



Create a display for an exhibit on collective rights in Canada.

Your Role

The Canadian Museum of Civilization is planning an exhibit on collective rights in Canada. The exhibit, called “Collective Rights: Past and Present,” will illustrate the impact of collective rights on citizenship and identity in Canada today. The museum is looking for your contribution to the exhibit. Your role is to create an interactive display that answers the question:

How has collective-rights legislation over time shaped who we are as Canadians?

Your Presentation

Your display should reflect:

- An understanding of the historical context surrounding legislation that affirms collective rights in Canada.
- An analysis of how collective rights have, over time, shaped Canadians’ unique sense of identity.

As you work through the chapter, think about what you would put in your display. Some displays have charts, written text, or pictures illustrating the information. Others have sound recordings or a multimedia presentation. Think about what you will use to illustrate your ideas about collective rights in Canada.



What do you already know about

Canadian history that you can apply to these stamps?



Why do you believe Canadians

want to commemorate the link between history and these identities?



These stamps commemorate events in Canada’s history that reflect the identities of Francophones, First Nations peoples and the Métis.

Let's get started!

Part of your task is to analyze the impact of collective rights on the identity of Canadians as a whole. Not all countries have legislation that protects and affirms collective rights. As you work through the chapter, look for information to help you answer the questions below.

- What are collective rights?
- What legislation establishes the collective rights of groups in Canada?
- Why do some groups have collective rights and not others?
- Why are collective rights important to all Canadians?
- How do collective rights, in the past and today, define who we are as Canadians?



You could write each of these questions on a separate piece of paper, where you add notes and information as you read. Your notes could be a list or a mind map.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Collective rights set Canada apart from other nations. For example, no groups (peoples) in the United States have rights recognized in the American constitution.
- Collective rights reflect the idea of mutual respect among peoples. This idea has a long history in Canada. For example, it shaped the Great Peace of Montréal in 1701, among thirty-nine First Nations and the French.



Based on the facts on this page, why are collective rights important to all Canadians?

Before You Get Started

FAQ: COLLECTIVE RIGHTS

What are collective rights?

- In this chapter, collective rights are rights held by groups (peoples) in Canadian society that are recognized and protected by Canada’s constitution.
- Collective rights are different than individual rights. Every Canadian citizen and permanent resident has individual rights under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, such as the right to live anywhere in Canada. Collective rights are rights Canadians hold because they belong to one of several groups in society.

Who holds collective rights in Canada?

- Aboriginal peoples, including First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples.
- Francophones and Anglophones.

Why do some peoples have collective rights and not others?

- Collective rights recognize the founding peoples of Canada. Canada would not exist today without the contribution of these peoples.
- Collective rights come from the roots of Aboriginal peoples, Francophones and Anglophones in the land and history of Canada.

What legislation relates to collective rights?

