

Canada: My House in Quebec

My Beautiful House Series

Subject Areas: Social Studies, World Geography and Cultures, Multicultural Studies

Synopsis: Vanessa is eleven years old and lives in Oka, in Quebec. She introduces us to her family and takes us around her traditional wooden house with its stained-glass windows, which was built over one hundred years ago.

Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to compare and contrast their culture, family, and activities to Vanessa's culture, family, and activities.
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to demonstrate an appreciation for the diversity of cultures on our planet.
- Objective 3)** Students will be able to locate Canada on a map or globe.
- Objective 4)** Students will be able to describe Canadian cultural traditions.
- Objective 5)** Students will be able to compare how Vanessa's basic needs are met with the way their own needs for food, clothing and shelter are met.

Vocabulary:

Canada, Quebec, Oka, ferry, Lake of Two Mountains, kilometers, orchard, traditional, Quebecois, gabled roof, dormer windows, stained-glass windows, histories, brim, invent, recipes, ingredients, autumn, preserves, homemade, vitamins, energy, Monopoly, Montreal, Paris, Canadian dollars

Pre-Viewing Activities:

- 1) Locate Canada on a map or globe. Ask students on which continent Canada is located. Point out Quebec, Oka, Montreal, and the Atlantic Ocean on the map. Make sure viewers know where Canada is in relation to the rest of the world, including the United States and North America.
- 2) Discuss general characteristics of Canada such as climate, geographical features, the people, customs, etc.
- 3) Ask students to draw a map of their homes. Have them include the number of rooms, number of bedrooms, who lives with them, etc. Compare and contrast the different maps.

Post-Viewing Questions and Discussion:

- 1) Describe Vanessa's family. How many brothers and sisters does she have? How many do you have? How do Vanessa's parents earn a living? How does Vanessa help her mother? What kind of food does Vanessa like? Who prepares her meals? What does Vanessa's mother make for Vanessa? Why?

- 2) Describe Vanessa's home. Compare and contrast Vanessa's home with your own. How are they similar or different? What kind of house is it? What special kind of windows do you see in Vanessa's house? Where else have you seen that type of window? Who lives in Vanessa's house? Who lives in your house? What is Vanessa's room like? How is it similar or different from your own room? Is your room bigger or smaller?
- 3) Compare and contrast Vanessa's activities with your own. How are they similar or different? What do Vanessa and her friend like to do? What do you and your friends like to do? What is happening at Vanessa's house? How do people in Canada celebrate birthdays? How do you celebrate your birthday? What kind of food do you serve for a birthday celebration? With whom does Vanessa celebrate?

Additional Activities:

- 1) Have students draw a picture of their neighborhood or write a story about their family and home. Then, have the students read their stories or display and describe their drawings for the class.
- 2) Ask the students to prepare a geographic profile of Canada noting its size, location, climate, natural resources, and outstanding cultural traits. Have them describe Canada's history, principal industries, people, and major tourist attractions.

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