

Lesson One - Introduction

Expectations:

At the end of this lesson students will:

- understand the meaning of “citizen”.
- understand the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.
- understand the difference between citizenship and immigration.
- understand why Canada is a country formed by immigrants.

Discussion Time:

Ask the students what they think is meant by the terms “Citizenship” and “Immigration”. Ask how they are alike and how they are different. Chart all responses and keep for the end of the unit.

Ask students if they know any “new” Canadian citizens or immigrants to Canada. Students may have friends or relatives who have become Canadian citizens or are in the process of becoming Canadian citizens.

Ask students what they know of the process of emigrating to Canada or becoming a Canadian citizen. Accept all responses and keep on chart paper for the end of the unit.

Reproduce the information sheet entitled “Introduction” either as a handout or an overhead. Have the students read along with you or independently to find the answers to the following questions:

1. What is a citizen? ***(A citizen is a person who is a resident of a country or nation by birth or by choice claiming allegiance to the government and entitled to its protection.)***
2. What is citizenship? ***(Citizenship is the membership of a person in a particular country or nation.)***
3. How do people become citizens of a country? ***(People can become citizens of a country by birth - being born in that country, or by naturalization - choosing a country to live in and usually renouncing all allegiance to the original country, then swearing an oath of allegiance to the new country.)***
4. How does the Canadian constitution protect Canadian citizens? ***(The Canadian constitution entitles all Canadian citizens to the rights, privileges and responsibilities laid out in the laws of the nation, including the right to vote and run for office.)***
5. What is one exception to being a Canadian citizen by birth? ***(One exception to being a Canadian citizen by being born in the country is that the children of Canadian diplomats born outside Canada are automatically Canadian citizens.)***
6. What is the citizenship born to children of foreign diplomats while in Canada? ***(The children born to foreign diplomats while in Canada are considered to be citizens of the country to which these diplomats belong.)***
7. How long does an adult immigrant have to be in Canada before he/she can apply to become a Canadian citizen? ***(Adults who are admitted to Canada as permanent residents may apply for citizenship after they have lived in the country for three years.)***
8. What happens if an application for citizenship is approved? ***(If an application for citizenship is approved, the applicant is sworn in as a Canadian citizen.)***

