

Economy and Culture of Canada

All questions require at least
THREE sentences on own paper.

PLACES & TERMS

First Nations Canada's native peoples

métis people of mixed French and native heritage

reserve public land set aside by the government for Canada's native peoples

An Increasingly Diverse Economy

What industries contribute to Canada's wealth?

Canada's early economy was based on the trade of its many natural resources. Canada's native peoples started trading with European fishermen in the 16th century. Its native peoples are called the First Nations.

Farming, logging, mining, and fishing were early economic activities and remain important to Canada's economy.

Canada produces large amounts of food for *domestic* use and for sale abroad. Canada's biggest export trade is in forest products. No other country exports more wood pulp and paper products than Canada. Mining is a major industry because of Canada's vast mineral deposits.

The coastlines of the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic oceans provide Canadians with an abundance of fish. But Canadian fish *consumption* per person is low. So, much of the fish catch is exported.

About 15 percent of Canadians earn their living from manufacturing. However, it is Canada's service industries that are the country's real economic powerhouse. More than 60 percent of Canada's GDP comes from service industries. These industries employ more Canadians than all other industries combined. Service industries include finance, utilities, trade, transportation, real estate, communications, insurance, and tourism.

Canada's economy has always relied on trade. The United States is Canada's chief trading partner.

In 1994, Canada and the United States, along with Mexico, signed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). This pact made trade between them even easier.

1. Where does Canada's greatest economic strength lie today?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

A Land of Many Cultures

Who are the métis?

Canada is a land of diverse cultures. Its first settlers came from Asia. Thousands of years later, Europeans arrived. English and French explorers began colonizing the land. Interaction between the French and native peoples gave rise to another culture, the métis. The métis are people of mixed French and native ancestry.

Later immigrants from Europe and Asia have also made their contributions to the cultural mix of Canada. As in the United States, Canada's cultural richness has come from all corners of the world.

Canada is officially a bilingual country. It has an English-speaking majority and a French-speaking minority.

Cultural differences caused conflict as the English and French settled Canada. The English were largely Protestant. The French were Roman Catholic. Religious and cultural conflicts between the two groups have continued over the years. Today, these two groups continue to *dominate* Canadian society.

Where people settled in Canada has always been influenced by the country's harsh environment and by the accessibility of transportation routes. Canada's port cities and its rich farmlands make up the country's most densely settled areas. Most Canadians live on a 100-mile-wide strip of land just north of the Canadian-U.S. border.

Canada's population has become more urban. At the beginning of the 20th century, about one-third of the people lived in urban areas. One hundred years later, nearly four-fifths were city dwellers. Many of Canada's native people are located on the country's 2,300 reserves. These reserves are public lands set aside for native peoples by the government.

2. What historic conflicts still exist in Canada?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

Life in Canada Today

What sports do Canadians enjoy?

Most Canadians live active personal and professional lives. They enjoy a high standard of living. In 1998, Canada's labor force was nearly evenly split between men and women. Canada's population is well educated. Today, Canada boasts a 97 percent literacy rate.

Canadians value their leisure time. Sports such as skating, ice hockey, fishing, skiing, golf, and hunting are popular. The Canadian love of sport stretches back to its native peoples. They developed the game of lacrosse.

Canada's long history and cultural diversity have given the nation a rich artistic heritage. The earliest Canadian literature was born in the oral traditions of the First Nations peoples.

The early visual art included realistic Inuit carvings and the elaborately decorated totem poles of the First Nations peoples of the West Coast. Later, Canadian painting styles were greatly influenced by the artistic traditions of European settlers.

3. Where did Canada's love of sport have its roots?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.