



Excursion Guide

Canada

Table of contents:

Page 1: **Folktale, Legend or Myth**

Page 2: **Five Facts**

Page 3: **Bibliography**

Page 6: **Supplemental materials**



Read Aloud Folktale, Legend or Myth:

The Polar Bear Son: An Inuit Tale retold by Lydia Dabovich (Clarion Books, 1997): In this story, a lonely old woman adopts an orphaned polar bear. He hunts and fishes for her and enjoys playing with the village children. She loves him very much and calls him Kunikdjuaq (*koo-nik-joo-uck*). Although he eventually must leave the village, the old woman calls on him whenever she needs him. The story is told primarily through narration, with some dialogue. Although there some conflict in the story, it is one of love and friendship that ends happily.

“The Robin” in *The Cree* by Raymond Bial (Marshall Cavendish Benchmark, 2006, pages 66-67): This short selection tells the story of how the robin came to have red feathers on his breast. It is a simple story without dialogue, but readers will be engaged by the robin’s cleverness and heroism.

Remember to:

- Greet each person individually
- Use a globe or large map to show each person the starting point and destination
- Engage people in informal conversation
- Include supplemental materials such as music, souvenirs, coloring pages, or food to enhance the program



Five Facts About Canada

1. The oldest living fir tree is in the province of British Columbia. It is thought to be about 1300 years old, which means that it was planted sometime around the year 700!
2. The beaver is the largest rodent in North America, but it is also the national animal of Canada. There is a picture of a beaver on the Canadian five-cent coin.
3. Canada is the second-largest country in the world. Only Russia is larger.
4. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, or “Mounties” were formed in 1920. Today, there are over 29,000 Mounties.



5. Aboriginal Canadians include the Inuit people and over 600 First Nations bands, including Cree, Iroquois, and Ojibwe. Today, about 3% of Canadians are Aboriginal.

Annotated Bibliography

Unless otherwise specified, the non-fiction books listed here have many color photographs and images (but not cartoon-style illustrations) and they do not have an intimidating or distracting amount of text on the page. Although many of the selections are children's books, they are not obviously juvenile in their layout and illustrations.

Top Selections

British Columbia by Tanya Lloyd (Whitecap Books, 1997): This large-format coffee table style book documents the life and land of British Columbia. Some of the most captivating images include mountain vistas, woodlands, meadows, and wildlife. Every photograph is accompanied by a few sentences of text to explain and describe the image. Whitecap Books publishes photography books on other provinces and regions of Canada, which would likely be equally suitable for the program.

Canada by Liz Sonneborn (Children's Press, 2012): This book contains many bright, colorful images of Canadian agriculture and industry, sports and recreational activities, and landscape. There is a photograph on nearly every page, and each section begins with a full-page photograph. There are ten chapters, including "Across Canada," "Making History," "A Diverse Nation," and "Canadian Culture."

Canada: A Primary Source Cultural Guide by Lois Sakany (The Rosen Publishing Company, 2004): Compared to other juvenile selections on this list, this book is broader and deeper in its coverage of Canadian life and history. There is at least one photograph or illustration on nearly every page. The eleven chapters include "The People," "Canadian Myths and Legends," "Canadian Festivals and Ceremonies of Antiquity and Today," and "Famous Foods and Recipes of Canada," among others.

The Cree by Raymond Bial (Marshall Cavendish Benchmark, 2006): Although there is not a photograph on every page, the photographs that are



included effectively document historical and contemporary Cree life. Some photographs are of familiar objects such as tipis and moccasins, while others showcase less-familiar ones such as a sacred rattle. There are six chapters: “Origins,” “Camps and Villages,” “Lifeways,” “Beliefs,” “Changing World,” and “New Ways.” The appendix, “More About the Cree,” includes photographs and short biographies of famous Cree people.

Insight Guides: Canada (Insight Guides, most current edition is 2013, but for the purposes of this program the 2010 or 2011 edition would also be suitable): This book is full of colorful, unique photographs, including large single- and double-page images. Iconic photographs of dog sledding and Québec’s Fairmont Le Château Frontenac, historical illustrations, and photographs of Canadians at work and at play are included. Most pages have at least one photograph or illustration. There are also eleven maps.

National Geographic Countries of the World: Canada by Brian Williams (National Geographic, 2007): This book includes five full-page maps and many photographs. Since it is a National Geographic publication, all of the photos are beautiful! The familiar “yellow rectangle” of National Geographic shows up frequently, which might be a positive association for some readers. Topics include: geography, nature, history, people & culture, and government. Each chapter includes insets on specific topics, including the Niagara Falls, the Klondike gold rush, the Calgary Stampede, and lumberjacks.

Stones, Bones and Stitches: Storytelling Through Inuit Art by Shelley Falconer and Shawna White (Tundra Books, 2007): Published in cooperation with the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, this book highlights six Inuit artists currently working in Canada. Each profile includes a biography and a full-page color photograph of a work of art. The profiles also include information (textual and visual) about a related subject, such as shamanism or the different styles of Inuit homes.

Alternate Selections

Canada by Guek-Cheng Pang (Benchmark Books, 2004): This is listed as an alternate selection because the images are relatively small and the text is denser than in other books. Each of the thirteen chapters begins with a



full-page photograph. Chapters include “Geography,” History,” “Canadians,” “Lifestyle,” and “Arts,” among others.

The Iroquois by Liz Sonneborn (Franklin Watts, 2002): This is listed as an alternate selection because the illustrations do not document the unique Iroquois lifestyle or Iroquois in Canada today; instead they focus on battles and interactions with Europeans. The illustrations are mostly drawings and paintings, drawn primarily from the collections of historical societies and museums. There are five chapters: “The Great Peace,” “The Longhouse People,” “Friends and Enemies,” “Fighting for Survival,” and “Modern Iroquois.”



Supplemental Materials



Souvenirs: small Canadian flags, “silk” maple leaves

Food: Peameal (“Canadian”) bacon, maple candies, poutine (French fries with gravy and cheese)

Music Suggestions (to search on <http://www.youtube.com> or in your own library’s collection): Québécois folk music such as the group De Temps Antan, Irish/Scottish Canadian folk songs such as “Farewell to Nova Scotia,” Ojibwe and other First Nation drumming and singing, videos of pow-wow dances.

Free coloring pages are available on the Internet from helpful resources such as <http://www.coloring.ws> and <http://www.supercoloring.com>. All coloring pages are subject to their own terms of use, separate from the Tales & Travel Creative Commons License. The following links are suggested for this Excursion:

“North American Beaver” (<http://www.supercoloring.com/pages/beaver-16-2/>) or “Canadian Flag” (<http://www.supercoloring.com/pages/canadian-flag/>).

