

Canada's Traditions and Celebrations

Grades 1-3

Written by Ruth Solski
Illustrations by Rick Ward

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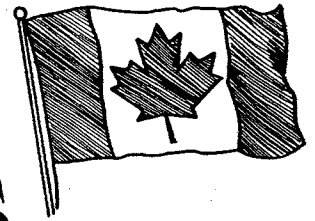
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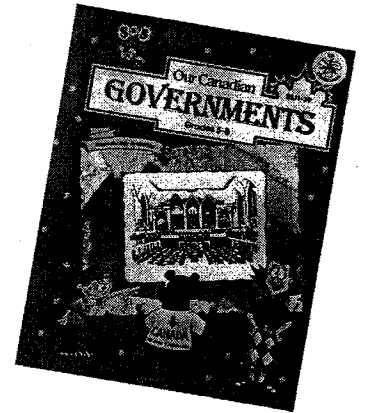
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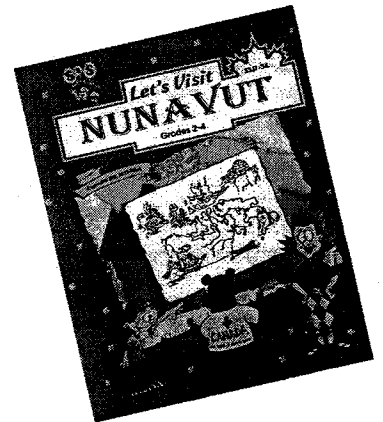
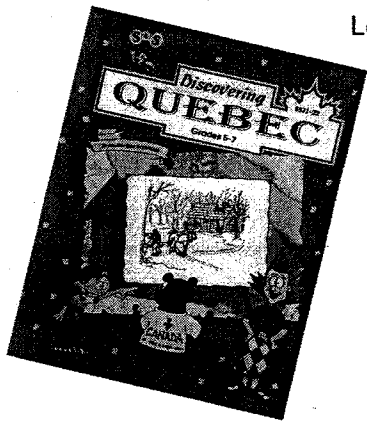


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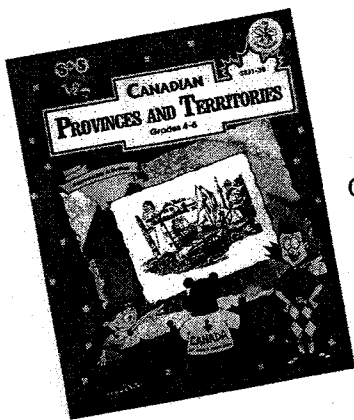


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Canada's Traditions and Celebrations

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Traditions

What is a tradition?

A *tradition* is the handing down of beliefs, opinions, customs, and stories, usually from parents to children especially by word of mouth or by practice.

Examples:

- shaking hands upon meeting someone
- saying grace before a meal
- removing one's hat while entering an important public building such as a school, church, government building, restaurant, theatre or someone's home
- Japanese remove their shoes outside their homes
- having a birthday cake with candles burning
- hanging a wreath on the front door at Christmas and for other special days
- children receive presents on Christmas from Santa Claus
- groom carries a bride over the threshold of their new home
- wearing black clothing at a funeral
- wearing something borrowed, something blue, something old, something new the day one gets married
- a child during a baptism wearing a baptismal gown handed down from generation to generation in a family
- sending cards for birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas and other special days
- telling family stories from generation to generation
- singing folk songs on special occasions such as weddings, funerals, special days
- eating with specific utensils such as cutlery or chopsticks
- teaching games such as chants for skipping, hopscotch, marbles, jacks
- serving specific food made for a special religious celebration
- dressing up in costumes and going house to house collecting candy on Hallowe'en
- singing O Canada before school begins every day
- lowering a flag half way down the flagpole when someone of importance dies
- saluting the flag
- wearing green on St. Patrick's Day
- naming a son after his father or grandfather
- becoming confirmed in a specific religion
- saying Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, Happy Birthday,
- singing Aulde Lang Syne at midnight on New Year's Eve
- lighting candles during special seasons and special days
- attending a school graduation
- throwing the bridal bouquet and bridal garter at a wedding
- wearing traditional clothes during certain celebrations
- carving a jack-o'-lantern from a pumpkin for Hallowe'en
- handing down a specific item from mother to daughter or from father to son through each generation e.g. jewellery, watch, china, crystal
- kissing under the mistletoe



Celebrations

What is a celebration?

A *celebration* is a special time of the year when one honours a particular man, act, time or day. It is usually a festival or a holiday.

Fall Celebrations

| Celebration | Date | Nationality or Religion |
|---|---------------------------------|---|
| Egyptian or Coptic New Year | September 11 | Egyptian |
| Chilean Holiday | September 18 | Chilean |
| International Hispanic Festival | Second Weekend in September | Spanish |
| The Autumn Equinox | September 22 or 23 | All |
| The Iroquois Green Corn Festival | September | Iroquois First Nations |
| The Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival | September or October | Chinese |
| Trung Tru | September or October | Vietnamese |
| Onam | September | East Indians-Hindus, Muslims, Christians |
| Native Wild Rice Harvest | September | Algonkians, Northern Cree, Ojibwa First Nations |
| Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross | September 14 | Greek |
| International Day of Peace | September 16 | All |
| The Jewish High Holy Days | September or October | Jewish |
| Rosh Hashanah | September | Jewish |
| Yom Kippur | September or October | Jewish |
| Michalmas | September 29 | Christian |
| Sukkot | September or October | Jewish |
| Octoberfest | During October | German |
| Canadian Thanksgiving | The second Monday in October | Canadian |
| Iroquois Harvest Ceremony | October or November | Iroquois First Nations |
| Dia de la Raza | October 12 | Latin Americans Hispanic Canadians |
| Navartri, The Festival of the Nine Nights | October | Hindu |
| Baha'i Founders' Birthdays | October 20 and November 12 | Baha'i |
| Hallowe'en | October 31 | Canadian |
| All Saint' Day and All Souls' Day | November 1 and 2 | Christian |
| Bonfire Night | November 5 | Canadian, British |

Canada's Traditions and Celebrations

| Celebration | Date | Nationality or Religion |
|--|---|---|
| Birthday of the Sikh Guru Nanak Diwali Remembrance Day St. Martin's Day St. Catherine's Day St. Andrew's Day Bodhi Day Advent Hannukah or Chanukah St. Nicholas Day St. Lucia Day Mexican Posadas | November October or November November 11 November 11 November 25 November 30 December 8 Begins the 4th Sunday before Christmas Sometime in December December 6 December 13 December 16-24 | Sikhs Hindu Canadian, British Italian French Canadian Scottish, Polish, Russian Japanese Buddhist Christian. Jewish Dutch Scandinavian Mexican |

Winter Celebrations

| Celebration | Date | Nationality or Religion |
|--|---|--|
| The Winter Solstice Christmas Eve Christmas Day Boxing Day Mummering Kwanzaa The Twelve Days of Christmas Day of the Holy Innocents New Year's Eve New Year's Day Solnal Twelfth Night Epiphany Julian Christmas Iroquois Midwinter Festival Pongal Chamishah Asar bi-Shevat, the Jewish New Year of Trees Sun Nin, the Chinese New Year Robbie Burns Night Greek Day of Education | December 21 December 24 December 25 December 26 December 26 - January 6 December 26 December 26 - January 6 December 28 December 31 January 1 January 1 January 5 January 6 January 7 Before the January full moon January 13 or 14 January or February Between January 21 and February 20 January 25 January 30 | All Christian Christian Christian Canadian (Newfound- land) African Christian Christian - Catholic Christian Christian Christian, Buddhist- Korean French Canadian, European Greek Orthodox- Ukrainian Ukrainian First Nations Iroquois West Indian Jewish Chinese Scottish Greek |