



Valour Canada

Foreign Policy Package

Learning Objectives:

- ✚ Define foreign policy and how it relates to Canada's involvement in the world.
- ✚ Define the terms: ultranationalism, nationalism, internationalism, and supranationalism.
- ✚ Clearly articulate personal perspectives on Canadian foreign policy and defend opposing perspectives.

**VALOUR
CANADA**



**CONNECTING
CANADIANS
TO THEIR MILITARY
HERITAGE**

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Introduction to the idea of ‘foreign policy’

The following series of tasks and activities are meant to serve as an introduction to the concept of [foreign policy](#). Some students/classes may already be familiar with the term, but it is often the first time they are being asked to consider its implications on nations and nationhood.

Students will complete a survey created by the Canadian Defense and Foreign Affairs Institute. Results of the nationwide survey will be analyzed to determine Canadian values in terms of Canada’s foreign policy.

Some of the questions at the heart of this topic are:

- 🍁 What is the point of nationhood?
- 🍁 Why have “countries”?
- 🍁 What might some goals of the nation of Canada be? How about other countries?
- 🍁 What are the principles by which nations deal with one another?

Survey and Analysis

Activity 1:

Watch the short YouTube video [150 Years of Canadian Foreign Policy](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Fsnq0ZUENI) (5m:55; Credit: OpenCanada) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Fsnq0ZUENI>). This clip highlights and visualizes Canada’s foreign policy goals since 1867.

Consider the following questions after viewing the video:

- 🍁 What kinds of decisions does Canada make about how to interact with the world?
- 🍁 How are Canada’s decisions seen by the rest of the world?

Next, in small groups, students will discuss what they know about the term ‘foreign policy’ (those decisions made by countries about how to act in the world), and what is known about aspects of Canada’s current foreign policy. Each group should take 15 minutes to record three Canadian general foreign policy goals; one of the three goals should specifically involve Canada’s participation in international conflicts. For another 10-15 minutes, students will share their ideas in a classroom discussion. *Teachers: Make sure that the students offer a formal definition of foreign policy toward the end of the discussion.* [30 minutes]

Activity 2:

Once the Visions of Canada: Foreign Policy Survey (see Appendix A of this document) has been distributed, students will complete the survey individually. [20 minutes]

Activity 3:

After completing the survey, the class' results will be collated by a student and the numbers will be recorded on the "Class Results vs. Country Results" page (Appendix B). Students will, either in class or for homework, compare the Canadian results (to be handed out) with their class' results for comparison. Students should write at least 3 statements that may be explanatory for any similarities and/or differences in the results.

Activity 4:

In small groups, students compare the survey results of their class versus the national results using the following guiding questions:

- 🍁 Where the class and national results are different, why do you think this is so?
- 🍁 Where the results are similar, why do you think this is so?
- 🍁 Do you think age makes a difference when it comes to decision making about the country? Why? How?
- 🍁 Do you think other factors, such as ethnicity, gender, language, etc., play into the differences of opinion on what Canada should do in the world?
- 🍁 After review of the results for Canada, what was most interesting to you and why?

Students are welcome to come up with ideas, theories, and questions about what the causes of similarities and differences between the two data sets may be. [20 minutes]

Discuss student ideas, theories, questions, and comments as a class. [20 minutes]

Follow Up Lesson

In response to the results of the foreign policy survey, the teacher can introduce the Nationalism Spectrum (Appendix C), pointing out the different approaches to the question, "What should Canada do in the world?"

The teacher hands out the keyword definitions worksheet as well as the homework assignment with the attached rubric. Students must make their own comments, based on what they learned from the survey work, on each term from the spectrum. Then they are asked to respond to the question provided. [20 minutes]

Appendix A: Visions of Canadian Foreign Policy Survey

“Foreign policy” is the collection of decisions made by a country regarding how it deals with the international community.

The following survey is intended to help students comprehend the layered structure of Canadian foreign policy and its implications on domestic and international relations. Please answer each question and fill out the necessary information.

1. For each of the following reasons, would you approve or disapprove of the use of the Canadian military?

<u>Statements</u>	<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
To destroy a terrorist group		
To ensure the supply of oil to Canada		
To help bring peace to a region where there is civil war		
To free hostages		
To uphold international law		
To assist a population struck by famine		

2. Whenever Canada sends its military into dangerous situations around the world, there is a chance that some members of the military may be killed. Which of the following statements about military intervention is closest to your view?
 - a) Canada should send troops to help people in countries in Asia and Africa when they are threatened by dictators, human rights violations, or starvation, even if no Canadian civilians are at risk and Canada has no direct interest at stake.
 - b) Canada should do what we can to help people in Asian and Africa countries, but when countries collapse or when there are serious human rights violations, we should not put the lives of members of the Canadian military at risk unless there is a real threat to Canadians or our national interest.

3. Are you interested with international events or issues? (Select one).
- ☐ Very interested
 - ☐ Somewhat interested
 - ☐ Hardly interested
 - ☐ I don't follow the news
4. Is Canada growing stronger, weaker, or staying the same in terms of its ability to make a difference in the world? (Select one)
- ☐ A lot stronger
 - ☐ Somewhat stronger
 - ☐ No difference
 - ☐ Somewhat weaker
 - ☐ A lot weaker
5. Should Canada take an active part in world affairs? (Select one)
- ☐ I feel that we should take an active part
 - ☐ I feel that we should stay out
6. Read the list of statements some people have made about Canada and the world. Do you agree or disagree with each of these statements?

<u>Statements</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>
Canada should be more like Switzerland and focus on being a great place to live rather than working on international issues.		
The best way we can make a difference in the world is to focus on our ability to influence the United States.		
Protecting Canada's trade relationships should be our top foreign policy priority.		
In the world today, power still comes mostly from the "barrel of a gun."		
Canada should mainly focus its international involvement on helping other countries resolve their conflicts.		
Canada should promote the way we treat our First Nations peoples as a good example to the rest of the world.		

Canada should pay more attention to Asian countries like India and China, due to the increased immigration rates.		
Canada should spend as much money as it takes to be an international power, even if it means sacrificing areas like health and education.		
Canada should focus its international efforts on working with NGO's to attack problems like the ban on landmines and climate change.		
It is wrong for any country, even Canada, to push its values on other countries.		
What happens in the rest of the world really doesn't make much of a difference to me in my daily life.		

7. Regardless of how much foreign aid Canada provides to other countries, there will always be more international projects than we can afford to fund. Which of the following statements is closest to your view? (Select one)
- a) Canada should spread its foreign aid money among all the countries in need in order to be fair.
 - b) Canada should focus its money on a smaller group of countries so it can make a bigger difference in those countries.
8. Canada has played a pivotal role in important world events over the past 75 years.
- Strongly agree
 - Somewhat agree
 - Somewhat disagree
 - Strongly disagree

Appendix B: Class Results vs Country Results

Fill in the following table based on your class averages and the information provided to you regarding Canada's results.

- For each of the following reasons, would you approve or disapprove of the use of the Canadian military?

<u>Statements</u>	<u>Support</u>		<u>Oppose</u>	
	Class	CA	Class	CA
To destroy a terrorist group				
To ensure a supply of oil to Canada				
To help bring peace to a region where there is civil war				
To free hostages				
To uphold international law				
To assist a population struck by famine				

- Whenever Canada sends its military into dangerous situations around the world, there is a chance that some members of the military may be killed. Which of the following statements about the military is closest to your view?
 - Canada should send troops to help people in countries in Asia and Africa when they are threatened by dictators, human rights violations, or starvation, even if no Canadian civilians are at risk and Canada has no direct interest at stake.
[Class= ____ ; Canada= ____]
 - Canada should do what we can to help people in Asian and Africa countries, but when countries collapse or when there are serious human rights violations, we should not put the lives of members of the Canadian military at risk unless there is a real threat to Canadians or our national interest. [Class= ____ ; Canada= ____]
- Are you interested with international events or issues? (Select one).
 - Very interested [Class= ____ ; Canada= ____]
 - Somewhat interested [Class= ____ ; Canada= ____]
 - Hardly interested [Class= ____ ; Canada= ____]
 - I don't follow the news [Class= ____ ; Canada= ____]

4. Is Canada growing stronger, weaker, or staying the same in terms of its ability to make a difference in the world? (Select one)
- A lot stronger [Class= ____ ; Canada= ____]
 - Somewhat stronger [Class= ____ ; Canada= ____]
 - No difference [Class= ____ ; Canada= ____]
 - Somewhat weaker [Class= ____ ; Canada= ____]
 - A lot weaker [Class= ____ ; Canada= ____]
5. Should Canada take an active part in world affairs? (Select one)
- I feel that we should take an active part [Class= ____ ; Canada= ____]
 - I feel that we should stay out [Class= ____ ; Canada= ____]
6. Read the list of statements some people have made about Canada and the world. Do you agree or disagree with each of these statements?

<u>Statements</u>	<u>Agree</u>		<u>Disagree</u>	
	Class	CA	Class	CA
Canada should be more like Switzerland and focus on being a great place to live rather than working on international issues.				
The best way we can make a difference in the world is to focus on our ability to influence the United States.				
Protecting Canada's trade relationships should be our top foreign policy priority.				
In the world today, power still comes mostly from the "barrel of a gun."				
Canada should mainly focus its international involvement on helping other countries resolve their conflicts.				
Canada should promote the way we treat our First Nations peoples as a good example to the rest of the world.				
Canada should pay more attention to Asian countries like India and China, due to the increased immigration rates.				
Canada should spend as much money as it takes to be an international power, even if it means sacrificing areas like health and education.				
Canada should focus its international efforts on working with NGO's to attack problems like the ban on landmines and climate change				

It is wrong for any country, even Canada, to push its values on other countries.				
What happens in the rest of the world really doesn't make much of a difference to me in my daily life.				

7. Regardless of how much foreign aid Canada provides to other countries, there will always be more international projects than we can afford to fund. Which of the following statements is closest to your view? (Select one)
- a) Canada should spread its foreign aid money among all the countries in need in order to be fair. [Class= ____ ; Canada= ____]
 - b) Canada should focus its money on a smaller group of countries so it can make a bigger difference in those countries. [Class= ____ ; Canada= ____]
8. Canada has played a pivotal role in important world events over the past 75 years.
- Strongly agree [Class= ____ ; Canada= ____]
 - Somewhat agree [Class= ____ ; Canada= ____]
 - Somewhat disagree [Class= ____ ; Canada= ____]
 - Strongly disagree [Class= ____ ; Canada= ____]

Appendix C: Nationalism Spectrum



Term	Ultrationalism	Nationalism	Internationalism	Supranationalism
Definition	The extreme devotion to the interests of a nation, regardless of the effect on any other country or minority within the country.	The collective, shared sense of pride and belonging of people who identify themselves as a nation.	The belief in the importance of cooperation among countries aiming to promote the common good for all countries.	The desire to promote the alliance of nations above and beyond the authority of individual countries
Example 1				
Example 2				
Example 3				
Connections between terms and ideas from survey				

When it comes to Canada's participation in international military conflicts, I agree most with a(n) _____ (ultranationalist/ nationalist/ internationalist/ supranationalist) perspective because (justify your statement with at least 3 pieces of evidence from your survey responses and the spectrum definitions):

[illegible]

Rubric

	4 (highest)	3	2	1 (lowest)
Use of evidence: (x2)	Statement is faultless. Reasons are obvious, thoughtful, and tightly connected. Three pieces of evidence for position are given.	Statement is clear. Reasons are understandable, considered, and tied to the position. Three pieces are given.	Statement is somewhat clear. Reasons are detectable, if somewhat superficial. At least two are given.	Statement is not clear. Reasons are difficult to discern. Position is vague. Lack of evidence is given.
Quality of writing: (x1)	Spelling and grammar are attentive. Tone is persuasive. Vocabulary choices are effective. Length and depth are deliberate.	Spelling and grammar are mainly correct. Tone is effective. Vocabulary is applicable. Length and depth are acceptable.	There are lapses in spelling and grammar, but meaning is understood. Tone is reasonable. Vocabulary is straightforward. Length and depth are adequate.	Spelling and grammar compromise meaning. Tone is confusing. Vocabulary is immature. Length and depth are unacceptable.

Canadian Survey Results for Teachers

The following are the answers for the nation-wide survey results with space to fill in your class' answers as well.

- For each of the following reasons, would you approve or disapprove of the use of the Canadian military?

<u>Statements</u>	<u>Support</u>		<u>Oppose</u>	
	Class	CA	Class	CA
To destroy a terrorist group		73%		< 25%
To ensure a supply of oil to Canada		47%		45%
To help bring peace to a region where there is civil war		79%		< 18%
To free hostages		78%		< 18%
To uphold international law		84%		< 12%
To assist a population struck by famine		92%		< 5%

* Please note that the 'oppose' results were not provided in the original survey data, and so the results listed here are generalized based on supported data.

- Whenever Canada sends its military into dangerous situations around the world, there is a chance that some members of the military may be killed. Which of the following statements about the military is closest to your view?
 - Canada should send troops to help people in countries in Asia and Africa when they are threatened by dictators, human rights violations, or starvation, even if no Canadian civilians are at risk and Canada has no direct interest at stake. [Class= ____ ; Canada= 40%]
 - Canada should do what we can to help people in Asian and Africa countries, but when countries collapse or when there are serious human rights violations, we should not put the lives of members of the Canadian military at risk unless there is a real threat to Canadians or our national interest. [Class= ____ ; Canada= 53%]
- Are you interested with international events or issues? (Select one).
 - Very interested [Class= ____ ; Canada= 43%]
 - Somewhat interested [Class= ____ ; Canada= 45%]
 - Hardly interested [Class= ____ ; Canada= 7%]
 - I don't follow the news [Class= ____ ; Canada= 5%]

4. Is Canada growing stronger, weaker, or staying the same in terms of its ability to make a difference in the world? (Select one)
- A lot stronger [Class= ____ ; Canada= 5%]
 - Somewhat stronger [Class= ____ ; Canada= 18%]
 - No difference [Class= ____ ; Canada= 44%]
 - Somewhat weaker [Class= ____ ; Canada= 19%]
 - A lot weaker [Class= ____ ; Canada= 10%]
5. Should Canada take an active part in world affairs? (Select one)
- I feel that we should take an active part [Class= ____ ; Canada= 75%]
 - I feel that we should stay out [Class= ____ ; Canada= 20%]
6. Read the list of statements some people have made about Canada and the world. Do you agree or disagree with each of these statements?

<u>Statements</u>	<u>Agree</u>		<u>Disagree</u>	
	Class	CA	Class	CA
Canada should be more like Switzerland and focus on being a great place to live rather than working on international issues.		41%		52%
The best way we can make a difference in the world is to focus on our ability to influence the United States.		43%		52%
Protecting Canada's trade relationships should be our top foreign policy priority.		75%		21%
In the world today, power still comes mostly from the "barrel of a gun."		48%		48%
Canada should mainly focus its international involvement on helping other countries resolve their conflicts.		53%		40%
Canada should promote the way we treat our First Nations peoples as a good example to the rest of the world.		54%		39%
Canada should pay more attention to Asian countries like India and China, due to the increased immigration rates.		51%		44%
Canada should spend as much money as it takes to be an international power, even if it means sacrificing areas like health and education.		17%		81%

Canada should focus its international efforts on working with NGO's to attack problems like the ban on landmines and climate change		69%		23%
It is wrong for any country, even Canada, to push its values on other countries.		79%		19%
What happens in the rest of the world really doesn't make much of a difference to me in my daily life.		24%		74%

7. Regardless of how much foreign aid Canada provides to other countries, there will always be more international projects than we can afford to fund. Which of the following statements is closest to your view? (Select one)
- a) Canada should spread its foreign aid money among all the countries in need in order to be fair. [Class= ____ ; Canada= 42%]
 - b) Canada should focus its money on a smaller group of countries so it can make a bigger difference in those countries. [Class= ____ ; Canada= 51%]
8. Canada has played a pivotal role in important world events over the past 75 years.
- Strongly agree [Class= ____ ; Canada= 38%]
 - Somewhat agree [Class= ____ ; Canada= 40%]
 - Somewhat disagree [Class= ____ ; Canada= 12%]
 - Strongly disagree [Class= ____ ; Canada= 5%]