

HOLIDAY COMPARISON

Performance Standard 18A.E

Make a poster and a T-chart comparing Independence Day in the United States with Canada Day in Canada accordingly:

- *Knowledge*: Identify and describe the ways and reasons why Americans celebrate Independence Day and Canadians celebrate Canada Day.
- *Reasoning*: Analyze the similarities and differences in the two holidays.
- *Communication*: produce a poster and T-chart (comparison chart) that are well-organized and well-detailed; express all ideas in a way that provides evidence of knowledge and reasoning processes.

Procedures

1. *In order to understand, compare characteristics of culture as reflected in language, literature, the arts, traditions and institutions (18A)*, students should experience sufficient learning opportunities to develop the following skills:
 - Compare the celebration of holidays by cultures throughout the world.
 - Prepare T-charts comparing characteristics of culture in different countries.Note: Have students individually or collectively study and research information about Independence Day and Canada Day (see “Holiday Comparison” handout). This assessment may also be used to compare other holidays in the United States and those in other countries.
2. Have students review and discuss the assessment task and how the rubric will be used to evaluate their work.
3. Create a two-column poster and T-chart as follows:
 - Label one column of the poster “INDEPENDENCE DAY” and the other “CANADA DAY.”
 - Find or draw pictures using appropriate content to show how people celebrate both holidays (e.g., years of origin, purpose of holiday, days of celebration, commemoration activities, symbols). Place these pictures in the appropriate column on the poster.
 - Use headings and captions to explain each picture.
 - Make a T-chart on 8 ½ x 11 paper to show similarities and differences between the two holidays and clip it to the poster.
4. (Optional) Have each student make a two – three minute presentation using the poster and T-chart as visual aids.
5. Evaluate each student’s work using the Social Science Rubric as follows and add the scores to determine the performance level:
 - *Knowledge*: The information about each of the holidays was complete and accurate.
 - *Reasoning*: The comparison of the holidays’ similarities and differences was thorough and accurate.
 - *Communication*: The poster, the T-chart, and presentation were well-organized and well-detailed; the knowledge and reasoning were completely and effectively communicated.

Examples of Student Work follow

Time Requirements

- One class period to make poster and T-chart
- Two to three minutes per presentation (optional)

Resources

- “Holiday Comparison” handout
- Encyclopedias and/or other sources of information about Independence Day and Canada Day
- 18 x 22 poster board
- 8 ½ x 11 paper for T-chart
- Scissors and markers
- Social Science Rubric

HOLIDAY COMPARISONS

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Independence Day, in the U.S., is an annual holiday commemorating the formal adoption by the Continental Congress of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, in Philadelphia. Although the signing of the Declaration was not completed until August, the Fourth of July holiday has been accepted as the official anniversary of United States independence and is celebrated in all states and territories of the U.S.

The holiday was first observed in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776, at which time the Declaration of Independence was read aloud, city bells rang, and bands played. It was not declared a legal holiday, however, until 1941. The Fourth is traditionally celebrated publicly with parades and pageants, patriotic speeches, and organized firing of guns and cannons and displays of fireworks; early in the 20th century public concern for a "safe and sane" holiday resulted in restrictions on general use of fireworks. Family picnics and outings are a feature of private Fourth of July celebrations.

Source: "Independence Day," Microsoft® Encarta® Online Encyclopedia 2001
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CANADA DAY

Canada Day, Canadian national holiday, is celebrated on July 1. It marks the anniversary of the unification of Upper and Lower Canada (what are now Ontario and Quebec), New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia as the Dominion of Canada. This union was effected by passage on July 1, 1867, of the British North America Act. Formerly known as Dominion Day, the name was changed to Canada Day in 1982 when the constitution was revised. The day is marked throughout Canada by parades, fireworks, and display of flags.

Source: "Canada Day," Microsoft® Encarta® Online Encyclopedia 2001
<http://encarta.msn.com> © 1997-2001 Microsoft Corporation.

"Meets"

CANADA DAY JULY 4



Similarities

Both have Festivals

Both Canada and US have Parades

Both Canada and US are holidays

Both have special documents

Differences

America's holiday is on 4 of July

Canada's holiday is on July 1st

America has the president come to parade

Parliament has passed the Canada law

The continental congress passed the US laws



JULY 4th

Canada Day

USA

Fire works



Flag



Leader

President
July 4



Flag



Fire works



July 1

Queen

Leader

July 4
is
Coming

Similarities

Differences

1. Both holidays in July.

1. Different years
July 4 USA 1776
July 1 Canada 1967

2. Both holidays have parties.

2. Different Leaders
Canada

3. Both have events.

3. Pass by Parliament in USA
Pass by Continental Congress.

4. Both have national holidays before Canada

4. USA was free before Canada

1776

July 4

1867

July 1

