



# THE GATHERING PLACE

## AN EXPLORATION OF CANADA'S CAPITAL

READY-TO-USE STUDENT ACTIVITIES

*A teaching resource  
for use in Grades 5-8  
Social Science and  
History*

### SUPPORTING EDUCATION ABOUT

- Canadian culture, identity and symbols
- Government, citizenship and democracy
- Canadian stories, heroes and celebrations
- Canada's connection to the world



CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

# Credits and Thanks

This resource was initiated by the National Capital Commission (NCC) and created by Classroom Connections. Classroom Connections is a non-profit organization that creates and distributes innovative educational resources free to publicly funded schools across Canada.

The NCC is a Crown Corporation dedicated to making the national capital accessible to all Canadians. For over a hundred years, it has created a “capital experience” that helps Canadians discover what it means to be Canadian. The NCC is committed to supporting young Canadians in discovering the incredible treasures of their national capital through various activities and resources.

To find out more about these organizations, please visit [www.classroomconnections.ca](http://www.classroomconnections.ca) or [www.canadascapital.gc.ca](http://www.canadascapital.gc.ca).

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An evaluation form for this resource has been included on the inside back cover. Please let us know what you think!

# ABOUT CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

## Who We Are

Classroom Connections is a non-profit organization that creates, produces and distributes innovative, award-winning and bilingual educational materials for schools, community organizations and faculties of education across Canada. Since 1997, we have developed and delivered more than 15 free resource packages. Materials are provided free of charge because we believe that all children should have access to inspiring and motivating educational experiences. To make this happen, we secure project-based funding from grants, foundations, sponsorship and charitable donations.

The materials we produce are curriculum-aligned and ready to use, including step-by-step lesson plans and student handouts as well as background information and assessment tools. Each program is written by experts in content and pedagogy and pilot tested with youth across Canada. Our materials are reviewed and evaluated by subject specialists as well as by Curriculum Services Canada ([www.curriculum.org](http://www.curriculum.org)). Currently, 85% of Canadian schools, over 50 faculties of education and over 300 community agencies and non-governmental organizations are registered to receive our resources. To view or download our full range of materials, please go to [www.classroomconnections.ca/resources](http://www.classroomconnections.ca/resources).

## Our Learning Philosophy

We believe that deep understanding, attitudinal change and inspiration come out of learning opportunities that are authentic, experiential, interactive and youth-centred. Our goal is to inspire youth to reach their full potential as informed, socially responsible and engaged citizens. We recognize that there is a significant difference between just learning *about* something and authentic learning that has a personal impact on attitudes, values and behaviours. To help youth internalize concepts, they need opportunities to think for themselves and interact with the material and each other in meaningful ways. Real learning opportunities that lead youth to go deeper, think bigger and see the broader context will let them experience, feel, reflect and negotiate the meaning and impact of what would otherwise be an abstract set of facts. These types of activities have the power to change perspectives for life.

## We Need Your Help

We depend on the feedback, comments, ideas and suggestions of educators to help us create and improve our resources.

- Fax us your completed evaluation form (on the inside back cover of this resource) or go to our website and give your feedback online ([www.classroomconnections.ca/feedback](http://www.classroomconnections.ca/feedback)).
- Send us your ideas for future resources.
- Contact us if you are interested in reviewing or pilot testing new resources.
- Send us photos, stories or videos of how you used this resource or undertook a suggested activity in your class, school or community—we would love to showcase your students' efforts on our website.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.classroomconnections.ca](http://www.classroomconnections.ca). We can be contacted by email at [info@classroomconnections.ca](mailto:info@classroomconnections.ca) or by phone at 1-888-882-8865.

Theme	Overview	Student Materials
<p>① <b>A Capital Idea</b></p> <p>Page 9</p>	<p>Students identify, sort and map photos of buildings, monuments and significant locations within our national capital to explore the function and uniqueness of the features presented and the various ways that Canadians gather in the capital.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Handout 1: Photo Cards</li> <li>• Handout 2: Capital Clues</li> <li>• Insert Map of Canada's Capital Region</li> </ul>
<p>② <b>Gathering Where?</b></p> <p>Page 15</p>	<p>From the information gathered in Theme 1, students critically evaluate key features and functions (concrete and symbolic) of a capital, and apply these criteria to how Canada's capital was originally chosen and how we might choose Canada's capital today.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Handout 3: Capital Criteria</li> <li>• Handout 4: Canada's Capital Chosen!</li> <li>• Insert Map of Canada's Capital Region</li> </ul>
<p>③ <b>Exploring Our Identity</b></p> <p>Page 21</p>	<p>Students examine the concept of identity and explore national identity by analyzing common representations/symbols as well as the monuments, buildings and commemorations found in our nation's capital. Students create a national stamp or coin for submission to Canada Post or the Royal Canadian Mint.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Handout 1: Photo Cards</li> <li>• Handout 2: Capital Clues</li> <li>• Handout 5: Making an Impression</li> <li>• Insert Map of Canada's Capital Region</li> </ul>
<p>④ <b>Making Decisions</b></p> <p>Page 27</p>	<p>Students clarify their thoughts on the ability of youth to affect multiple levels of decision making and learn about young people who have influenced decisions made in the national capital. Students investigate ways to increase youth influence on decision making and create a petition or private member's bill to encourage Parliament to adopt a national youth involvement initiative.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Handout 6: Youth in Action</li> <li>• Handout 7: Getting Involved</li> </ul>
<p>⑤ <b>Celebrating Our Stories</b></p> <p>Page 33</p>	<p>Students explore the variety of people commemorated in the national capital through a found suitcase, an interactive game and map analysis. Actual criteria for selecting commemorations are examined and critiqued in preparation for a student proposal to commemorate an underrepresented element from Canadian history or culture.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital Cards (from Handouts 1 and 2)</li> <li>• Handout 8: Who Am I?</li> <li>• Handout 9: Commemorating Canada</li> <li>• Insert Map of Canada's Capital Region</li> </ul>
<p>⑥ <b>Connecting With the World</b></p> <p>Page 39</p>	<p>Students explore the concrete connections to the rest of the world contained within their classroom, going on to examine the international connections found in our nation's capital. They discover Canada's contributions to the world through various agencies and organizations working in the capital and then envision how they might contribute to Canada and the world.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital Cards (from Handouts 1 and 2)</li> <li>• Handout 10: Canada and the World</li> </ul>