

Cool in Canada

1 WARMER

Which of these words make you think of Canada? Write the words that you associate with Canada into the maple leaf.



snow	snowboarding	mountains	beaches	cities	bears
trees	whales	English	French	food	ice
bakeries	festivals	fun	moose	native people	

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2 WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Write the words from the article into the gaps. The paragraph numbers are given to help you.

gravy**cultures****province****tribe****tobogganing****slides****French fries****wrap up****spirit****sculptures****ancestors****proud**

1. a sport in which you slide down a snowy hill on a vehicle without wheels _____ (para 2)
2. ideas, beliefs and ways of behaving of particular organizations or groups of people _____ (para 4)
3. people who are related to you and lived a long time ago _____ (para 4)
4. feeling happy about people who you are connected with. _____ (para 4)
5. long thin pieces of potato cooked in hot oil _____ (para 5)
6. a brown sauce made from the juices of cooked meat mixed with flour _____ (para 5)
7. structures that children play on by climbing up steps and coming down a slope on the other side _____ (para 7)
8. works of art made from stone, metal, wood or ice _____ (para 7)
9. to wear warm clothes _____ (para 7)
10. a large group of related families who live in the same area and share a common language, religion and customs _____ (para 8)
11. one of many areas Canada is divided into _____ (para 8)
12. the part of a person that many people believe continues to exist after death _____ (para 10)

Definitions from www.macmillandictionary.com

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COOL IN CANADA

by Talitha Linehan

1 Canada is cool – and cold! In winter it becomes a wonderland that's great for winter sports. It is the world's second-largest country. From beautiful Vancouver on the West Coast with its mountains and café culture to the French-speaking province of Québec with its fun ice festivals, Canada has something for everyone. In January, the country is covered in snow and temperatures of minus 30° Celsius are normal. Here, three young Canadians talk about winter in Canada.

Action, fun and French

2 "Hi! My name is **Christelle Doyon**. I live in Québec City, in the province of Québec in eastern Canada. Winter is my favourite season. Canada is beautiful in winter. There's snow everywhere and everything looks white and clean and new. Everyone goes ice-skating on the lakes. Kids go tobogganing in the parks. We build big snowmen and have snowball fights. It's fun!

My sport

3 Of course, winter is also the best time to go snowboarding, which is my passion. I started snowboarding when I was six. Snowboarding is cool in Québec and in the mountains of Whistler, where some of the 2010 Olympic events will happen. Those mountains are really high and have many different types of snow. Everything's white and blue, and you feel really close to the sky.

My home, my language

4 The coolest thing about my country is that it has two big cultures: Canadian and French-Canadian. My ancestors came from Belgium and my family is proud to be French-Canadian. The province of Québec is very different to the rest of the country: we are a lot more like Europeans than like Americans. And we speak French.

5 I started learning English when I went to an English-speaking school at 13. I understood a bit before then but I couldn't really speak it. Usually I only speak English to people who aren't French-Canadian. We love our crêpes, our bakeries and our chocolate. We

also have a famous kind of fast food called *poutine* – which is made of French fries, gravy and cheese. It sounds strange but it's really good."

Winterlude wonderland

6 Every year, Canada's capital city, Ottawa, becomes a winter wonderland for the Winterlude festival. For three weeks in February, hundreds of thousands of visitors come to join in the fun. **Aimée Begley**, from Gatineau, in the eastern province of Québec, loves the festival and worked there for the first time in 2009.

7 "Winterlude is amazing! You can learn about what people in different countries like to eat and how they live. There are also huge slides made of snow and ice, and lots of other outdoor activities. My favourite thing is to watch people building the ice sculptures. Last year, one of the sculptures was a big pirate ship. Once, there was a huge castle made of ice that was lit up by coloured lights. That was the coolest thing ever! There's something to do every day. So when you come here, wrap up warm, enjoy a beaver tail – a delicious pastry with cinnamon and sugar – and join the party!"

What it means to be Cree

8 Before Europeans arrived, First Nation tribes lived all over Canada. The Cree, with about 200,000 people in Canada and parts of the US, are the biggest tribe **Caleb Turner** is one of 2,500 Cree on Moose Factory Island, in the Moose River in the eastern province of Ontario.

9 In winter the island is covered in snow. Kids play ice hockey, drive snowmobiles or go camping. "We build fires, go hunting and ice-fishing. It's a lot of fun," says Caleb.

10 Cree teens are like other Canadian teens but they have their own language, religion and traditions. The Cree language is the most common native language in Canada. Cree believe all things, especially people and animals, have a spirit. When someone dies, the spirit continues on its journey without the body.

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What animals to look for

More than 15,000 polar bears live in Canada. See them in Churchill, in the mid-western province of Manitoba, between September and November.



Bald eagles have a dark brown body with a white head and tail.

Wolves live in parts of Canada where there are few people – especially in the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

About a million **moose** live in forests all over Canada.

Buffaloes are Canada's largest land animals. See them at the Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary, Northwest Territories, or in Wood Buffalo National Park, Northwest Territories and Alberta province – this park is as big as Switzerland!

Where to go

Banff and Jasper National Parks, Alberta

Big mountains, fast-flowing rivers, huge glaciers and deep, blue lakes – these two parks in the Rocky Mountains are packed with wildlife like moose, wolves and bears.

Whale-watching in British Columbia

The Pacific Rim National Park, on Vancouver Island, is one of the world's best places for whale-watching between February and November.

Dog-sledding in Ontario

The Algonquin Provincial Park is Ontario's oldest and largest park. Explore it with the help of a team of dogs!



Vancouver

Canada's coolest city has everything! For outdoor fun, go to Whistler and Cypress mountains, Stanley Park and Second Beach.

www.pc.gc.ca/en/index

<http://vancouver.ca/news-calendar/our-city.aspx>

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3 FIND THE INFORMATION

Match these sentence halves about the article.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Canada is beautiful in ... | a. ... on the lakes, they build big snowmen and have snowball fights. |
| 2. Kids go tobogganing in the parks and ice-skating ... | b. ... speak French. |
| 3. Winter temperatures in Canada often ... | c. ... place in February, in Ottawa. |
| 4. People in Québec ... | d. ... reach minus 30° Celsius. |
| 5. <i>Poutine</i> is a special fast food from Québec made ... | e. ... language, religions and customs. |
| 6. The Winterlude festival takes ... | f. ... of cheese, gravy and French fries. |
| 7. You can see amazing ice ... | g. ... pastry with cinnamon and sugar. |
| 8. A 'beaver tail' is a sweet ... | h. ... tribe of people who live on Moose Factory Island. |
| 9. The Cree are a native Canadian ... | i. ... winter – there's snow everywhere. |
| 10. The Cree have their own ... | j. ... sculptures at the festival. |

4 TEEN TALK: IT'S MY PASSION

Look back at the article and answer the questions.

When you say that something *is your passion*, you mean that:

- a. you like it.
- b. you love it.
- c. you hate it.

What does Christelle say *is her passion*? _____

What is your passion? "_____ is my passion."

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5 WRITING: AN EMAIL

Answer the question before completing the task below.

a. What does Christelle say is *the coolest thing about her country*?

b. Complete the email to Christelle. Tell her about winter in your country. Fill in information about:

- winter temperatures
- sports and festivals
- special food
- the coolest thing in your country

To: Christelle

From: Me

Subject: My country in winter

Dear Christelle,

It was very interesting to read about winter in Canada. Now I'd like to tell you something about winter in my country. The normal winter temperature is about _____. The favourite winter sports are _____.

There is a festival called _____ where you can _____.

A special food in my country is _____. It is made of _____.

Finally, the coolest thing about my country is _____.

I hope you can visit us one day.

Best wishes from _____

6 WEBQUEST: CLASS PROJECT

Choose one of these topics and make a poster or PowerPoint slide show; then present it to your class.

- Winter sports in Canada
- Québec
- Winterlude in Ottawa
- Canadian wild animals and birds
- First Nation tribes (e.g. the Cree)

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KEY

2

1. tobogganing
2. cultures
3. ancestors
4. proud
5. French fries
6. gravy
7. slides
8. sculptures
9. wrap up
10. tribe
11. province
12. spirit

3

1. i
2. a
3. d
4. b
5. f
6. c
7. j
8. g
9. h
10. e

4

b. you love it.

Christelle's passion is snowboarding.

5

Christelle says that the coolest thing about her country is that it has two big cultures: Canadian and French-Canadian.