

# Crossword Puzzles

# Geography I Collection

## Notes to Teacher

The **Geography I Collection** of crossword puzzles contains the following components:

1. 27 crossword puzzles based on the **Great Canadian Geographic Challenge**.
2. 16 puzzles based on Canada's **Lakes and Rivers**.
3. 17 puzzles based on Canada's **Cities and Towns**.
4. A puzzle based on Canada's **Symbols**.

### The Great Canadian Geographic Challenge

Each year the Great Canadian Geographic Challenge conducts a national contest that tests students' knowledge of Canadian and world geography. The Challenge's organizers post past contest questions online at <http://www.geochallenge.ca/geochallenge/default.asp>. Teachers are encouraged to reproduce these collections of past questions and use them to help their students prepare for the contest. I have taken these questions and used them to create sets of crossword puzzles that teachers can also use with their students.

This crossword puzzle collection has two components.

1. One component consists of a set of 20 puzzles that are based on questions drawn from the **Great Canadian Geographic Challenge** for grade 4 to 6 students. Most of these puzzles have 10 clues that students can answer from general knowledge or their own research.
2. There is also a set of 7 puzzles that are based on past **Challenge** questions for grade 7 to 10 students. All but one of these puzzles have more than 40 clues. Completing one of these puzzles will test your students' historical and geographic knowledge as well as their research skills.

The puzzles in both the grade 4-6 and the grade 7-10 collections can be used in a variety of ways:

1. as a regular component of your social studies class in preparation for the **Challenge**,
2. as short "sponge activities" when other activities wind up early, or
3. as short "homework" assignments to reinforce geographic knowledge.

All responses to clues in this puzzle collection are treated as single words. Thus *Maple Leafs* and *British Columbia* are treated as *mapleleafs* and *britishcolumbia* and one word.

## Cities and Towns of Canada

This set of crossword puzzles requires students to identify cities and towns in each of Canada's provinces and territories. Students may use a variety of resources to complete the puzzles. Internet resources can include the following websites:

1. Wikipedia Encyclopedia's **List of Cities of Canada** which can be found on its website at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_cities\\_in\\_Canada](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_cities_in_Canada). This entry will direct students to *lists of cities* for each province and territory and provide to a variety of useful information about many Canadian communities.
2. **The Atlas of Canada** website at [www.atlas.gc.ca](http://www.atlas.gc.ca) is a very useful source of information about Canada's geography. Students can search for any Canadian town using the site's on-line topographic maps.
3. **Google Earth** is a great program for use in classrooms or computer labs. It can be easily downloaded from the internet and students will be able to use its satellite photo-based maps to locate and view most cities and towns in Canada.

Print resources can include:

1. provincial road maps.
2. School atlases such as the **Nelson Intermediate Atlas**.

Teachers will find that the *reference section* at the **Atlas of Canada** website presents an extensive collection of reproducible maps of Canada and its provinces and territories. For your convenience, the **Atlas of Canada's** maps of cities and towns have been included with each of the crossword puzzles in this collection. Students may use it as a reference if you choose.

Puzzles in this crossword collection may take students some time to complete. They will have to reflect on the clues and conduct a search of their reference sources in order to find the appropriate information. You may sometimes encourage students to work together and talk about the information they are seeking and finding – on other occasions your students can work alone.

Clues for multi-word puzzle answers are preceded by a note that the answer consists of more than one word. For instance: "(2 words)" at the start of a clue indicates that the answer will be two words or initials. For example *TelegraphCreek* is treated as two words and *FortStJohn* is three words. All provinces are treated as a single word (e.g. *BritishColumbia* is one word as is *BC*).

## Lakes and Rivers of Canada

This set of crossword puzzles requires students to identify lakes and rivers in each of Canada's provinces and territories. Students may use a variety of resources to complete the puzzles. Internet resources can include the following websites:

4. Wikipedia Encyclopedia's **List of Rivers of Canada** which can be found on its website at [www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_rivers\\_in\\_Canada](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_rivers_in_Canada). This entry will direct students to *lists of rivers* for each province and territory and provide links to a variety of information about many of Canada's lakes and rivers.

5. **The Atlas of Canada** website at [www.atlas.gc.ca](http://www.atlas.gc.ca) is a very useful source of information about Canada's geography. Students can search for any Canadian river or lake using the site's on-line topographic maps. Students will also find a variety of statistics about Canada's largest rivers and lakes by following the two links below:
  - [www.atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/english/learningresources/facts/rivers.html](http://www.atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/english/learningresources/facts/rivers.html)
  - [www.atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/english/learningresources/facts/lakes.html](http://www.atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/english/learningresources/facts/lakes.html).
6. **Google Earth** is a great program for use in classrooms or computer labs. It can be easily downloaded from the internet and students will be able to use its satellite photo-based maps to locate and view most rivers and lakes in Canada.
7. The **Canadian Heritage River System** website at [www.chrs.ca](http://www.chrs.ca) provides much useful information about heritage rivers across Canada. Students will find it a useful resource when they work on *Lakes and Rivers of Canada* crossword puzzles.

Print resources can include:

3. provincial road maps.
4. School atlases such as the **Nelson Intermediate Atlas**.

Teachers will find that the *reference section* at the **Atlas of Canada** website presents an extensive collection of reproducible outline maps of Canada and its provinces and territories. For your convenience, a pair of outline maps have been included with this the crossword puzzles in this collection. If you choose, students could enter the locations of the rivers and lakes on the blank outline map.

Puzzles in this crossword collection may take students some time to complete. They will have to reflect on the clues and conduct a search of their reference sources in order to find the appropriate information. Teachers could also have them enter the information presented in the crosswords on a blank map of the province or territory (e.g. see **The Atlas of Canada** maps referred to above). You may sometimes encourage students to work together and talk about the information they are seeking and finding – on other occasions students work alone.

Clues for multi-word puzzle answers in this collection are preceded by a note that the answer consists of more than one word. For instance: “(2 words)” at the start of a clue indicates that the answer will be two words or initials. *Dease Lake* on the crossword become *deaselake* and is treated as two words. All provinces are treated as a single word (e.g. *BritishColumbia* is one word as is *BC*).

## **Symbols of Canada Crossword Puzzle**

The *Symbols of Canada* crossword puzzle set consists of two versions of a crossword based on provincial and territorial symbols for *flowers, birds, animals, trees* and *minerals*. Each puzzle includes 57 symbols – the only difference is in each puzzle's layout. Unlike many of Better Classroom Guidebooks' crossword puzzles, no fact sheet is provided for students to use. Students will have to consult a variety of print or internet based resources. If you want to be very kind to your students, suggest that consulting the Wikipedia Encyclopedia at [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com) would be a useful reference – it was the source of these clues.

Clues for multi-word puzzle answers in the **Symbols of Canada** puzzle are preceded by a notation that the answer consists of more than one word. For instance: “(3 words)” at the start of a clue indicates that the answer will be three words or initials. *Black-capped Chickadee* becomes *blackcappedchickadee* and is treated as three words. All references to provinces in this puzzle use the Canada Post abbreviations.

## **General Information**

All of the puzzles included in the **Geography I Collection** are essentially self checking – if the student’s answer fits it is usually correct. When I mark the puzzles I usually scan them for completion and spot check some of the answers for clues that I know have given students trouble. If you use crossword puzzles as a weekly activity you might decide to give them the weight of a unit of study. In my classes completion of twenty puzzles formed an elective unit worth 5% of the student’s final mark - such a “bonus mark” seemed to motivate!

I have found that many students who claim to dislike history will often enjoy completing history-based crossword puzzles. Students who do little “work” in class will often slave away on the puzzles and almost in spite of themselves start to see patterns in the “trivia” presented by the puzzles and their fact sheets. Often I had students work in partnerships. This helped support weaker students and “made the work go easier” on crosswords that were more challenging. I found that in many cases, even reluctant students started to absorb information and become interested in “finding out more” about our country! I believe that you will find as I have that these crosswords will be an entertaining and motivating way to boost your students’ learning.

Sincerely,

David John  
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