



PM Statue Project Educational Resource Key Concepts

Key Concepts

One of the primary goals of The PM Statue and Education Resource Project is to engage students and the public in the story of Canada. Exploring the culture and history of our country through the bookmarks of a Prime Minister's tenure, at an age appropriate level, is an excellent way to foster an appreciation of our country.

The Statue Project explores Canada's leadership since Confederation. We wish to provide the opportunity to learn and assess how our Prime Ministers and their decisions have influenced us, economically, socially and culturally. We aspire to encourage learning and discussion that provides insight into each of the Prime Ministers and how their personal lives and approaches shaped their political careers and Canadian life.

We value stories and experiences which we readily appreciate and to which we can forge a connection. The educational resource will endeavour to explore a Prime Minister as a public and private figure in a non-partisan manner using relevant and memorable events that encourage inquiry and conversation without derision, parody or comedic intent.

Key concepts in this resource include:

Appreciate and Understand Canada's History.

We appreciate and feel connected to those things which we can successfully explore and consequently understand. We often best learn through stories and experiences. Spending time exploring a Prime Minister's personal life will allow us to know them as an individual. Establishing a sense of Canadian lifestyles, in that era, will help complete a personal and domestic picture. Exploring a Prime Minister's political career will highlight challenges and developments at a national level in Canadian society of the time.

Everything Is Connected in Canada's History.

Canada's story is a narrative, a collection of connected events occurring in a sequence. Narrative can be effectively used to explore history, culture, national identity and values. Stories may be nested in other stories to show cause and effect. Effective narrative and storytelling allow us to delve deeper into circumstances and events, to develop our own interpretations and to establish connections between the past and present.

Canada's History Is Valuable.

Knowing the collective stories of Canada and understanding the challenges encountered by its leaders allows us to appreciate why our country is an attractive place in which to live. Canada's history illustrates successes and failures in establishing freedom, respect for cultural differences, commitment to social justice and the pursuit of peace and good government at home and throughout the world.

Canada's History Is About Change.

History is the narrative of change for a designated geographic area or people. Change is determined by personal beliefs and collective actions. The actions and choices of our Prime Ministers during their terms of office can be used to discover and discuss contemporary attitudes and policies regarding a wide variety of issues and challenges faced by Canadians during the past hundred and fifty years. Exploring aspects of leadership, citizenship, immigration, aboriginal issues, gender equity, culture and the technology of the age can all demonstrate change processes in Canada.

Interpreting Canada's History Can Be Controversial.

It seems almost everyone has strong opinions when discussing politics and politicians. By examining and discussing the lives and actions of Canada's Prime Ministers and developing an awareness of the eras in which they lived, we can better explore our past, understand the present and shape our future. Understanding the context of contemporary thought and attitudes in every Prime Ministerial era is an important consideration. We all have the right to have our voices and opinions heard. However we must respect the opinions of others, even when we disagree.