

John Cabot, an Italian sea captain in the pay of the British, discovered Canada in 1497, five years after Columbus discovered America. He planted a huge cross on the shore and then sailed home, with the news that he had reached north east China, the land of the Great Khan, and that the sea was full of fish.

In 1534, the French explorer, Jacques Cartier, sailed right down the St Lawrence River until he could go no further. Among the great forests along the shore he met Indians who welcomed him, but in return he kidnapped some of their chiefs. He was the first European to treat the Indians with cruelty and treachery. It was almost another hundred years before French colonists settled on the banks of the St Lawrence and founded Quebec. They were sent there to give food and shelter to the French fur traders, who were carrying on a profitable trade with the Indians.

By the middle of the 18th century, the French in North America realised that they could not avoid a fight to the death with the British and their American colonists, but back in France the French King, Louis XV, was too busy with his

Wars with Prussia to bother much about what was going on in the 'Land of Ice and Snow'. So the French troops in Canada did not receive the supplies they needed so badly, and the few ships that did try to get through were usually captured by British warships.

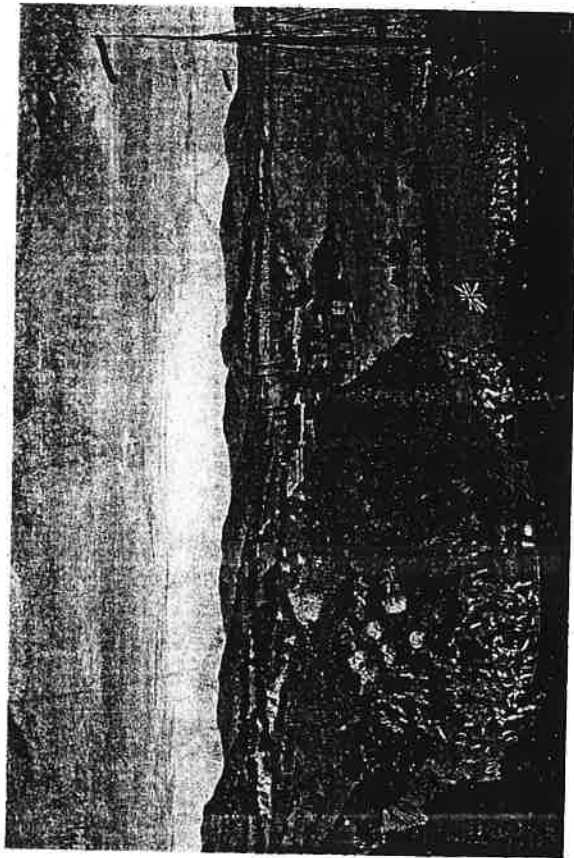
Yet this colonial war ended in a famous battle. The British surprised the French by climbing the cliffs at Quebec in the middle of the night. After their defeat, the French were forced to give up every inch of land in North America. But the British allowed the French colonists, all 60,000 of them, to stay on, and they did not try to change the French way of life or their religion. The French were all Catholics. But the British warned them that Louis XV of France was no longer their King. Their King, from now on, would be King George III of England.

At that time there were very few British colonists in Canada. The first British settlers in Canada were American refugees who refused to fight against the British army in the Revolutionary War, because they felt they were more British than American. They called themselves Loyalists, but their fellow Americans accused them of being traitors and took away their possessions. 80,000 Loyalists helped the British to defend Canada against an invading American army during the Revolutionary War.

During the first half of the nineteenth century one million immigrants, mostly British, settled in Canada, but there were hardly any French immigrants from France. However, the French Canadians' birth rate was high, so that in just over two centuries the French Canadian population increased from 60,000 to 6 million.

'We have two races, two languages, two systems of religious belief, two sets of laws ... two systems of everything.'  
Canadian journalist

Joe Mulloy, a student from London, was interested in the French Canadians and asked a Quebecois friend, Pierre



Storming the cliffs at Quebec

Charcot, about them. 'What would happen, Pierre, if Quebec declared itself independent?'

'It'd be very unfortunate for everybody,' Pierre replied. 'It's what a lot of French Canadians want, but I don't think it'll ever happen.'

'Why do they want to leave Canada?' asked Joe.

'Because Quebec is much more French than Canadian. The way of life of Anglophone (English-speaking) Canadians is American, with some British mixed in.'

'French and British Canadians get on all right, don't they?'

'Well, Montreal is a bit of a problem. It's Francophone (French-speaking) and the second biggest city in Canada. But there are a lot of Anglophone businessmen there, and they usually employ Anglophone workers. Now there are more and more Francophone employers who will only employ Francophone workers! So more and more Anglophones are moving to Ontario where mostly English is spoken.'

'You ask a Canadian who he is, and he will say "I am not an American",'  
Laurier Lapierre

Canada spread from the Atlantic right across the prairies\* and the Rocky Mountains to British Columbia; and northwards to the bare but beautiful Yukon and the ice-covered islands of the Arctic. The pioneer farmers found that the black earth of the prairie provinces could grow some of the finest grain in the world. The tracks of the Canadian Pacific Railway pushed on westwards through Indian lands. To protect their land the Indians made fierce attacks on the railway-builders and the farmers.

Canada moved slowly towards self-rule during the second half of the nineteenth century. A federation of provinces was formed from Nova Scotia on the Atlantic coast to British Columbia on the far side of the Rockies. In 1936 Canada became a Dominion (a self-governing nation) within the British Commonwealth and Empire. The Dominions of Canada, New Zealand and South Africa went to war alongside Britain in 1918 and again in 1939.

\*prairies wide, flat grasslands

### A Vocabulary

- 1 What do you do when you *kidnap* someone?
- 2 Make up an example of an act of *treachery*.
- 3 What sort of *supplies* would the French troops in Canada have received?
- 4 What is a *refugee*?
- 5 What English verb does *birth rate* suggest?
- 6 If you are *loyal* you ... (Finish the sentence).
- 7 What is an *Anglophone*?
- 8 Explain what a *federation* is, or give an example.

### B Questions

- 1 Why did the first French settlers go to Quebec?
- 2 Where is the 'Land of Ice and Snow'?
- 3 What did the French lose after their defeat at Quebec?
- 4 Where did the first British settlers in Canada come from?
- 5 How did the French Canadians manage to increase their population to 6,000,000 in two centuries?
- 6 What language, or languages, are spoken in Montreal?
- 7 What did the pioneer farmers grow on the prairies?
- 8 What change took place when Canada became a Dominion?

### C Grammar

**Comparisons.** Complete the following sentences.

**Examples** Quebec ... French ... Canadian  
 Quebec is more French *than* Canadian.  
 He ... (happy) ... Ann.  
 He is *happier than* Ann.

- 1 The St Lawrence ... (long) ... the Thames.
- 2 Louis XIV ... (interested) in war with Prussia ... with Canada.

- 3 The British ... (good seamen) ... the French.
- 4 There ... British Canadians ... French Canadians.
- 5 The Atlantic Ocean ... (wide) ... the prairies.
- 6 New York ... (big) ... Montreal.

#### D Function

#### Answering questions

Yes, he/she/it is, they are. — Yes, he/she/it does, they do. — No, he/she/it isn't, they aren't. — No, he/she/it doesn't, they don't.

- 1 Do the French rule Canada?
- 2 Is the Queen still head of the Canadian Government?
- 3 Are the British still rulers of Canada?
- 4 Do French and British Canadians live happily together?
- 5 Do French businessmen in Montreal speak French together?
- 6 Are all French Canadians Francophones?

## 12 People and government of Canada

Canada is a good example of the way peoples of different ways of life and different languages can live side by side under one government. The population of Canada has risen from 11.5 million in 1941 to 25 million in 1980. Most of the newcomers are from Europe, Asia and the USA, so that today less than 44% of Canada's population is of British origin. Quebec Province is still 90% French. There are some groups of French Canadians in Ontario and Manitoba, but the numbers are quite small.

There are many Indians, Pakistanis and Chinese, and also blacks from the USA, among the immigrants who are pouring into Canada now. Some Canadians are afraid that

before long Canada will have more coloured citizens than white. Other Canadians are disturbed by the growing racism in their country. Canada, like so many other countries, has only just begun to treat her own non-white citizens, the Eskimos (or Inuit) and the Indians, as generously as they deserve. The Indian and Eskimo populations have grown quite a lot in the last few years. The government is at last realising that it has a duty towards these people that it has neglected for so long.

All Canadian children have to learn both French and English at school, but Francophones and Anglophones do not enjoy learning each other's language. Still, most Quebecois middle class families living in Montreal are bilingual—they speak English and French equally well.

Until the Second World War, every Canadian province except Quebec was overwhelmingly British, both by blood and in feeling. Some Canadians were more patriotic than the British themselves and were really angry if anyone walked out of a cinema while *God Save the King* was being played. Now Canadians think of themselves as a people in their own right, not tied to either Britain or the USA. The USA has not been a threat to Canada for almost two hundred years. In fact, the 6,416 km US-Canadian frontier, the longest continuous frontier in the world, has no wire fence, no soldiers, no guns on either side. It is called 'the Border'.

'Living next to the United States is in some ways like sleeping with an elephant.'

Premier Trudeau, Prime Minister

Joe Mulloy met an American girl, Suzie, who had moved to Toronto. 'Why did you leave the USA?' he asked.

'Because I have a boyfriend here, but chiefly because Detroit, where we used to live, is such an awful city. My mother and father were both mugged\*.'

'You mean there's no violence in Toronto?'

'Very little' said Suzie. You can walk anywhere, night or day, or ride the Subway, and feel quite safe. There are really

\*mugged attacked and robbed

## D Function

## Showing interest

What's it like? — That would be marvellous. — I'd love to. — I've never been out of Europe. — You certainly make me want to go.

Young man Have you ever been to Canada?  
Girl No...

Young man Would you like to see Canada?

Girl Oh, yes..., but tell me...?

Young man Well, the most exciting part is the Rocky Mountains. There are snowy peaks, and lakes, and great forests.

Girl ...

Young man I live in Vancouver. We could go for drives in my car.

Girl ...

## 13 Life and industry in Canada's far north

Canada buys most of what she needs from the USA, and the USA buys most of what Canada sells. Canada's prairie provinces grow vast crops of grain, but the great forests which stretch from the Pacific to the St Lawrence, and far up into the Northwest Territories, are much more valuable. Canada is one of the world's greatest timber producers.

Canada also has many different minerals. In the Northwest Territories and the Yukon, prospectors\* found that many of these minerals lay in the Arctic: lead, zinc, copper, gold, silver, coal, uranium, asbestos, above all oil and natural gas.

Few places are more windswept or bitterly cold than the Canadian Arctic, an empty, treeless, icy land stretching all the way from Alaska to Greenland. From September until

\*prospectors men who look for minerals

June, everything lies buried beneath snow and ice. Yet in the short summer, rocks and pools gleam in the midnight sun (for a few days in midsummer the sun never sets). Tiny willows burst into leaf, and there are places where millions of wild flowers, of all colours, spread for miles across the ice-cold earth.

This Arctic land is called the tundra. It is the land of the Eskimo, or Inuit, as they prefer to be called. In their own language, 'Inuit' means 'the people', whereas 'Eskimo' is an Indian word meaning 'eaters of raw flesh'. The Inuit used to be nomads, hunting seals on the ice in winter and caribou on the tundra in summer. They slept in tents made of caribou skins. They were a peaceful people who lived their lives cheerfully, and they joked and laughed a great deal. Then the white hunters came and shot caribou and polar bears and musk oxen and wolves, and the government had no control over them. Other white men came in search of minerals beneath the tundra and found oil and natural gas. The arrival of the white men with their guns and machinery changed the lives of the Inuit. They gradually gave up living as nomads and moved into settlements, where they had little to do except drink in the saloons. They were no longer happy and they did not laugh very often.

But now things have changed once more. The Inuit have started hunting again—with guns and snowmobiles. The hunters still live in tents, but they keep a store of canned food in case they cannot get enough to eat from their hunting. The government has built towns for them, like Inuvik, where they can get training in many kinds of jobs, and where their children can go to school. Their health is looked after, and the Inuit now live longer than they did when they were nomads.

Some years ago the oilmen found oil, and also natural gas, beneath the sea not far from the Mackenzie River, and further north still, on the Queen Elizabeth Islands. The search for oil and gas in these frozen regions is a dangerous adventure, almost as dangerous as the gold rush across the Rocky Mountains in the last century. Between the Queen Elizabeth Islands and the North Pole there is no more land,

## C Translation or interpreting

Find the last but one paragraph in the Unit, beginning 'There is a Canadian game ... man's courage and skill'. Either translate it, or act as an interpreter, giving the general meaning of the passage in your own language.

## D Function

*Making an accusation and showing anger*

You kicked me deliberately. — It was not my fault. — No, he won't! — It was not a mistake. — That's complete nonsense. — Don't try to make excuses. — You kicked me from behind. — All right! I'll go to Mr Bellis. He'll know who's telling the truth. — Yes, he will! — It was a mistake.

Invent a dialogue between Gene and Rick, two young footballers.

Gene You kicked me deliberately!

Rick No, I didn't. You ran into me. It was your fault!

Now carry on.

**15 Canadian English—how different is it from American?**

'What part of the States do you come from? 'I'm not American. I'm Canadian.'

This is a mistake that Europeans often make. Many Americans, too, admit that it takes them a while to tell if it's an American talking or a Canadian. This upsets some Canadians, because they want people to recognise them as

Canadians. They want everyone to know that Canada is an independent nation with its own special character.

American English was probably brought to Canada by the Loyalists who fled there during the Revolutionary War (1776–83), for even as late as 1813, 80% of all British Canadians had come from the USA.

From the very first, Canada was a country with two languages, neither of which influenced the other very much, because the French and British spoke to each other so little. Canadian English has always remained very like American English, and the influence of the Indian and Inuit languages was no greater than the influence of French. But here are some important words that have found their way via Canadian dictionaries into British dictionaries:

**Canadian word of French origin****French meaning**

<i>prairies</i> (great plains of Canada)	from <i>prairie</i> , meadow
<i>crevasse</i>	wide, deep crack in ice
<i>rapids</i>	from <i>rapide</i> , river flowing fast over rocks
<i>cache</i>	secret place for hiding something
<i>mush!</i> (command to a dog)	from <i>marcher</i> , get going! be off with you!
<i>canoe</i>	from <i>canoe</i> , light boat moved by paddles
<i>butte</i>	steep hill rising straight out of a plain
<i>portage</i>	from <i>porter</i> , to carry; carrying of a canoe over-land past rapids
<i>caribou</i> (Canadian reindeer)	the French word <i>caribou</i> probably came from an Indian word

*Air Canada* the title of the Canadian airline is a French construction, like *Air France*, though there are airlines which have the same construction—*Air India*

## A Vocabulary

- 1 Put *recognise* into a sentence of your own to show you understand what it means.
- 2 When you try and *influence* someone, what do you hope will happen?
- 3 Show that you understand the meaning of *character* (page 81, line 2)
- 4 What are *dictionaries* used for?
- 5 Which of the words of French Canadian, Indian and Inuit origin are used in your language? Has the spelling been altered?
- 6 Explain what is meant by *regional*.
- 7 *Couple* can be used with almost any noun, for people, animals, objects. How many are there in a couple?

## B Questions

- 1 Do Americans recognise the Canadian accent at once?
- 2 Where did Canadian English probably come from?
- 3 Why hasn't the French language influenced Canadian English much?
- 4 Can you think of any other airlines whose name is formed in the same way as *Air Canada* and *Air France*?
- 5 Why are most words concerned with the Canadian government in British rather than American English?

## C Grammar

*Present conditional, perfect conditional*

Turn the verbs in brackets into the correct conditional tense.

*Example* I *would help* you, if I was strong enough.  
I *would have helped* you, if I had had time.

- 1 If the river had more water, I (paddle) down it in my canoe.

- 2 If he went to Canada, he (fly) Air Canada.
- 3 I'm sure you (be able) to tell the difference between a kayak and a canoe.
- 4 I (pull down) the blinds if I wanted to keep out the sun.
- 5 They (not lose) all their clothes, if they had locked the cupboard.
- 6 We (not dream) of lending you our toboggan. You (smash) it.
- 7 She (see) plenty of moose if she had gone to Canada.

## D Function

*Disappointment*

You failed to get a job in Montreal because your French wasn't good enough.

I was bitterly disappointed. — I really was expecting to get the job. — No, I'm so miserable, I can't ... — When he told me, I could hardly believe it. — I feel like jumping in the St Lawrence!

*Friend* You didn't really think you'd get the job, did you?

*You* I certainly did, ...

*Friend* You really minded?

*You* Yes ...

*Friend* So it was a real shock?

*You* Yes, it was ...

*Friend* Have you any other plans?

*You* ... I ...!