

Teacher's Guide

Elizabeth II and Canada, a Portrait



Document written by
Les Productions Ninon Larochelle
Design by CinéFête
Teacher's Guide

INTRODUCTION

Synopsis

To celebrate 60 years of the reign of Elizabeth II in 2012, the Canadian government commissioned a new portrait of the Queen by Ontario artist Phil Richards. The story of Canada's relationship to the monarchy unveils itself in the film ELIZABETH THE II AND CANADA, A PORTRAIT under the brush work of the artist. We discover who she is and what she represents for Canadians. Interviews with specialists allow us to discover the main workings of the Canadian constitutional monarchy, and the bonds that have endured between the Queen and Canada for the past 60 years. The film also highlights the 2011 royal tour with the Duke and the Duchess of Cambridge and the last visit of Her Majesty the Queen in 2010.

Activities

The activities in this guide are designed to be completed after seeing either a part or the whole film. The film is divided into four thematic chapters - ranging from 11 minutes to 14 minutes. The film can also be seen in its continuous version, for a total duration of 52:46 min. Teachers can then choose whether to present one chapter or several chapters according to their lesson.

Learning content

Queen Elizabeth II, the monarchy and the Canadian Crown are part of our political system and the elements of Canadian identity. These issues are at the heart of the film and the activities in this teacher's guide. The contents cover several aspects of Canadian identity through the country's history, culture and traditions.

Once the DVD is inserted into the DVD drive, a menu appears for either the hour version or four thematic chapters that you can choose to view separately. Simply select the version or chapter that you want to see.

Chapters and their topics

Here are the 4 thematic chapters:

- 1.** Elizabeth II and Royal Tours (duration: 14:30 min.)
- 2.** From Queen Victoria to Elizabeth II: Traditions and Canadian Identity (15:00 min.)
- 3.** Canada : A Constitutional Monarchy (13:15 min.)
- 4.** Elizabeth II : 60 years of Dedication (12:25 min.)

Activities also provide knowledge and insights on:

- history of the Canadian Monarchy
- the role and powers of the Queen
- the mandate and responsibilities of the Governor General
- the Canadian Constitutional Monarchy
- the creation of the country at the time of Confederation
- the Commonwealth
- democracy

CHAPTER 1

ELIZABETH II AND THE ROYAL TOURS IN CANADA (14:30 MIN.)

Chapter 1: Summary

She married the Duke of Edinburgh in 1947 and gave birth to four children. On the death of King George VI in 1952, Elizabeth, who was his eldest daughter, was proclaimed queen.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is the head of state of Canada, she has visited 24 times since her accession to the throne. In her 60 years of reign, she has participated in almost every event of importance to Canada. During her last visit in 2010, she commemorated the centenary of the Royal Canadian Navy. The organization of the royal tours is planned well in advance and requires many resources. If the cost associated with the royal tours is high, the financial impact is often more important on the cities and regions that host a member of the royal family, but at the same time, the royal tours are an economical benefit to the regions being visited. In 2011, the young royal couple William and Kate chose Canada for their honeymoon, attracting thousands of Canadians on their way, and many tourists from the United States and elsewhere, boosting sales in stores, restaurants and hotels in the regions they visited.

Queen Elizabeth II represents the Crown in Canada, an important institution that is not only part of our political system, but also our identity. As the RCMP, beaver, maple leaf or the Royal Arms of Canada, the Crown is one of the symbols that is part of our identity as Canadians.

Activity 1 (individual / group class)

1. The teacher must print the list of royal tours of Her Majesty the Queen in Canada since 1957 (at <http://couronnecanadienne.gc.ca/fra/1331832099895>). Copies are then distributed to the class.
2. Each student chooses an official visit and conducts a research on the event attached to the visit in which the Queen was involved. (eg in 1976, the Queen opened the Montreal Olympics)
3. The student creates a poster that will promote the event. In front of the group, he then explains what motivated his choice, and why this event is important.

Activity 2 (in small groups)

1. Write a letter to Her Majesty the Queen to invite her to visit your school. The letter should outline strong arguments to convince her!
2. Each group reads his letter to the class. A show of hands then determines the most convincing letter.
3. A student is then elected to find the home address of Her Majesty the Queen in London.
4. Other volunteers will take care of: the correction and the rewriting of the letter, and the mailing.

Activity 3 (individual)

1. Each student chooses a Canadian symbol from those seen in chapter 1 of the film (the Canadian flag, the beaver, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Royal Arms of Canada).
2. He composes a text describing the selected symbol and explains the reasons for his choice and how this symbol is part of the Canadian identity.
3. The teacher can then ask some students to read their text to launch a discussion of Canadian identity: "What does it mean to be Canadian? How are we different from Americans?"

CHAPTER 2

From Queen Victoria to Elizabeth II: traditions and Canadian identity (15:00 MIN.)

Chapter 2: Summary

Under the French or British systems, Canada has always been ruled by a king or a queen. Chapter 2 is a fascinating portrait of Queen Victoria, great-grandmother of Elizabeth II, who gave her name to many monuments and places across the country. It also demonstrates the importance of the queen to the history of Canada. Queen Victoria allows us to discover why the sound of bagpipes always accompanies major events in this country. Honoring the important role of the Canadian Forces, Queen Elizabeth II is Colonel in Chief of more than a dozen military units in the country. One of the oldest is the Royal Highland Regiment of Canada, or "Black Watch"... this regiment's bagpipe music is famous.

As the Head of State, Her Majesty Elizabeth II participates in all events of importance to Canada. For example, the Queen signed the new Constitution in 1982 on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, which introduced the **Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms** to Canadians.

Activity 1 (in small groups)

1. Conduct a research on the bagpipe instrument, its origins, and a Canadian event celebrated to the sound of bagpipes.
2. Write a research report and communicate the results to the rest of the class group.
3. Class group is then asked to choose the event that seems most important from those that have been presented, and discusses its significance to Canadians.

Activity 2 (in small groups)

1. Conduct a research on the Scottish population in Canada: the first arrivals, the main communities today, their customs and traditions and the country they left behind.
2. Imagine being a young Scottish immigrant in 1900: write a letter to a friend and recount your first impressions of Canada and Canadians: what you like and what you don't like, and why.
3. The class group must then discuss one aspect of the reality of immigrants in Canada today.

Activity 3 (group / individual)

This activity can be followed by activity No 3 of Chapter 3, which focuses on democracy

1. The teacher explains what the British Empire was like at the time of Queen Victoria - which comprised about a third of the globe.
2. The group conducts a research on the 16 countries where Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II reigns today (in addition to the United Kingdom, these countries designated under the name of "Commonwealth realms" are all former colonies or protectorates of the British Empire). A list of these countries is written on the blackboard.
3. Each student chooses one of these countries in order to make a poster that will showcase its tourist attractions - he has to conduct his research at the library or on the Internet.

CHAPTER 3

CANADA: A CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY (13:15 MIN.)

Chapter 3: Summary

In 1867, while preparing for the grand project that would bring together the provinces into one country, the Fathers of Confederation decided to keep the monarchy. For them, the institution of the Crown, that is to say the Queen or her representative, the Governor General of Canada, would help to maintain ties between provinces scattered from coast to coast. Today the Crown is still part of our political system, which is composed of three elements: the House of Commons, the Senate, and the Crown.

If the powers of the Queen are no longer as important as before, she still has the real powers that enable her to protect the interests of democracy and Canadians. The Queen delegates her powers to her representatives in Canada: Governor General at the federal level, and lieutenant-governors of each province. The Governor General of Canada has two official residences that allow him to perform his duties: Rideau Hall in Ottawa, and in the Citadel in Quebec City. It is in these official residences that the Queen is welcomed during her visits to Canada.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is also the Head of the Commonwealth, an international organization of more than 54 countries. Canada is one of those. This important organization, which represents more than one billion people, mainly works to promote democratic values around the world.

Activity 1 (Individual)

1. Research one of the following: John A. MacDonald (first Prime Minister of the country), Ottawa (Canada's capital chosen by Queen Victoria), the current Governor General of Canada, Rideau Hall.
2. From this research, write a newspaper article that paints a portrait of John A. MacDonald, write a press release that explains why Ottawa was chosen as the capital, write a report on the participation of the current Governor General of Canada at a recent event.
3. Create an information leaflet on **Rideau Hall**, that the Governor General nicknamed "the residence of the people."

Activity 2 (in small groups)

1. Elizabeth II is not only the Queen of the United Kingdom and Canada, she is also monarch in 14 other countries including Australia and New Zealand. In these 16 kingdoms, the Queen is represented by the governor general: they are the ones who effectively direct the States. By conducting a research at the library or on the Internet, students must prepare a list of the 16 countries of which Elizabeth II is the head of state.
2. Groups choose one of these 16 kingdoms and do a search on its main features (landscape, people, culture and traditions, exceptional sites, etc.).
3. The students then make a poster or travel brochure showcasing the country, with a catchy slogan.

Activity 3 (group class)

This activity may be preceded by activity No. 3 of Chapter 2

1. The teacher must first print out in large format a map of the world representing the Democracy Index (available at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democracy_Index)
2. From this map on the wall of the classroom, the students have to find the names of the countries whose Democracy Index is at its lowest (which is between 0.0-0.9, eg. North Korea)
3. The teacher then launches a discussion about what should be a democratic country. He or she may ask students to identify democratic values (cooperation, solidarity, social justice, equal rights, human rights, etc.).
4. The students are then asked to say why they think Canada is one of the most democratic countries in the world (ranked 8th in the world according to the Democracy Index)



CHAPTER 4

ELIZABETH II: 60 YEARS OF DEDICATION (12:25 MIN.)

Chapter 4: Summary

June 2nd 1953: the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II was one of the largest media events in recent history. Her coronation coincided with the advent of television and the young Queen decided, despite the advice of her counselors, that the ceremony would be broadcast on television. Many Canadians bought their first TV in order to follow their Queen's coronation on the small screen.

Painter Phil Richards, who created the new portrait of the Queen commissioned by the Canadian government to commemorate her 60th Diamond Jubilee, presents his work to the sovereign at Buckingham Palace, London.

The reign of Elizabeth II is almost as long as that of her great-grandmother, Queen Victoria, who ruled the British Empire for 63 years. She has devoted her entire life to her role, a role she did not choose. Before his coronation at age 21, she said: "I declare before you all that my life long or short, shall be devoted to your service."

Activity 1 (group class)

The teacher initiates a discussion on the life of Queen Elizabeth II with the question: " *Would you like to live the same life as Queen Elizabeth II ? Why ?* "

Activity 2 (individual / group class)

1. The students can do a preliminary research on the Canada Post website and other websites in order to find three portraits of Elizabeth II:
 - a Canadian stamp bearing her image
 - a painting or a drawing
 - a photograph of the sovereign.

These three images should represent the Queen at different times of her life and made by Canadians (individuals, organizations or institutions). They should be printed and brought to class.

2. The images collected are grouped into three categories (paintings or drawings, stamps, photographs). They are then glued on three cardboard posters and displayed on the classroom wall.
3. The images serve as a starting point to begin a discussion: " *What is Queen Elizabeth II for me ?* "



**

**

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

There is also a description of a short film entitled A ROYAL COMMISSION whose trailer can be seen at: <http://vimeo.com/49042310>. This film lasting 20 minutes shows the making of the portrait of Queen Elizabeth II by Ontario artist Phil Richards. While working on his canvas, the artist explains his artistic and creative process. This short film provides an interesting educational content for art classes.

A Crown of Maples – Constitutional Monarchy in Canada: a PDF document from the Canadian Heritage http://canadiancrown.gc.ca/DAMAssetPub/DAM-CRN-jblDmt-dmdJbl/STAGING/texte-text/crnMpls_1336157759317_eng.pdf?WT.contentAuthority=4.4.4

WEBSITES

- ❖ Publication on the history of the monarchy and the importance of this symbol for Canada. Educational resources on the Governor General of Canada. <http://www.gg.ca/document.aspx?id=14610&lan=eng>
- ❖ Gallery video archives of several visits of Queen Elizabeth II since 1951. <http://canadiancrown.gc.ca/eng/1331817067526/1331816799855>
- ❖ The website of the Governor General of Canada is full of information and images on the activities of the Queen's representative in Canada. <http://www.gg.ca/index.aspx?lan=eng>
- ❖ Entitled Her Majesty's Stamps, here is a great online exhibition. More than 400 philatelic items from the personal collection of Queen Elizabeth II. <http://www.civilisations.ca/cmcc/exhibitions/tresors/timbres-majeste/index-e.shtml>
- ❖ A site devoted to residences of Queen Elizabeth II and the British royal family. <http://www.royal.gov.uk/theroyalresidences/reschannel.aspx>

Produced by www.productionsninonlarochelle.ca

The film Elizabeth II and Canada, a portrait and this Teacher's Guide are produced with the participation of the [Canadian Studies Program of Canadian Heritage](#).

Distributed by



1586 Fleury East #210
Montreal (QC) Canada | H2C 1S6
www.cinefete.ca
T. 514.858.0300 | 1.800.858.2183
F. 514.858.0442 | 1.800.952.0442