



Access English Centre
Immigrant Centre Manitoba
Intermediate 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 sheet 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 first arrived in Canada, I was very happy.
2. When I first arrived in Canada, I was very nervous.
3. When I first arrived in Canada, I was very sad.
4. When I first 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 first arrived in Canada?" Participant B will answer " When I first arrived in Canada, I was very happy."

2. Work-out Activity :

Activity 1: Whole group activity - First, hand out the worksheet A. Then, lead the whole group to read out loud the following new words several time. Second, ask the participants to talk about the worksheet.

Activity 2: Instruction: Tell the whole group that they will be playing card games to share their understanding of the differences between their



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culture and Canadian culture / traditions. For example, "In my country, we hug each other when we meet. In Canada, people shake hands when they meet." "In my country, we don't recycle the waste. In Canada, people recycle the waste accordingly.." etc.

Group activity 2: Groups of 3-4 participants to play the card game. Ask them to take turns picking one card from the deck. They will share their understanding on the differences between the Canadian culture and culture from their home country. If the card picked is:

- **spade** - they will talk about the weather differences between Canada and their home country, such as, the seasons, the temperature, and cultural or sport events
- **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 education systems in Canada and their home country such as private or public school, or tuition fee etc.
- **club** - they will talk about cultural differences such as holidays, traditions, how to greet people, body language, etc.

Group Activity 3: 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 in their home country.

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.

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Worksheet A

<p>Get in line</p>		<p>Team work</p>	
<p>Wait your turn</p>		<p>Cover your cough</p>	
<p>Respect each other</p>		<p>Shake hands</p>	
<p>Throw garbage in the trashcan</p>		<p>Don't litter in the public area</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. Also, wash your hands after using the washroom.

(What do you do in your country?)



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D. Tissues

People always use tissues when they blow their nose and when they cover their cough. 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.

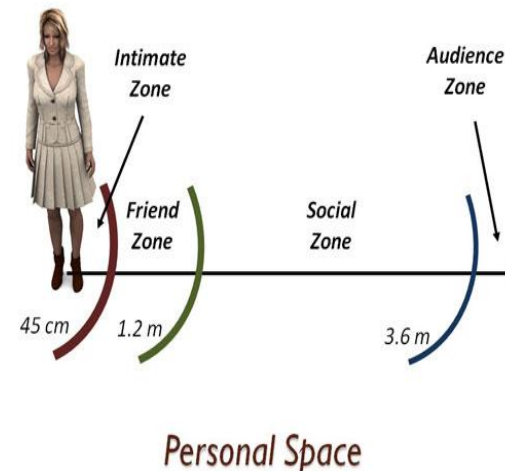
(What do you do in your country?)



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 are from? If so, what is it?

(What do you do in your country?)



H. Littering in Public

Litter in Canada is not acceptable. Most people clean and throw their garbage into the trashcan after camping or using in the public areas. Are there litter laws where you are from? 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?)

