

Celebrations

Topic Development Ideas

Classes might want to learn more about...

- appropriate gifts for specific celebrations and special occasions in Canada
- conventions around gift giving and gift opening at parties
- cultural differences in attitudes concerning gender- and age-based activities
- cultural differences in celebrations
- customs associated with celebrations for children
- customs associated with parties (arrival and departure, role of guests and hosts, giving gifts)
- meaning and customs of special days celebrated in Canada (e.g., Mother's Day, Christmas, Thanksgiving, St. Jean Baptiste Day)

Strategies for Learners

Learners find it useful to...

- compare celebrations in Canada with those of own country or classmates' countries
- confirm or clarify appropriate message choice in greeting card with proficient English speaker
- learn appropriate messages for greeting cards
- learn short polite phrases for accepting and declining invitations
- observe the actions of others at celebrations and ask questions
- read simple published materials about specific social occasions
- rehearse short conventional messages of thanks and congratulations

Resources for Developing and Teaching Topic

- 📖 *A Canadian Conversation Book, Book One*: Unit 4, "Days, Dates, and Weather"
- 📖 *Canadian Concepts 2, Second Edition*: Unit 3, "Days and Dates"
- 📖 *Let's Celebrate!*
- 📖 *Ontario Reader 1999*: "Canada Day," "Sweet tradition of Diwali"
- 📖 *Ontario Reader 2001*: "Multicultural holidays"
- 📖 *The ESL Tool Box*: Unit 1, "Ask Around"
- 📖 *The Pizza Tastes Great*: Unit 3, "Birthdays"
- 📖 *When's the Next Canadian Holiday?*
- 📄 sample invitations and greeting cards with written messages inside
- 🔗 *CLB Listening/Speaking Resource*: Stage I, Social Interaction dialogues 5–6
- 🌟 Chinese New Year: <http://www.new-year.co.uk/chinese/cards/cards.htm> and http://123greetings.com/events/chinese_new_year
- 🌟 Ramadan and Eid cards: <http://www.123greetings.com/events/eid>
- 🌟 Yahoo Canada Greetings: <http://greetings.yahoo.ca>
- 🔍 postcards, holidays, enter name of specific holiday (e.g., **Ramadan**)