

Exploring Nationalism

Chapter Highlights

Chapter 13: Visions of Canada

This chapter explores Canada's identity, specifically differing visions of Canada as well as the history of emerging visions. The extent that the early visions of Canada met the needs of a diverse population is also investigated as well as how the early visions are reflected in Canada today.

Chapter Issue: *To what extent have visions of Canadian identity evolved?*

In this chapter you will learn about the following concepts:

- That Canadians have been trying to define Canada's identity since before Confederation;
- That Canada evolved from a desire for independence, freedom, and self-determination;
- That the path towards multiculturalism is not always smooth and that some groups believe that their needs are not being met; and,
- That the visions of Canadian identity change as circumstances change.

Topics covered in this chapter include:

1. What is Canada? (*differing visions*)
2. How and why early visions of Canada emerged. (*responsible government, Confederation, evolving visions of Canada*)
3. To what extent did various early visions of Canada meet people's needs? (*challenges and opportunities for Francophones, immigration, asserting Aboriginal rights*)
4. How is the evolution of various visions of Canada reflected in the country today? (*the founding nations and multiculturalism debates*)

You will apply these skills to your understanding of visions of Canada:

1. **Document** using words or images your current ideas on changing visions of national identity.
2. **Describe** the identity of one of the groups that you are part of using words or pictures.
3. **Compare** various narratives using an organizing chart.
4. **Examine** the portrayal of an early (1888) map of North America under U.S. control.
5. **Create** a T-chart to compare the advantages of ethnic and cultural similarity with the advantages of ethnic and cultural diversity.
6. **Create** a dialogue between a Ukrainian immigrant and a recent immigrant to Canada.
7. **Build** a family tree (either your own, someone else's, or for a fictitious family).
8. **Examine** the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to determine which clauses would have protected people of one culturally different group in early Canada.
9. **Summarize** Neil Bissoondath's argument against multiculturalism.
10. **Discuss** the possible meaning of the North as a "new frontier."
11. **Create** two past and present visual images to represent your individual, collective, and national identity.