

# FAMOUS CANADIANS

## UNIT OVERVIEW

Canada is a vast country filled with many different people. There are many Canadians that are famous for their special talents and skills. Some Canadians are well known for their ability to entertain others, their ability to play different sports or for their artistic ability. Other Canadians have made important scientific discoveries or have invented items that are useful to many people. Over the history of Canada, there have also been a number of Prime Ministers whose accomplishments made them famous. The “famous Canadians” unit studies many of these great Canadian people. Students practice using different reading, writing, research, and language arts skills as they complete the activities in the “Famous Canadians” unit.

This unit is divided into three sections. Section One includes a series of newspapers and lessons, written by the author, and designed to provide students with the interesting facts and information about the accomplishments of various Canadians. The newspapers contained in the unit are two to four pages long. The newspaper pages can be copied onto an 11X17 sheet of paper and folded to resemble a real newspaper. Section Two includes a number of optional lessons that teachers can use to supplement the main lessons of the unit. Section Three provides a suggestion for a major project that the students can complete during the unit or when they have finished the main lessons of the unit. A book display should be set up somewhere in the classroom. A wide variety of books on different Canadians should be included in the display. Students refer to the books during the course of a unit.

## SECTION I – LESSONS

Section I contains ten structured lessons dealing with Canadian athletes, entertainers, inventors and scientists, authors, artists, and prime ministers.

- 1) Introductory Activity
- 2) Famous Athletes
- 3) Famous Athletes (Continued)
- 4) Famous Entertainers
- 5) Famous Entertainers (Continued)
- 6) Famous Inventors and Scientists
- 7) Famous Authors
- 8) Famous Authors (Continued)
- 9) Famous Artists
- 10) Famous Prime Ministers

## SECTION II – OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

The optional activities provide teachers with flexibility in teaching the unit. They can replace activities in the main lessons, be used as review, or provide students with enrichment.

- 1) Write a Letter/E-mail
- 2) Create a Game
- 3) Write Song or Poem
- 4) Fact Cards
- 5) What Are They Doing Today? Internet Activity
- 6) Being Famous: Pros and Cons
- 7) Famous Canadians Sample Exam

## SECTION III – MAJOR PROJECT

Each student can complete the major project individually, with a partner, or in small groups. Different activities for completing the project are provided in order to individualize the project and take into account the different learning styles of students.

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## Volume 1 Issue 1 - Athletes

### **GRETZKY INDUCTED INTO HOCKEY HALL OF FAME**

Wayne Gretzky was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame after he retired from the NHL (National Hockey League) in 1999. His number "99" was also retired from the NHL when Gretzky retired, in order to honour him and his accomplishments in playing hockey. No player in the NHL will ever wear the number "99" again.



Gretzky is a world famous hockey player. For many years he played hockey with the *Edmonton Oilers*. He received many awards and trophies over his career. Some of the awards he won were:

- the Hart Trophy for being the most valuable player,
- the Art Ross Trophy for being the leading scorer in the National Hockey League for the year,
- the Lady Byng Award for being a sportsman-like player,
- the 1985 Canadian Athlete of the Year, and
- Officer of the Order of Canada.

Gretzky has promoted *Ford* products and *McDonalds* restaurants by appearing in a number of different commercials on television. He has also coached many different hockey teams including *Team Canada* at the Olympics and the *Phoenix Coyotes* in the NHL.

Gretzky is an Honourary Chairperson for *Ronald McDonald House Charities of Canada*. He puts on a *Gretzky and Friends Golf Tournament* every year. Since 1999, Wayne has helped to raise over one million dollars for *Ronald McDonald House Charities of Canada*.



### **ROWING ATHLETE MAKES OLYMPIC COMEBACK AFTER BEING SERIOUSLY INJURED IN BOATING ACCIDENT**

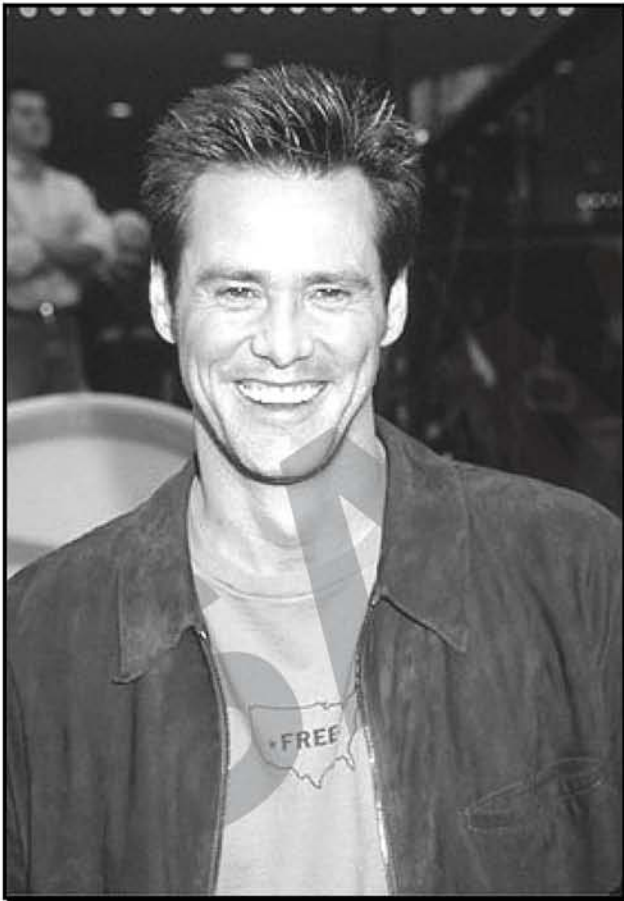
*Silken Laumann* is famous for her Olympic comeback after a serious boating accident. Her leg was badly injured in the accident just two months before the 1992 Summer Olympic Games. In spite of the pain, *Laumann* won a bronze medal at these Olympics.

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## Volume 1 Issue 2 - Entertainers

### COMEDIAN BECOMES ACTOR AND ENTERTAINS MILLIONS

*Jim Carrey* is a comedic actor. He makes people laugh with the impressions he does and with facial expressions he makes.



In his early teens, *Carrey* did a stand up comedy routine in a comedy club. This performance did not go well and *Carrey* quit doing stand up comedy for two years. When he was 16 he went back to the comedy club and this time was successful with his stand up routine. The people thought he was very funny.

*Carrey* started working as a full time comedian when he was 16. When he was 19 he moved

to California and performed as a regular at *The Comedy Store*. In addition, *Carrey* got a job as an opening act on Rodney Dangerfield's Canadian Tour. *Carrey* credits Rodney with the start of his career in show business.

*Carrey* is known for his roles in the movies *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective*, *The Mask*, and *Dumb and Dumber*. People are entertained by his performances in movies.

### CAMPBELL FAMOUS FOR A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT ROLES

Nevé Campbell is famous for her role as Julia Salinger in the TV hit show *Party of Five*. She is also known for her roles in *Scream 1*, *Scream 2*, *Scream 3* and *Wild Things*.



*Campbell* started dancing when she was six years old. She was later accepted into the *National Ballet of Canada* in Toronto. She danced with them until she was fifteen years old. *Campbell* felt she did not fit in at the ballet

## LESSON #10 – FAMOUS PRIME MINISTERS

### Student Objectives and Activities

- Students learn about different Canadian Prime Ministers.
- Students complete an activity entitled, “**Famous Canadian Prime Ministers.**”

### Suggested Teaching Strategies

- Review the brainstormed lists of famous Canadian names that the students compiled in Lesson #1. Ask the students if they have discovered what made the people famous that are listed on the “Other Famous Canadians sheet of chart paper. Find out if the students have discovered any ‘new’ names to add to any of the lists. They may have discovered new famous Canadians while reading about different Canadian people and completing the activities in this unit.
- Divide the class into groups of two or three students. Provide each group of students with a copy of the **Famous Canadians – Volume 1 Issue 6** newspaper. Encourage the students to read over the newspaper a number of times.
- Give each student a copy of the worksheet on Prime Ministers. Students use the information from the newspaper articles to answer the questions on the worksheet. Remind the students to answer the questions in complete sentences.
- Encourage students to read more about these and other famous Canadian Prime Ministers in books found in class book displays and on the internet. Possible websites to visit for more information include:

John G. Diefenbaker

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/goweezer/canada/diefenbaker.html>

Pierre Elliot Trudeau

[http://www.clevernet.net/pierre\\_trudeau/](http://www.clevernet.net/pierre_trudeau/)

Sir John A. MacDonald

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_A.\\_Macdonald](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_A._Macdonald)

Jean Chrétien

<http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-9082387/JeanChretien>

### Answer Key:

1. Diefenbaker helped to launch the first Canadian Bill of Rights.
2. Trudeau helped to make French and English the two official languages of Canada.
3. Trudeau worked at adding the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to the Canadian Constitution.
4. The National Policy Protected Canadian manufacturers.
5. Chrétien did not want Quebec to separate because he believed in a united Canada.