

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.

Famous Canadians Classification Cards

Bryan Adams	Margaret Atwood
Robert Bateman	Alexander Graham Bell
Roberta Bondar	Nevé Campbell
Canadian Scientists – Canadarm	Jim Carrey
Jean Chrétien	John G. Diefenbaker
Céline Dion	Michael J. Fox

FAMOUS ATHLETES – FACT OR OPINION

Name: _____

- I like watching Wayne Gretzky in McDonald's Commercials. fact opinion
- Silken Laumann won one silver medal and two bronze medals in rowing at the Summer Olympics. fact opinion
- Rick Hansen is a wheelchair athlete. He was in a vehicle accident when he was 15 years old. fact opinion
- Sandra Schmirler is the greatest Olympic hero of all times. fact opinion
- Wayne Gretzky is the Honourary Chairperson for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Canada. fact opinion
- Canadians were thrilled by the performance of Jamie Salé and David Pelletier at the Winter Olympic Games. fact opinion
- Rick Hansen is too busy. He is involved in too many different organizations. fact opinion
- The Terry Fox Run raises money for cancer research. fact opinion
- Sandra Schmirler won the first ever gold medal in curling at the 1988 Winter Olympics. fact opinion
- Silken Laumann deserved to be inducted into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame. fact opinion

**FAMOUS CANADIANS
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.

Name: _____

Dear Diary,

CANADIAN AUTHORS TRUE OR FALSE

Name: _____

- 1. Robert Munsch writes for adults.

- 2. *Jacob Two-Two Meets the Hooded Fang* has been made into a movie and a musical.

- 3. Robert Munsch once wanted to be a priest,

- 4. Margaret Laurence started writing when she was in university.

- 5. Margaret Laurence has not received any awards for the books she has written.

- 6. Margaret Atwood has published over 40 books.

- 7. *Anne of Green Gables* was the third book that Lucy Maud Montgomery wrote.

- 8. Farley Mowat has sold over 14 million books in Canada and throughout the world.

FAMOUS CANADIAN AUTHOR SURVEY

QUESTION:

Survey Results for Grade _____ Classroom _____

Author	Tally	Total
Other		

FAMOUS CANADIAN PRIME MINISTERS

Name: _____

Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences:

- 1. What did John G. Diefenbaker help to launch?

- 2. What two languages did Trudeau help to make the "official languages" of Canada?

- 3. What did Trudeau work at adding to the Canadian Constitution?

- 4. What Provinces made up the Dominion of Canada when Sir John A. MacDonald took office as Prime Minister?

- 5. Who did the National Policy protect?

- 6. Why didn't Chrétien want Quebec to separate from Canada?

FAMOUS CANADIANS OVERVIEW

Name: _____

A. Answer the following questions in complete sentences:

- 1. What book did Robert Munsch write that sold over 8 million copies and was the best-selling book in Canada and the United States?

- 2. What two TV shows is Michael J. Fox well-known for appearing in?

- 3. Why did Farley Mowat write the book *The People of the Deer*?

- 4. What is the *Canadarm*?

- 5. What is Bill Reid expert in?

FAMOUS ATHLETES WORD SEARCH

Name: _____

R	L	R	G	O	A	Q	E	Q	C	T	H	O	C	K	E	Y	X	O	C	F
D	U	D	R	A	M	A	R	A	T	H	O	N	T	G	L	A	L	G	B	K
V	S	Q	E	M	W	B	T	S	M	B	G	L	Y	G	F	Y	O	B	K	J
X	R	G	T	Z	X	A	C	K	V	O	K	Q	R	Q	M	L	L	K	O	V
Y	W	M	Z	Q	Z	H	R	K	L	Z	D	E	U	P	F	S	F	J	O	B
Z	I	T	K	K	M	F	O	D	B	Y	L	S	I	L	V	E	R	Z	F	Z
F	O	B	Y	I	Q	G	B	N	S	F	L	C	L	H	K	R	B	P	R	W
P	U	N	R	G	A	Q	Y	J	Y	I	S	S	K	A	T	I	N	G	Z	P
Z	I	L	V	G	J	T	T	E	A	M	E	W	L	N	K	O	H	J	X	X
U	E	F	N	M	E	D	A	L	S	E	W	Q	O	S	B	H	G	H	Y	V
R	Q	O	B	R	O	N	Z	E	S	A	T	H	L	E	T	E	S	G	K	X
L	N	X	T	G	C	A	N	A	D	A	J	W	H	N	I	E	Y	I	D	I
Y	M	J	M	O	T	I	O	N	N	W	F	C	U	R	L	I	N	G	J	Z

ATHLETES
AWARDS
BRONZE
CANADA
CURLING
FOX
GAGNON
GOLD
GOLF
GRETZKY

HANSEN
HOCKEY
MARATHON
MEDALS
MOTION
OLYMPICS
SCHMIRLER
SKATING
SILVER
TEAM

ANSWER KEY

ky

www.waynegretzky.com

ann

www.canoe.ca/OlympicsCanadaLaumann/home.html

hirler

www.myhero.com/myhero/hero.asp?hero=s_schmirler

www.rickhansen.com

nd David Pelletier

www.sale-pelletier.com

www.terryfoxrun.org

www.marcgagnon.ca/english/profile/index.html

Famous Athletes – Fact or Opinion Answer Key:

- 6. Fact
- 7. Opinion
- 8. Fact
- 9. Fact
- 10. Opinion

Famous Athletes Word Search Answer Key:

G	O	A	Q	E	Q	C	T	H	O	C	K	E	Y	X	O	C	F			
R	A	M	A	R	A	T	H	O	N	T	G	L	A	L	G	B	K			
E	M	W	B	T	S	M	B	G	L	Y	G	F	Y	O	B	K	J			
T	Z	X	A	C	K	V	O	K	Q	R	Q	M	L	L	K	O	V			
Z	Q	Z	H	R	K	L	Z	D	E	U	P	F	S	F	J	O	B			
K	K	M	F	O	D	B	Y	L	S	I	L	V	E	R	Z	F	Z			
Y	I	Q	G	B	N	S	F	L	C	L	H	K	R	B	P	R	W			
R	G	A	Q	Y	J	Y	I	S	S	K	A	T	I	N	G	Z	P			
V	G	J	T	T	E	A	M	E	W	L	N	K	O	H	J	X	X			
N	M	E	D	A	L	S	E	W	Q	O	S	B	H	G	H	Y	V			
B	R	O	N	Z	E	S	A	T	H	L	E	T	E	S	G	K	X			
T	G	C	A	N	A	D	A	J	W	H	N	I	E	Y	I	D	I			
M	O	T	I	O	N	N	W	F	C	U	R	L	I	N	G	J	Z			