

# Ontario and Quebec

## CONNECTING TWO CULTURES

**BEFORE YOU READ**

### Reach Into Your Background

Every ethnic group has traditions and customs that are unique to its culture. What traditions and holidays does your family celebrate?

Do friends and neighbors' families celebrate different ones than those of your family?

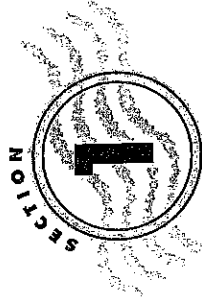
### Questions to Explore

1. How has Canada's form of government been shaped by its history?
2. What is the structure of the Canadian federation?
3. What have French Canadians in Quebec done to preserve their culture?

**Key Terms**  
Canadian Shield  
federation  
autonomous  
Francophone  
Quiet Revolution  
separatist  
referendum

### Key People and Places

Ottawa  
Toronto  
Jacques Cartier  
Stadacona  
Montreal



**M**uch of the border between Ontario and Quebec is formed by the Ottawa River. The Macdonald-Cartier Bridge stretches across the river, connecting the two provinces. The bridge is named for two Canadian political leaders, one an English speaker and one a French speaker. While the bridge links the two provinces, its very name characterizes the differences between the provinces—English is primarily spoken in Ontario, while people in Quebec mostly speak French.

In spite of this significant distinction, Ontario and Quebec have much in common. They are home to Canada's two largest cities—Toronto, Ontario and Montreal, Quebec. They are the two most populous provinces in Canada. Canada's capital, Ottawa, is located in Ontario. But the city of Hull, Quebec, located on the other end of the Macdonald-Cartier bridge, is considered Ottawa's "sister city" because a number of federal government buildings dot its landscape.



▼ The Macdonald-Cartier bridge is the busiest bridge between Quebec and Ontario.

**READ ACTIVELY**

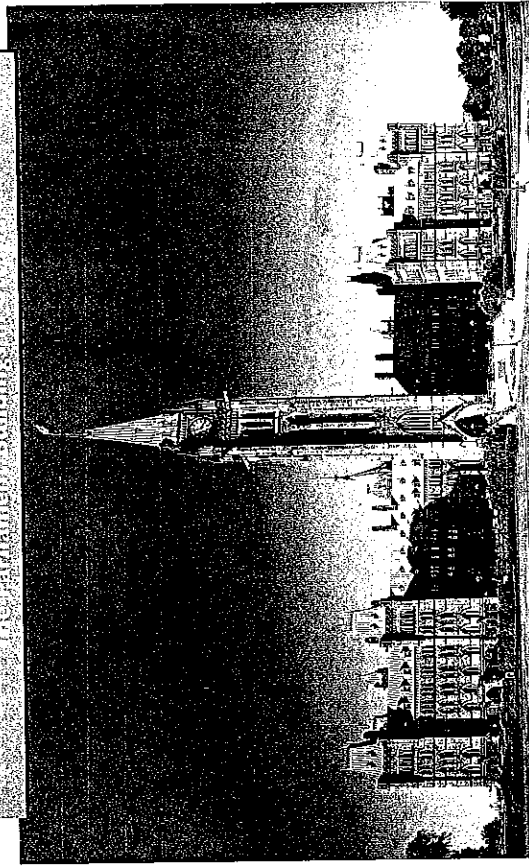
Visualize Picture the land of Ontario as if you were in a plane flying above it.

## Ontario

The province of Ontario is perhaps Canada's most diverse province geographically. Located on the United States border, it reaches from the Hudson Bay in the north to the Great Lakes in the south. Ontario's northern region is part of the Canadian Shield, which has rocky terrain, rugged winters, and is sparsely populated. The province's southern lowlands have milder winters and warm summers. About one third of Canada's entire population lives in this southern area.

**The Seat of Government** Canada is a federation, or union, of 13 provinces and territories. In the Canadian federation, each province has its own government. Each of these governments must answer to Canada's central government, located in Ottawa. Although Canada's head of state is the monarch of Britain, Canada has complete power over its own government. Unlike in the United States, where the president is head of government as well as head of state, in Canada, there is a separate head of government, called the prime minister. The prime minister is part of Canada's central legislature—the Canadian Parliament.

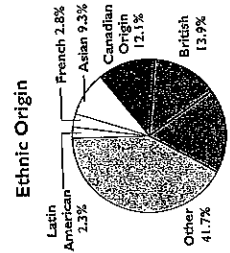
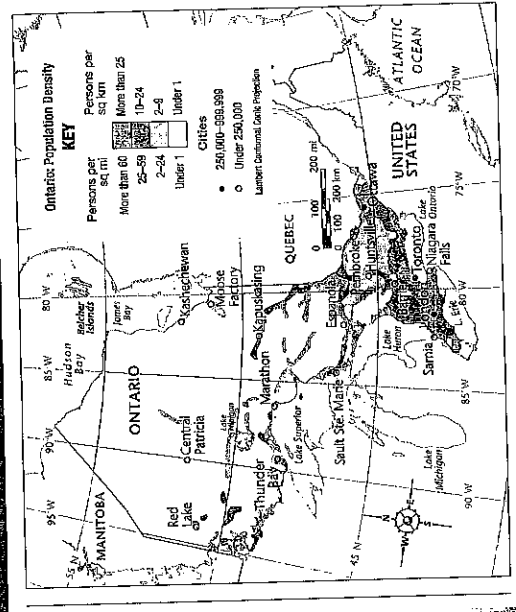
THE PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS IN OTTAWA



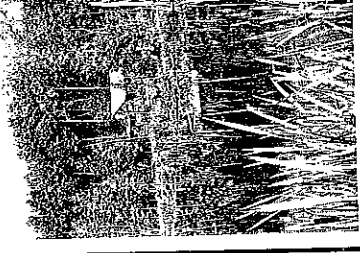
The Parliament Buildings are an example of the Gothic style of architecture, which is a style that is characterized by medieval buildings. This type of architecture developed in Western Europe between the 12th and 16th centuries. **Critical Thinking** How do the Parliament Buildings reflect Canada's heritage?



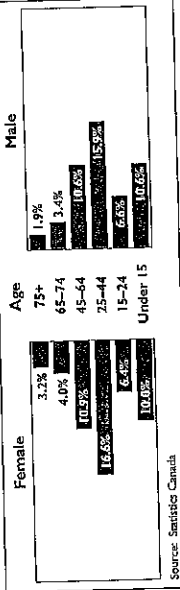
### Ontario: Population



### Eastern Ontario



### Population by Age Group and Sex



The map and charts above present information about the people of Ontario and where they live. **Map and Chart Study**  
 (a) According to the map, which region is the most densely populated? Which region is the least populated? (b) Study the two charts. Write three sentences describing the population of Ontario.



**Take it to the NET**  
**Data Update** For the most recent data on Ontario, visit [www.phschool.com](http://www.phschool.com).

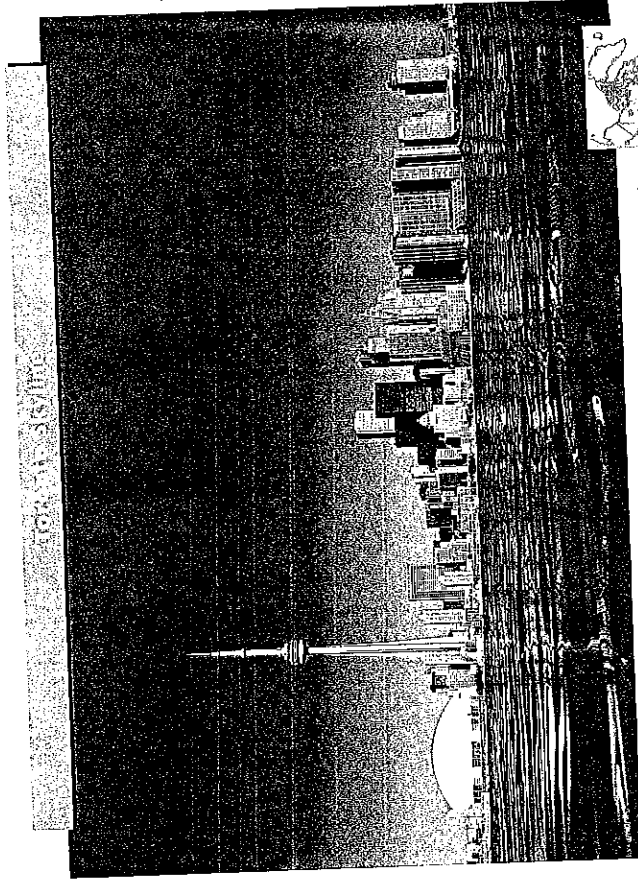
Ottawa has been a capital city since the middle of the nineteenth century, when Upper and Lower Canada—present-day Ontario and Quebec—formed the Province of Canada. Ottawa was selected as the capital because it was located on the border of the two territories. In 1867, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick joined Ontario and Quebec to become the Dominion of Canada, a totally autonomous, or self-governing, member of the British Empire. Ottawa continued to be Canada's capital.

**Provincial Capital, Cultural Mosaic** Each of Canada's provinces has a capital. Toronto is the capital of Ontario. It is also Canada's largest city and its commercial, cultural, and financial center. Toronto was founded in 1793 as York, and its location on Lake Ontario made it a major trade and transportation center. Toronto has come to be identified by its CN Tower, which is one of the world's tallest freestanding structures.

Toronto has matured into a cultural mosaic with a very diverse population—42 percent of its residents are foreign-born. After World War II, a large number of Europeans immigrated to Canada, with many settling in Toronto. The most recent wave of immigrants included a large number of people from Asia, and Chinese now make up more than 10 percent of Toronto's residents. British, Italian, Native Canadian, Portuguese, East Indian, Greek, German, Ukrainian, Polish, and French are among the other ethnic groups that make up Toronto's population.



**Ask Questions** What questions would you like to ask an immigrant to Toronto?



The bustling city of Toronto is located on Lake Ontario. The city's skyline is dominated by the CN Tower, which stands 1,815 feet (553 m) tall (pictured left). The white dome next to the tower is the SkyDome, where the Toronto Blue Jays baseball team plays. The SkyDome was the first dome stadium built with a roof that opens and closes.

## READ ACTIVELY

**Predict** What problems developed when Britain took over French colonies in Canada?

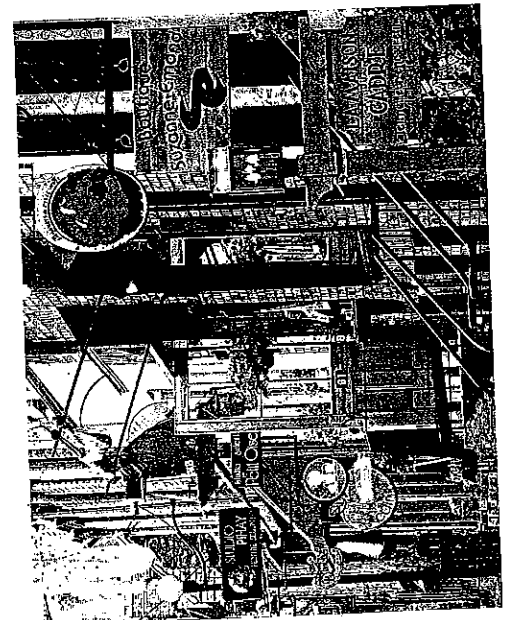
## French Influence in Quebec

French culture has dominated Quebec since the 1500s, when Jacques Cartier (zhaik kahr tyay), a French explorer, sailed along the St. Lawrence River and landed in a village called Stadacona (stad uh koh nuh). The Iroquois, the native people of the area, inhabited the village. Today the site of that village is the city of Quebec, capital of the province of Quebec.

Cartier claimed the region we now know as Quebec for France and named it New France. Great Britain, however, was also interested in the region. French and British forces fought for the land in four separate wars over a period of nearly 80 years. The last of the battles were part of the French and Indian War, which ended in 1763 with the British capturing the city of Quebec. Within four years, France surrendered all of its North American land to the British.

Despite Great Britain's victory, tens of thousands of French colonists remained in the region, and their descendants make up the majority of Quebec's population today. They are called Francophones (FRANG koh fohnz), or people who speak French as their first language. In Quebec's largest city, Montreal, and surrounding areas, about 67 percent of the population are Francophones.

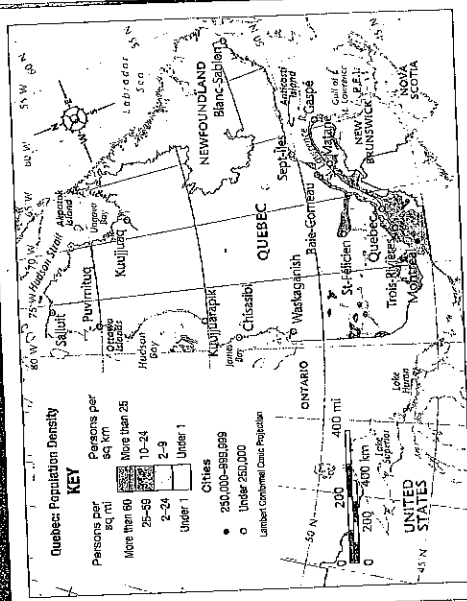
**Quebec—Distinct Society within Canada** In the 1960s, many Francophones began to express concern that their language and culture might die, because English was spoken in the schools and at work. They also believed that opportunities for Francophones in



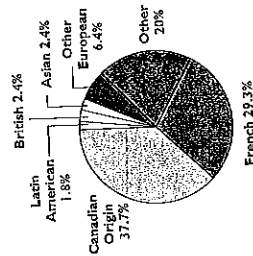
◀ The influence of French culture in Quebec can be seen on this street in the capital city where most of the storefront signs are printed in French.



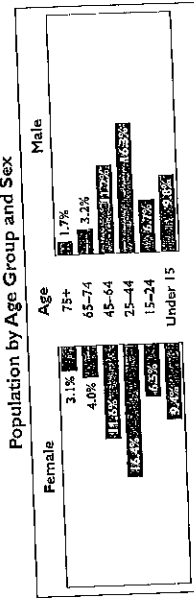
## Quebec: Population



### Ethnic Origin



Source: Statistics Canada



The map and charts above present information about the people of Quebec and where they live. **Map and Chart Study** (a) Which area of Quebec has the highest population density? (b) Compare the charts above with those from the Ontario profile on page 121. Write down two similarities and two differences about their populations.



Chinatown in Montreal, Quebec

Take It to the NET  
Data Update For the most recent data on Quebec, visit [www.phschool.com](http://www.phschool.com).

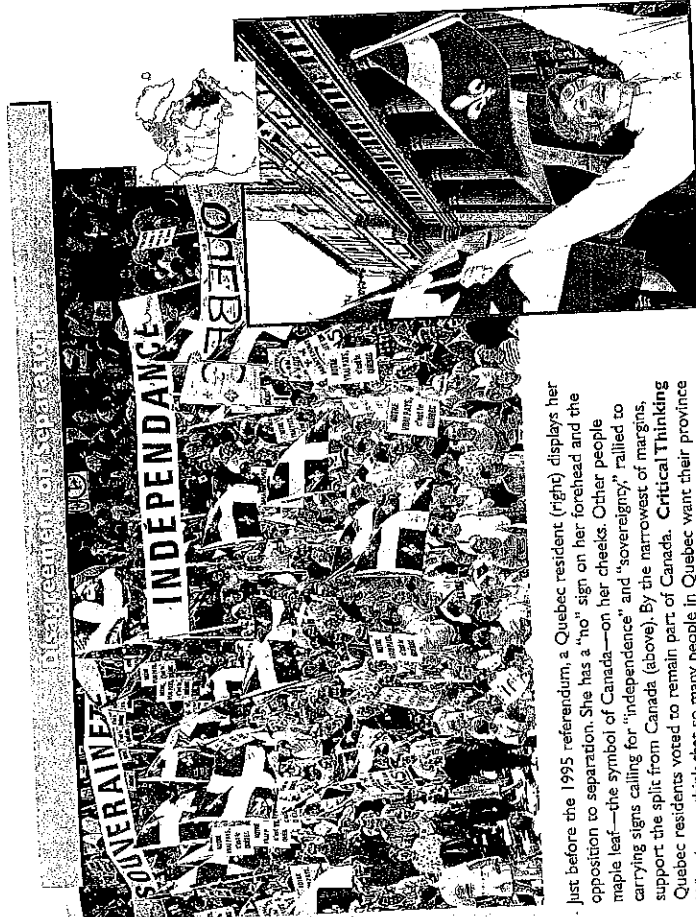


Illustration of Separation

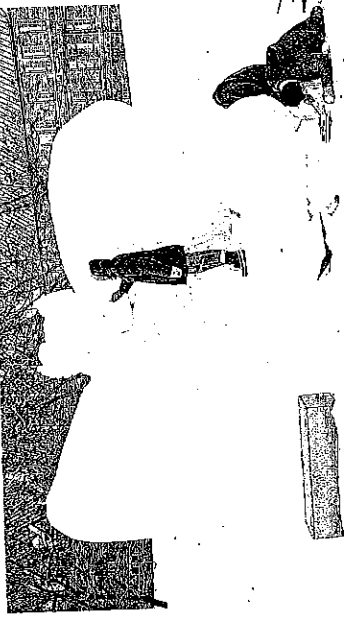
Just before the 1995 referendum, a Quebec resident (right) displays her opposition to separation. She has a "no" sign on her forehead and the maple leaf—the symbol of Canada—on her cheeks. Other people carrying signs calling for "independence" and "sovereignty," rallied to support the split from Canada (above). By the narrowest of margins, Quebec residents voted to remain part of Canada. **Critical Thinking** Why do you think that so many people in Quebec want their province to be an independent country?

**The Separatist Movement** During the Quiet Revolution, the separatist movement began to grow. Separatists are people who want to see Quebec break away from the rest of Canada and become an independent country. French-Canadian separatists saw important victories in the 1970s as French became the official language of Quebec and immigrants to the province were required to learn French. But still, Quebec remained a province of Canada.

Not everyone in Quebec supported the idea of separation from Canada. In 1980, the provincial government held a referendum. In a referendum, voters cast ballots for or against an issue. This referendum asked voters whether Quebec should become a separate nation. A majority voted no. In 1995, Quebec held another referendum. Again, Quebec's people voted to remain part of Canada. But this time the margin was very slim—50.6 percent voted against separation while 49.4 percent voted for it. Since then, separatists have increasingly lost power and positions in government, but vow that they will continue to fight for Quebec's independence.

**READ ACTIVELY**

Connect Suppose that California or New York state wanted to leave the United States and become a separate nation. What would be your response?



► During Quebec's Winter Carnival, artists compete to make the best sculptures of ice or packed snow.

**TRAVEL ACROSS THE WORLD**

A Copy of St. Peter's Basilica One sign of Quebec's religious heritage is Montreal's Cathedral-Basilica of Mary, Queen of the World. Built in 1870, this church was designed to look like Saint Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, in Rome, Italy. Montreal's church is one third as large as St. Peter's.

**SECTION 1 REVIEW**

1. Define (a) Canadian Shield, (b) federation, (c) autonomous, (d) Francophone, (e) Quiet Revolution, (f) separatist, (g) referendum.

2. Identify (a) Ottawa, (b) Toronto, (c) Jacques Cartier, (d) Stadacona, (e) Montreal.
3. Describe the geography of Ontario.
4. How does Canada's government differ from that of the United States?
5. What steps have many Canadians taken to preserve French culture?

**Preserving Quebec's Culture**

One of the ways in which Quebec's people celebrate their culture is through festivals. The *Fête des Neiges* (fet day NEZH), or winter festival, lasts 17 days. Fantastic ice sculptures adorn the city, and canoe races take place among the ice floes in the St. Lawrence River.

Another Quebec festival honors Jean Baptiste (zhahn bah TEEST), the patron saint, or special guardian, of French Canadians. This festival is held June 24. All over the province, people celebrate with bonfires, firecrackers, and street dances.

French style and cooking are alive in Quebec—with Quebec variations. Sugar pie, for example, uses maple sugar from the province's forests. Quebec has French architecture—with Quebec variations as well. All in all, Quebec has a lively culture to preserve and protect.

- Critical Thinking**
6. Expressing Problems Clearly Explain why many people in Quebec want to separate from Canada.
- Activity**
7. Writing to Learn List some features of Quebec and Ontario culture you would like to learn more about.