

Name/Date:

Social Studies 11 Unit 1 Why Bother Voting

2A: Canadian Identity and the things that define us

MOLSON RANT

Hey,
I'm not a lumberjack, or a Fur trader.
I don't live in an igloo,
or eat blubber
or own a dogsled.
And I don't know Jimmy, Sally or Suzy from Canada,
although I'm certain they're really, really nice.

I have a prime minister... not a president,
I speak English and French, not American
and I pronounce it About, not A-boot.

I can proudly sew my country's flag on my backpack,
I believe in peacekeeping, not policing,
diversity not assimilation,
and that the beaver is a truly proud and noble animal.

A toque is a hat,
a chesterfield is a couch,
and it is pronounced Zed,
not Zee... ZED!!
Canada is the 2nd largest land mass,
the 1st nation of hockey,
and the best part of North America.

My name is Joe...
And I am Canadian!



What do you think?

Are these just stereotypes?

Does this represent how most Canadians define themselves?

If not, how do they?

Introductory Activity

You can also view or listen to the Joe Canadian "Molson Rant" and some other spoofs and videos about Canada's Identity at <http://www.canada4life.ca/videos.php> ----->

Also, check out Shane Koyczan's "We are More" (performed during the 2010 Olympics) <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5-q6S8qJMQ>>, and an extended version of "We are More" <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pq_xddkO064> ----->

Finally, check out this news article on "Canadian Identity" <http://news.nationalpost.com/2012/12/28/year-in-ideas-how-canadian-identity-has-changed-and-what-it-means-for-our-future/> ----->

There are many spoofs and rants and commentaries on Canada available online, of course, but we're interested to know what you think. That is a key part of our course -- lots to learn about Canadian history, government, geography, issues, and identity but equally important for you to learn about what kind of Canadian you want to be.



Task 1: jot down your ideas:

What do you think it means to be Canadian?

What's so special about Canada? What sets us apart from other nations?

Are their "Canadian" beliefs or values?

Are there things about Canada or "being Canadian" that not good and need to change?

Is it fair to talk about one Canada? Is it really one thing? (e.g. how important is nationality?)

Task 2: Selling Canada

You are on vacation in another country (you choose) and you make friends with someone who is interested in moving to Canada. They ask you to tell them what Canada is all about and what they should expect. What do you say?

This will end up as a blog comment at <http://webriver.blogspot.ca>, but do some notes here: