

Name: _____ Date: _____

CANADA DAY!

Every year on July 1st, Canadians right across the country, from British Columbia to Newfoundland, celebrate Canada Day. Canadian embassies in different countries also have Canada Day barbeques and parties. Canada Day is celebrated with fireworks and music, hot dogs and hamburgers, and parties in every town and city in Canada. But what exactly is Canada Day?

It all started on June 20th, 1868, when the Governor-General of Canada, Lord Monck, asked all Canadian people to join in the anniversary celebration of the confederation on July 1st. Canada was formed the year before, in 1867, when Upper and Lower Canada joined to form the Dominion of Canada. The first four Canadian provinces were Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. Manitoba and the Northwest Territories joined in 1870 and British Columbia joined in 1871. Prince Edward Island joined in 1873, the Yukon Territory in 1898, and then Alberta and Saskatchewan joined in 1905. Forty-four years later, Newfoundland joined. In 1999, the Northwest Territories were split and another territory, Nunavut, was added. Canada Day celebrates the first union of the original four provinces under the name of Canada.

The holiday on July 1st was established in 1879, and was called Dominion Day. But after the first celebration in 1868, there were no more organized celebrations until the 50th anniversary in 1917 and then again in 1927 to mark the Diamond Jubilee. In 1958, the government of Canada started an annual celebration on July 1st. The celebration changed several times from 1958 until the present, but the reason for the celebration was always the same: Canada's Birthday! One of the most memorable Canada Day celebrations was in 1967, for Canada's Centennial Celebration. Queen Elizabeth II attended the celebrations on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Canada's capital. Up until October 27th, 1982, July 1st was still called Dominion Day. On this date the name was changed to Canada Day. Since 1985, there have been Canada Day committees in each province that organize Canada Day celebrations.

What are some symbols commonly associated with Canada --what are the things you see during Canada Day celebrations? Let's start with the Canadian flag. The Canadian flag is made up of three parts: two red borders and a red maple leaf on a white background in the center. The maple leaf first became the national emblem of Canada in August 1860. The colors red and white have long been associated with France and England. Canada was settled by both England and France, and so red and white were chosen for the colors of the Canadian flag. The maple leaf flag officially became Canada's flag on February 15th, 1965. Another symbol of Canada is the beaver. The beaver played an important part in the early history of Canada. Both French and English fur traders trapped many beavers, and it was partially because of the trappers that other parts of western Canada began to be settled. If you are near a Canada Day celebration this year, look out for other symbols. But even more importantly than that, have some hot dogs, watch the fireworks and join in Canada's birthday party!



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Answer the following questions about CANADA DAY.

1. When is Canada Day?

2. What does Canada Day celebrate?

3. When was the "Dominion of Canada" formed? What were the first four provinces?

4. At the turn of the century (1900) how many provinces and territories were there?

5. When was Nunavut formed?

6. When was Dominion Day established?

7. What is the difference between Dominion Day and Canada Day?

8. How many Dominion Day celebrations occurred between 1868 and 1957, and what was special about each one?

9. When did Queen Elizabeth II attend the celebrations?

10. Describe the Canadian flag.

11. When did the maple leaf flag officially become the flag of Canada?

12. What animal is a symbol of Canada?

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Answers to CANADA DAY

1. Canada Day is on July 1st every year.
2. Canada Day celebrates Canada's birthday.
3. The Dominion of Canada was formed in 1867. The first four provinces were Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.
4. At the turn of the century there were 9 provinces and territories (7 provinces and 2 territories).
5. Nunavut was formed in 1999.
6. Dominion Day was established in 1879.
7. Dominion Day and Canada Day are the same thing. They both celebrate Canada's birthday on July 1st. The name of Dominion Day was changed to Canada Day on October 27th, 1982.
8. There were three Dominion Day celebrations between 1868 and 1957. The very first celebration was on July 1st, 1868. The next celebration was for the 50th anniversary in 1917, and the third celebration was in 1927 to mark the Diamond Jubilee.
9. Queen Elizabeth II attended the celebrations in 1967 for Canada's centennial celebration.
10. The Canadian flag has three parts: two red edges and a red maple leaf on a white background in the center.
11. The maple leaf flag officially became the flag of Canada on February 15th, 1965.
12. The beaver is a symbol of Canada.