



3-4

## Canada: Day 1 Exhibition

Lesson Pack

Explore the exhibition at the  
**Borealis Gallery**  
Legislative Assembly Visitor Centre

**August 27 to  
December 4, 2016**



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# **Lesson packs for teachers of adult English language learners**

In this lesson pack you will find materials and teaching ideas for adult English language learners who are working at the Canadian Language Benchmarks level 3-4.

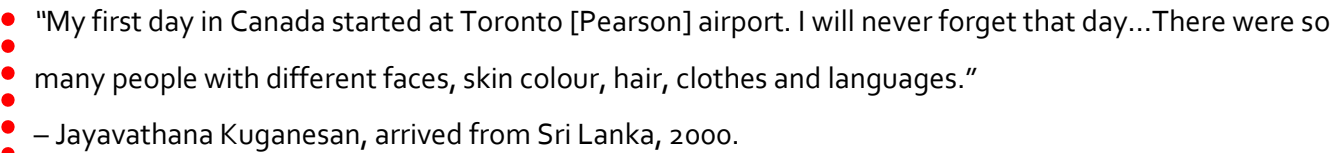
All of the texts and materials in this lesson pack are drawn directly from the Canada: Day 1 exhibit.

## Introduction

Canada: Day 1 tells us about the many different experiences of newcomers to Canada.

It tells us stories of uncertainty, fear, excitement and hope – all of the emotions that can be part of a newcomer’s arrival in Canada, from Confederation in 1867 to the present.

When you visit the Canada: Day 1 exhibit you might be reminded your own journey to Canada.



“My first day in Canada started at Toronto [Pearson] airport. I will never forget that day...There were so many people with different faces, skin colour, hair, clothes and languages.”  
– Jayavathana Kuganesan, arrived from Sri Lanka, 2000.

For some, leaving home is bittersweet and painful. For others, it means hope and opportunity. It starts with goodbye – goodbye to all that is familiar as you prepare for the reality of a new land, a new culture, a new language and a new life.

Departure, arrival, finding your way and settling in – these are just some of the challenges facing newcomers.

Each experience, the positive and the negative, the heart-warming or the heart-wrenching, becomes interwoven with many others. Together, they contribute to the story of our nation.

### What is your story?

Did you have your own “Day 1” experience? What were some of the challenges you faced?

Whether you just arrived to Canada or you and your family have been here for a long time – we want to hear from you.

Your immigration story is part of what defines us as a country. We hope you will participate in our national gathering of immigration stories. Personal and family experiences of immigration are an important part of everything we do and you can help the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 grow by sharing yours. We invite you to learn more and to share your story online at [pier21.ca/share](http://pier21.ca/share).

## Oral history of immigrants to Canada

In the exhibit you will see and hear from people who have come to Canada as immigrants.

Here are some of their stories. When you visit the exhibit, look for these people.

Before you read Xianqin Yang's story, match these vocabulary words with their definitions to help you better understand her story.

### Vocabulary

### Definition

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| _____ pursue (verb)         | a) at the beginning                                 |
| _____ microbiology (noun)   | b) dream or wish (to do something)                  |
| _____ desire (noun)         | c) to work hard over time to achieve something      |
| _____ dependent (noun)      | d) a choice to be made in a situation               |
| _____ encouragement (noun)  | e) to continue for a long time with no end in sight |
| _____ option (noun)         | f) positive support                                 |
| _____ initially (adverb)    | g) the study of small organisms                     |
| _____ permanent (adjective) | h) someone who relies on you for financial support  |

## **Xianqin Yang**

Xianqin Yang was born and raised in Shandong Province, China. Xianqin pursued microbiology in university and completed her MSc in China, following her childhood desire to be a scientist. She planned to pursue her PhD in microbiology in the United States. Even though she was accepted by a number of universities with full scholarship, she was unable to obtain a United States visa with her husband as a dependent. With the encouragement of her family she explored her options to continue her studies in Canada and she accepted an offer from the University of Waterloo on full scholarship. The immigration officer offered Xianqin and her husband the option of applying as immigrants rather than under a student visa, which they did, though they had not initially considered Canada as a permanent option. Xianqin and her husband arrived in Canada on 27 December 2002, flying from Beijing to Vancouver and then on to Toronto. They initially left their one and a half year old daughter in the care of family in China, but brought her to Canada a few months later. In 2006, Xianqin's husband got a job with an engineering firm in Calgary; Xianqin joined him there where she finished writing her thesis, defending it in June of 2007. In September 2007, Xianqin accepted a position as a research scientist in Lacombe, AB.

**Read the sentences about Xianqin Yang.**

**Decide if each sentence is true or false.**

**Circle true or false.**

1. True / False    Xianqin Yang grew up in China.
2. True / False    When she was a child, she dreamed of becoming a university student.
3. True / False    She wanted to study in the United States but she could not get a scholarship from an American university.
4. True / False    Xianqin Yang was offered a full scholarship from the University of Waterloo.
5. True / False    She and her husband were offered student visas when they arrived at Canadian immigration.
6. True / False    Xianqin Yang and her husband had not thought about staying in Canada for a long period of time.
7. True / False    Their point of entry in Canada was Vancouver.
8. True / False    In 2002 Xianqin Yang brought her daughter to Canada.
9. True / False    Four years after their arrival, Xianqin Yang's husband got a job in Calgary.
10. True / False    In 2006 Xianqin Yang achieved her goal of becoming a scientist.

**Scan the text on page 9 about Ruth Miranda's story of coming to Canada.**

**Answer the following questions as you are reading.**

1. Who did Ruth Miranda first come to Canada with?
2. How did Ruth meet her husband?
3. Based on the reading, what do you think a Telex machine does?
4. What happened in Chile in September 1973?
5. Why was it difficult for Pedro to find work after September 1973?
6. What were some of the difficulties Ruth and Pedro faced while living in Concepción?
7. Who encouraged Ruth and Pedro to come to Canada?
8. What was their point of entry into Canada?
9. How long did the family stay in Canada the first time they came?
10. What jobs did Ruth have when the family returned to Victoria?

## Ruth Miranda

Ruth Miranda first arrived in Canada in 1979, emigrating from Chile with her husband Pedro and two daughters. Ruth was born in the small town of Los Sauces, Chile on 28 February 1951. After completing high school, Ruth moved to Concepción, Chile to take courses in communication, subsequently obtaining work at an office in the city. Ruth took additional training in Santiago to learn how to operate Telex machines and it was through the Telex that Ruth first met her husband Pedro. Pedro operated Telex machines in the city of Valparaiso and they would send messages to each other over the Telex. Once they had the opportunity to meet in person, their relationship deepened and they [got] engaged.

Pedro was very active in politics and both he and Ruth supported the socialist government of President Salvador Allende. Following the military coup on 11 September 1973 and [the removal from power] of Allende, it became very dangerous for his supporters in Chile. Ruth and Pedro did not leave the country but chose to get married and live in Concepción. It was difficult for Pedro to find work once his pro-Allende views were known, but Ruth was able to continue her work at the office. The couple had two children while living in Concepción and remained there until 1979, despite money being tight and the constant suspicion people had of one another under the military dictatorship.

The family decided to immigrate to Canada at the insistence of Pedro's brother, who had come to Winnipeg as a refugee shortly after the coup. They arrived in Winnipeg in 1979 under the sponsorship of Pedro's brother, staying there for 7 months before moving to Vancouver. Their stay in Vancouver was very brief and they ended up moving to Victoria shortly after arriving. While in Victoria, the couple



welcomed another child. The transition to life in Canada was especially difficult for Pedro, as he never wanted to leave Chile in the first place. In 1986, the family decided to move back to Chile, selling everything in Victoria and moving to the city of Quillota. Chile was still under the military dictatorship at the time and conditions were still difficult, so the family ended up returning to Canada after a year and a half. In Victoria, Ruth initially found work as a house cleaner and home health care provider. She later found work with the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria, offering settlement support to new immigrants. At the time of the interview, she had worked for the organization for 23 years.

### **Discussion Questions**

People choose to immigrate to a new country for a variety of reasons. What are some reasons why people choose to immigrate to Canada?

## Understanding the exhibit

### Transitions

Settling into a new country means a chance to experience different activities and traditions.

For some, strapping on a pair of skates might seem foreign. For others, it's a chance to embrace their new country's traditions, or simply an opportunity to have fun.

“There was one colour TV and about 11 black and white TV sets in the hall and suddenly we saw the immigration officials jumping and dancing and screaming in the hall and hugging each other and looking at us while we stood staring at them like zombies. Now remember, we had never seen snow. No experience of Canadian winter, no idea of what ice hockey is, or what is a puck. The Canadian officials could not understand why we were standing there like zombies and not sharing in their happiness in their hour of joy and glory. Of course later we found out that Canada won the hockey series with Russia and our Paul Henderson scored that famous goal to clinch the victory. And, I thought to myself, what an awesome date to arrive into our new country and begin our life's new journey.”

—Shanta Saujani, with her husband Lajpatrai Saujani and their three children, arrived in Montreal as refugees from Uganda on September 28, 1972.

### Discussion questions

Have you watched a hockey game? Talk to a partner or group about the first time you watched hockey or tried to chat about hockey with a Canadian.

Can you explain to someone how to play hockey?

What sports do you like to watch? Can you explain them to a Canadian who has never heard of them?

### Writing a process / how-to paragraph

With a group, write a description of how to play hockey (or another sport you are all familiar with). Include as many details and rules of the game as you can think of.

## Finding Your Way

The process of settling in and establishing a life in Canada can be difficult. A simple task such as buying food might be wondrous or confusing. Familiar foods might be scarce.

Slowly, you try to find your way, with a little help from strangers, family, and friends.

**Write a list of questions a newcomer might have when they first arrive in Canada.**

- *What do you wear (in winter / in summer)?*
- *Where do you go when you are sick?*
- *Which schools can your children attend?*
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**Now ask students in your group these questions and listen to their answers.**

## Where will I live?

"...I do remember the distress of my parents when they were told by immigration officials that they had to go to Vancouver. They had counted on settling in Montreal, which had a textile industry and where friends and relatives awaited them... Coming from a police state, my parents believed they would be arrested if they got off the train in Montreal. "

- Judy (Bing) Stoffman, arrived from Hungary, February 4, 1957.

## How did you and your family choose which Canadian city to settle in?

**Ranking:** Rank the following factors that might influence a person's choice of which city to settle in.

Write #1 for the most important factor and #10 for the least important. Compare and explain your ranking to others.

\_\_\_\_\_ employment options

\_\_\_\_\_ housing availability

\_\_\_\_\_ cost of living

\_\_\_\_\_ public parks

\_\_\_\_\_ friends from home

\_\_\_\_\_ education opportunities

\_\_\_\_\_ people from my country

\_\_\_\_\_ recreation facilities

\_\_\_\_\_ weather

\_\_\_\_\_ a place to practice my religion

Are there any other important factors?

## What will I eat?

“Whatever you were back home, you start from zero. You are almost like a child in a new country. You don't speak the same language—your jokes don't make sense. Your sense of humour is not the same like it was back home. You don't know how to buy a coffee at Starbucks or Tim Hortons. Even when you go for groceries —everything is different.”

— Aamir Mirza, arrived from Pakistan, May 31, 1999.

“On the train, we were given Franco American Spaghetti and Blue Bonnet sliced white bread, that my brother called 'Sponge'. He refused to eat and my mom didn't know what to do for us.”

– Anna (Molinaro) Colacicco, arrived from Italy, May 1959.

**What was the first new food you tried in Canada? Did you enjoy it?**

**Categorizing** – Look at the list of food, products and restaurants commonly seen in Alberta. Can you organize the list into the correct category? Compare your answers with a friend.

Poutine	Windex	Rhubarb	Boston Pizza	Chai latte
Saskatoons	Red Rose	Tide	Kraft Dinner	Papa John's
Tourtière	Tim Hortons	Double-Double	Zucchini	Espresso
Pine Sol	Bannock	Sunlight	Celery	Olive Garden

<u>Fruit or Vegetable</u>	<u>Meal</u>	<u>Drink</u>	<u>Cleaning Product</u>	<u>Restaurants</u>
	Tourtière			Tim Hortons

Think about how many new foods and products you have tried since you arrived in Canada. Add two or three new items to each category.

## Where will I work?

I arrived at the capital of Canada and there was all these farmers sitting around a huge hallway and we were led in the middle, but I felt like almost a slave being auctioned off. A farmer, in his striped overalls with a straw hat on and a spear of grass in his mouth, walked up to me, felt my muscles and so forth, and indicated for me to come with him...

- Karl Schultze, arrived from Germany, July 17, 1952.

**Karl Schultze arrived in Canada 64 years ago. How does his experience differ from your arrival?**

**Many of the first newcomers to Canada worked on farms and hoped to have a farm of their own. What job would you like to have in Canada?**

## How will I communicate?

"Language was a big barrier, so I just pointed to things needed. I dreaded to try to speak the language as I had been so embarrassed when I was laughed at after trying a few words."

- Jeanne DeCuypère, arrived from the Netherlands, March 12, 1913.

**Were you ever uncomfortable because of your language skills?**

**How do you think Canadians' perceptions of newcomers have changed since Jeanne DeCuypère arrived?**

## How will I adjust?

“You had to get used to a new kind of life, living in a flat, and sharing the house with other people who were very different from us. They played music that was not our music, and were very loud. They cooked different foods and the smells were completely different.”

— Gabriela Enriquez arrived from Chile, January 1974.

**Brainstorming:** How does Canada differ from your home? What things did you have to adjust to? What things do you miss from home?

**Writing:** Write an email to someone from your home country who plans to immigrate to Canada. Offer him/her some advice to help him/her adjust to life in Canada. Provide suggestions for what to bring when they come to Canada, and what to leave behind.

## While you are at the Exhibit

Look for the following items or people. In the space provided, write what the picture is about.

You can find this information in the exhibit.



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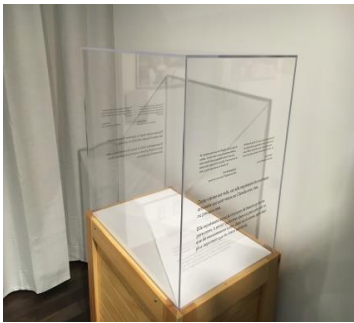
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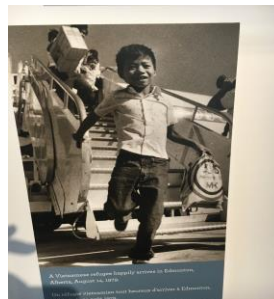
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