



Valour Canada

Foreign Policy

Pathfinder Activities

Learning Objectives:

- + Discuss the importance of Canadian foreign policy in relation to contemporary events and crises, including foreign intervention, climate change, and human rights issues.
- + Develop critical thinking, research, and presentation skills.

**VALOUR
CANADA**

**CONNECTING
CANADIANS
TO THEIR MILITARY
HERITAGE**

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Overview

Valour Canada's Foreign Policy Pathfinder activities are intended to give students an overview of four important pillars of Canadian foreign policy. This activity is designed for high school students and can be completed on its own or in conjunction with Valour Canada's Foreign Policy Package.

The activities include individual and group work, both which develop the independent thinking skills of students as well as their interpersonal capabilities to share, discuss, and respectfully debate information and contrasting perspectives.

Canada's Foreign Policy is a part of Social Studies curricula nationwide. In this activity, as well as through Social Studies instruction, students learn about Canada's role in the international community, whether it be in regard to intervention by the Canadian Forces, our stance on climate change, or our role in defending human rights. The four foreign policy goals explored in this activity are: Canadian Security (domestic), Economic Considerations, Humanitarianism, and Peace and Security (regional).

Activity Instructions

Divide students into four groups. Each group will correspond to a designated Canadian foreign policy goal. Each goal has an accompanied question which students must address, along with guiding points to get them started. After reading the main question and guiding points, students are to conduct individual research based on their question. Remind students to keep a record of their sources. After each student has completed their research, they will reconvene with their group to discuss their findings. They will then select an intervention method based on their research as it relates to their specific foreign policy goal. Finally, each group of students will compose a position statement which details their suggested intervention course of action and includes both evidence and examples as to why they selected their course of action. Groups will then present their positions to the class. To help students sort their ideas, please consult the attached chart at the end of this document.

There are three possible scenarios within which teachers/educators can apply this activity:

Scenario 1: Canada's role in Afghanistan and the Middle East

Scenario 2: Defending and protecting the Arctic

Scenario 3: Human Rights and Canada's involvement in the UN

Group 1: Canadian Security

Question: **What should Canada do against a foreign threat if Canada is primarily concerned with its own domestic security?**

Consider these points before you begin your research:

- ✦ Is there a threat to Canadian security being posed by foreign powers and their sympathizers in Canada?
- ✦ How would Canadian participation in a military campaign impact Canadian security?
- ✦ What might be the reaction of other nations if Canada chooses non-participation against a foreign threat?
- ✦ How would Canada's role affect international security?
- ✦ What is the security cost of participation and non-participation?

Group 2: Economic Considerations

Question: **What should Canada do in response to a foreign threat if Canada is primarily concerned with economic prosperity and stability?**

Consider these points before you begin your research:

- ✦ What are Canada's economic interests in adjacent nations or areas?
- ✦ How much does military intervention cost Canada? (Hint: provide 2 different intervention options for comparison's sake)
- ✦ Does Canada have a trade relationship with adjacent nations and how might that impact possible solutions?
- ✦ Can Canada contribute more than just money? What other supplies/resources can funding be put towards?
- ✦ How does foreign aid relate to economic support?

Group 3: Humanitarianism

Question: **What Canadian military action should we support against a foreign threat if Canada is primarily concerned with humanitarianism?**

Consider these points before you begin your research:

- ✦ How do people in the affected nations/regions live?
- ✦ How have marginalized groups (women, children, people of colour, Indigenous, the elderly) been affected by policies in their nation?
- ✦ What do we know about human rights (freedom of speech, freedom of religion, the rights of women, etc.) in these nations?
- ✦ Is it right to judge the conditions of life of another group of people?
- ✦ Which intervention option would be best for the people the affected regions? Which would be best for the international community?

Group 4: Peace and Security in a Region

Question: **What should Canada do against a foreign threat if Canada was primarily concerned with peace and security in a specific region?**

Consider these points before you begin your research:

- ✦ What is the United Nations' position on this conflict?
- ✦ Who are Canada's allies in the affected regions? Who would the allies be in case of further action?
- ✦ What are the positions of the surrounding countries in terms of foreign intervention?
- ✦ If the international community chooses to end its current mission and do nothing further, what is the likely outcome?
- ✦ If Canada (and other Western Powers) decide to intervene, how will it affect each individual country that is directly (or closely) impacted?
- ✦ Is there a chance for sectarian (religious sects) violence in the region?

