

20–1: Exploring Nationalism

CHAPTER 14: CANADIAN IDENTITY

1. All of the following are part of Canadian national myths **except**
 - A. winning the War of 1812
 - B. hardworking voyageurs and pioneer settlers
 - C. building of the CPR
 - D. rebellling against tyranny

2. The organization that ensures Canadians share the costs of running the country is the
 - A. Canadian Security Intelligence Service
 - B. Canada Border Services Agency
 - C. Bank of Canada
 - D. Canada Customs and Revenue Agency

3. Canada’s federal government promotes national unity and identity by doing all the following **except**
 - A. funding museums and galleries
 - B. sponsoring athletes at the Olympics and Paralympics
 - C. helping the Council of Canadians develop progressive health care policies
 - D. putting symbols of Canadian identity on the national currency

4. The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission is **most** commonly criticized for its
 - A. liberal distribution of broadcasting licenses
 - B. watered-down definition of Canadian content
 - C. Canadian-content quotas
 - D. failure to prevent the mass exodus of Canadian talent

5. Which of the following statements about the Hudson’s Bay Company is **true**?
 - A. It is the oldest continuously operating business in Canada.
 - B. It is the oldest Canadian-owned company.
 - C. It began by sending fishers to Canada’s Grand Banks.
 - D. It was started by a grant from the king of France.

Use the following source to answer question 6.

“During a previous visit 32 years ago I said that ‘I want the Crown in Canada to represent everything that is best and most admired in the Canadian ideal. I will continue to do my best to make it so during my lifetime, and I hope you will all continue to give me your help in this task.’ I would like to repeat those words today as, together, we continue to build a country that remains the envy of the world.”

— Queen Elizabeth II, in an address to the Alberta legislature, 2005

6. Which Canadian institution would **most likely** respond positively to the queen’s message?
- A. Monarchist League
 - B. Dominion Institute
 - C. Council of Canadians
 - D. The Hudson’s Bay Company

Use the following sources to answer question 7.

Source I

Although many Canadians, as well as members of the international community, view Canada as a nation of peacekeepers, the numbers tell a different story. In 1991, Canada contributed more than 10 per cent of all UN peacekeeping forces. Sixteen years later, this contribution amounted to less than 0.1 per cent.

Source II

Response to Source I: “I don’t care what the numbers indicate; Canada has been, and continues to be, a nation renowned for its peacekeeping efforts.”

7. Source II reveals that when it comes to myths that promote national identity,
- A. people do not readily change their beliefs
 - B. people will change their beliefs if given enough evidence
 - C. the myths serve a useful purpose
 - D. truth does not matter

Use the following sources to answer questions 8 to 10.

Source I



The beaver is a Canadian symbol. It has been on the back of the nickel since 1937. This symbol is so familiar to Canadians that artist Roy Peterson used it to represent Canada in the Canada Day cartoon. Peterson did not think that he needed to explain to his audience what the symbol meant.

Source II

“The great passenger trains were a symbol — still are, years after their demise — and symbols do not operate on the level of logic, but of emotion.”

— Peter C. Newman, in *The Canadian Revolution: From Deference to Defiance*, 1996

Source III



An RCMP officer in dress uniform stands in front of a mural depicting the Musical Ride. The Musical Ride represents the RCMP’s tradition of being a “mounted” police force.

Source IV

People in Canada and around the world associate a number of symbols with Canada: the Rocky Mountains, hockey, the Canada goose, and the maple leaf. When a symbol triggers an association — the maple leaf means Canada — then it is successful. Sometimes, however, symbols succeed in more limited ways. The loon, for example, is not widely known as a symbol of Canada, and the Canada goose can be considered a nuisance.

8. Taken together, the sources **best** support the generalization that
- A. symbols and myths are often rooted in history and do not reflect the present
 - B. symbols are frequently abandoned and replaced by other symbols
 - C. symbols reflect a country's connection to the natural environment
 - D. to be successful, symbols have to represent and mean the same to everybody
9. Which symbol presented in the sources is **most** likely to lead to the conclusion that Canadians are a people who are hardworking, ingenious, and determined?
- A. the beaver
 - B. the maple leaf
 - C. the musical ride
 - D. the passenger train
10. Which of the following statements is **most** accurate?
- A. Source I contradicts Source IV.
 - B. Sources I and III provide examples that fit the main idea of Source II.
 - C. Sources II and III provide information that explains the meaning of Source IV.
 - D. Information from Source IV calls into question the symbol discussed in Source II.

Use the following sources to answer questions 11 and 12.

Source I

“Legends are what you tell yourself when you don’t know your own history. It’s cozy and cuddly, politically inoffensive, and reinforces the hegemony [domination] of the ruling class.”

— John Fitzgerald, Newfoundland historian, 2000

Source II

“Against the charge that identity-grounding myths are simply lies and fabrications that represent some particular groups’ will to power, others have argued that it is a mistake to understand national histories as a set of truth claims in the fashion of the academic historian... Rather, they should be seen as something closer to stories... National myths are not lies and fabrications; they are inspiring narratives, stemming from human imagination, in which we tell ourselves who we are or want to be.”

— Arash Abizadeh, Canadian political scientist

Source III

“Much of the world sees Canadians as people who are fair. Our culture and our practices at home, municipally, provincially, federally, are in fact imbued with this principle. And we’re good at it.”

— James Orbinski, former president of Doctors Without Borders, 2008

Source IV

Shared memories of a common history help unite peoples, but peoples also select the myths they want included in their national memory.

11. Which source is critical of national myths?

- A. Source I
- B. Source II
- C. Source III
- D. Source IV

12. As windows to national identity, the sources conclude that legends are

- A. harmful
- B. useful
- C. ambivalent
- D. irrelevant

Use the following sources to answer questions 13 and 14.

Source I

The Dominion Institute's web site notes that only one-third of eligible first-time voters cast ballots in the 2006 federal election, that two-thirds of Canadians have never heard of Vimy Ridge, and that 44 per cent of Canadians believe that D-Day marks the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Source II



This information banner is one of many on the Dominion Institute's web site.

Source III

In 1997, the Dominion Institute asked Ipsos Reid to conduct a mock citizenship exam similar to the one immigrants must pass to become citizens — and 45 per cent of respondents failed. When the survey was repeated 10 years later, the results were even worse: 60 per cent of respondents failed, though 70 per cent of immigrants passed.

Source IV

Dominion Institute — Ipsos Reid's Mock Canadian Citizenship Exam, 1997 and 2007

Selected Questions
What was the main trade controlled by the Hudson's Bay Company?
Who is Canada's head of state?
Which four provinces joined together in Confederation?
What three oceans border Canada?
Name four of the five great lakes.

13. The sources bring up a situation that can **best** be corrected by

- A. a cultural institution
- B. an educational institution
- C. economic and commercial institutions
- D. an institution seeking influence

14. In practical terms, which action is **most** likely to remedy the problem outlined by the sources?

- A. Require high school students across Canada to pass a national citizenship exam as a condition of graduation.
- B. Have the Government of Canada create cultural and educational organizations to fill the information gap.
- C. Postpone the age of majority to 21 so more time is available to acculturate youth to Canadian values.
- D. Withdraw from global events and international commitments until we get a better sense of who we are.

Use the following source to answer question 15.

Source I

The CBC's Top 10 Greatest Canadians

1. Tommy Douglas
2. Terry Fox
3. Pierre Elliott Trudeau
4. Frederick Banting
5. David Suzuki
6. Lester B. Pearson
7. Don Cherry
8. John A. Macdonald
9. Alexander Graham Bell
10. Wayne Gretzky

In 2004, CBC ran a contest to name the 10 greatest Canadians.

15. This source reveals which criticism about the validity of the contest?

- A. Most of Canada's heroes were from another generation.
- B. Athletes should not be on the top 10 list.
- C. There is an obvious gender bias in the selections.
- D. Canadians are poorly informed about their heritage.