  | <p>Flush the toilet</p> |  |
| <p>Throw garbage in the trashcan</p> |  | <p>Don't throw everything in the toilet.</p> |  |
| <p>Put cigarette butts in the ashtray</p> |  | <p>Use tissue to blow your nose</p> |  |
| <p>Make eye contact</p> |  | <p>Use pedestrian light</p> |  |

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Matching Game:

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>Get in line</p> |  | <p>Cut in line</p> |  |
| <p>Wait your turn</p> |  | <p>Cover your cough</p> |  |
| <p>Walk on the sidewalk</p> |  | <p>Flush the toilet</p> |  |
| <p>Throw garbage in the trashcan</p> |  | <p>Don't throw everything in the toilet.</p> |  |
| <p>Put cigarette butts in the ashtray</p> |  | <p>Use tissue to blow your nose</p> |  |
| <p>Make eye contact</p> |  | <p>Use pedestrian light</p> |  |

Group discussion: What do Canadians do? What do you do?

A. Getting in Line

People get in line and wait their turn when they buy tickets, go to the bank, or ride the bus or train. It is rude to cut in line.

(What do you do in your country?)



B. Smoking

Smoking indoors in public places is illegal in Canada.

- Is it legal to smoke indoors in your country? Is it rude to throw cigarette ash or cigarette butts on streets, parking lots, and beaches?

(What do you do in your country?)



C. Washroom

Always flush the toilet after use and dispose of toilet paper in the trash can. Ladies' pads and tampons should be placed in the trashcan. Also, wash your hands after using the washroom.

(What do you do in your country?)



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D. Tissues

People always blow their nose with a tissue and cover their cough with tissues as well. Some people keep a pack of tissues in their pocket.

(What do you do in your country?)



E. Crosswalks

Crosswalks are places for people to cross the street. It is dangerous to cross the street without using the crosswalk or following the pedestrian light.

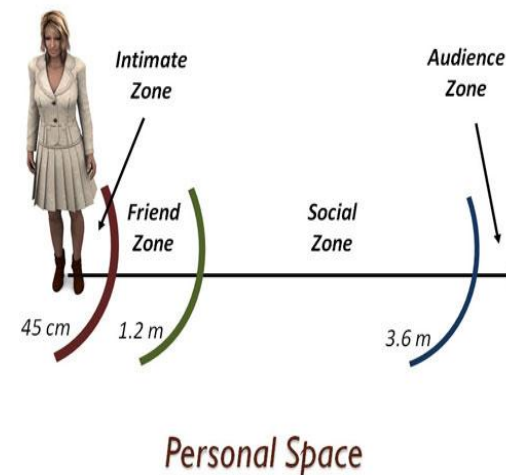
(What do you do in your country?)



F. Personal Space.

People sometimes don't feel comfortable when someone stands too close to them. The best way is to keep a distance at an arm length when you talk to people.

(What do you do in your country?)



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G. Garbage and Trashcan

People throw their garbage in different types of trashcan, such as recyclable and disposable . Are there recycle laws where you live? If so, what is it?

(What do you do in your country?)



H. Littering in Public

Littering in Canada is not acceptable. Most people clean and throw their garbage into the trashcan after camping or using the public areas. Are there litter laws where you live? If so, what is the penalty for littering?

(What do you do in your country?)



I. Spitting in Public

Spitting in public in Canada is rude. Most people use tissues when they need it.

(what do you do in your country?)

