

CANADA AND ITS TRADING PARTNERS

UNIT OVERVIEW

It is critical for students to understand Canada's role in the fast-paced, interconnected world of the twenty-first century. This unit is designed with a focus on Canada's main trading partners including the United States, Commonwealth Nations, Asian Pacific countries and China. It is broken down into two main sections. **Part I - Core Teaching Lessons** provides much of the knowledge-based information in the unit such as trade vocabulary, concepts and terms, as well as general information. Student notes, suitable for photocopied handouts or as notes on the board, are used in conjunction with related student activities. **Part II - Optional Lessons** builds a degree of flexibility into the unit with teachers selecting suitable activities. The importance of trade cannot be underestimated - remember, even Wayne Gretzky was traded!



PART I - CORE TEACHING LESSONS

Lesson topics and activities are as follows:

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|---|-------------------------------|
| 1) What is Trade? | Introduction, wordsearch |
| 2) Canada's Major Trading Partners | T-chart, pie graph |
| 3) Commonwealth, Francophonie, OAS, and APEC | Topic research, team teaching |
| 4) Connections | Web diagram |
| 5) United States | Research report |
| 6) China | Maps, questions |

PART II - OPTIONAL LESSONS

These optional activities are meant to enhance and supplement the core lessons. They help to build a degree of flexibility into the unit. Teachers may use these activities however they wish. The lessons include:

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|------------------------------------|--|
| 1) Current Events | 7) Venn Diagram (Canada/US Comparison) |
| 2) Bulletin Board | 8) Travel Brochure |
| 3) Personal Dictionaries | 9) Guest Speaker |
| 4) Web Sites | 10) Unit Exam |
| 5) Classroom Exchange | 11) Trade Terms and Organizations |
| 6) The 50 United States Wordsearch | 12) Stock Market Game |
| | 13) Ideas for Discussion |

Once you have completed your first draft, you then need to edit.

REVISE

You can improve your first draft by revising it. You can add ideas, leave out ideas, and change ideas. You may choose to add charts, graphs, diagrams, or pictures. You might wish to add a map of your state or a picture of the state's flag.

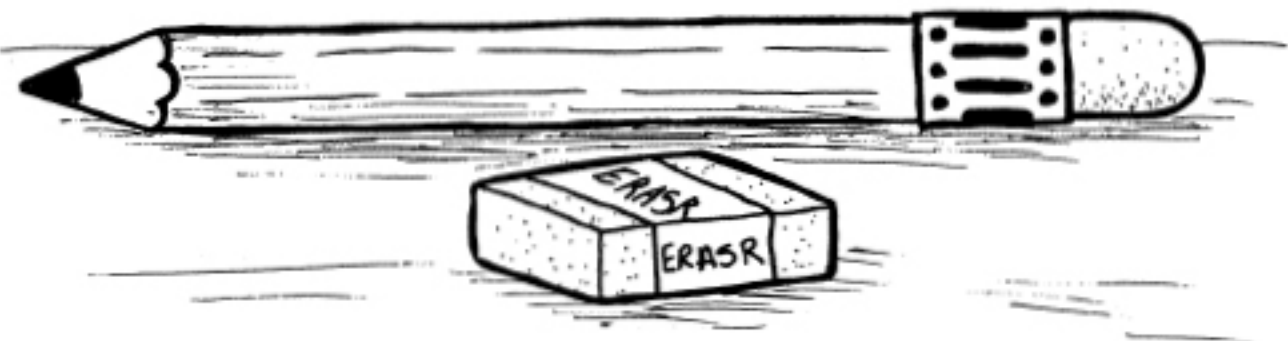
EDIT

You can improve your first draft by editing it. Your teacher, a peer, or a member of your family can help you edit. When you edit - be sure you include all the information, use appropriate words, and state clearly what you want to say. Be sure you have a strong beginning, middle, and ending.



PROOFREAD

You can improve your first draft by having your teacher, friend, or a family member proofread it for you. They need to check for correct capitalization and punctuation, proper grammar and language usage, and correct spelling.



PART II - OPTIONAL LESSONS

Optional Lesson #1 - Current Events

A current events program is a great way for students to learn to appreciate the value of reading, viewing, and listening to news items and issues on a daily basis. Divide the class into groups of three. Assign each group a day on which they are to bring an item of news. Mondays and Fridays are good days to do current events. The item can be from the newspaper, radio, magazine, or television. Each member of the group presents their item and then leads the class in a short discussion regarding that item. During this unit on “Canada and its Trading Partners”, encourage students to watch for and bring items relevant to the topics being discussed. If students bring newspaper items, the teacher may wish to create a current events bulletin board to display the clippings.

Optional Lesson #2 - Bulletin Board

Bulletin boards are a great way to motivate students and they will be even more motivated if they create the board themselves. For this unit, there are many different displays that students could make to fill empty boards.

Using an overhead projector, have students enlarge an outline map of the world. Have them paint Canada red. After lesson #2, have students use coloured string or wool to connect Canada to each of the trading partners discussed.

During lesson #6, students could create a bulletin board display that focuses on China. Again, using an overhead projector, have students enlarge an outline map of China. Students could label the capital city of Beijing and other major cities in China. Near the bulletin board, display books dealing with China. Have students bring artifacts or pictures to add to the display.



Optional Lesson #3 - Personal Dictionaries

Have students keep personal dictionaries with new vocabulary words. These dictionaries could be used for review at the end of the unit.

Optional Lesson #11 - Trade Terms and Organization

A list of trade terms and organizations is given. Selected terms from the list can be given to students to investigate as a possible homework assignment or enrichment activity.

Optional Lesson #12 - Stock Market Game

Having students "play" the stock market with imaginary money can be an interesting activity, while helping students to learn about trading stocks. Simply give small groups or individual students \$100,000 each. (I imagine that this how politicians must feel when giving away taxpayer's money!) Students choose five stocks using the newspaper as a guide to prices. (Use the closing price.) And determine how much of each stock they can buy so they add up to \$100,000. Then, follow the stocks and calculate how much each person made or lost. Having an expert come into the class can be beneficial at this point.

Optional Lesson #13 - Questions For Discussion

Discuss with students interesting questions related to trade.

- 1) Should Canada export fresh water?
- 2) If you were in charge, how would you stop smuggling?
- 3) What are some inventions made by Canadians that have changed the world?
- 4) Should Canadian radio stations and TV stations be forced to have Canadian content in their programming? (currently 30%)
- 5) Should Canada adopt the US dollar as a currency?

