

Assessing Canada's Federal Election Results – Lesson Description

Lesson Overview

This lesson uses the 2000 or 2004 Federal Election results to demonstrate to students Canada's political representation by population and region, as well as enable the students to learn more about their own electoral riding.

Grade Level

Grades 9 to 12

Time Required

60 to 90 minutes depending on grade level and level of computer knowledge

Curriculum Connection

Saskatchewan Curriculum

- Canadian Studies 30 – History, Native Studies and Social Studies – Political Decision Making
- History 10 and Social Studies 10 (units 1 and 3)

Link to Canadian National Geographic Standards

Essential Elements #1 – The World in Spatial Terms

- map, globe, and atlas use (for example, observing and analyzing relationships)

Essential Element #2 – Places and Regions

- political and historical characteristics of regions
- regional analysis of geographic issues and questions
- the importance of places and regions to individual and social identity
- changes in places and regions over time

Geographic Skills #4 – Analyzing Geographic Information

- make inferences and draw conclusions from maps and other geographic representations
- use the processes of analysis, synthesis, evaluation and explanation to interpret geographic information from a variety of sources

Atlas of Canada Resources

Go to the Atlas of Canada Web site found at atlas.gc.ca The following parts of the Web site will be accessed by students during the lesson:

- Explore Our Maps
 - People & Society
 - Population
 - Population Density, 1996 Map
 - Official Languages
 - English – French Bilingualism Map
 - Knowledge of French Map
 - Knowledge of English Map
 - Mother Tongue (English) Map
 - Mother Tongue (French) Map

- Explore Our Maps
 - Economy
 - Income
 - Median Income of Individuals (1995\$) Map
 - Reference Maps
 - Canada Outline
 - Place Locations and Names of Canada Map
 - Federal Election
 - The 37th Federal Election, 2000 Map
 - The 38th Federal Election, 2004 Map

Additional Resources, Materials and Equipment

- computer lab with Internet access
- student worksheet with outline map of Canada identified above

Main Objective

The primary goal of the lesson is for students to learn about Canada’s electoral system and be able to analyze trends from regional and local election results.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- access and navigate the online Atlas of Canada
- state how many electoral ridings are in Canada and their own province
- describe the regional nature of the political party representation in Canada
- compare and analyze different geographical facts with the election results

Lesson Outline

Lesson	Teacher Activity	Student Activity
Introduction	Review some of the concepts the class has previously covered on the topic of federal elections (representation by population, the electoral districts and political parties).	Students will recall previous federal election information and ask questions for further clarification.
Lesson Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce the idea that the students will be exploring aspects of election results using the Atlas of Canada Web site by completing a worksheet on the topic. • Hand out the outline map of Canada and worksheet to the students. 	Students will complete the worksheet using the Atlas of Canada Web site and hand in their work for assessment.
Conclusion	Go over the worksheet answers with the students and clarify any queries.	Students will make any necessary corrections to their worksheets.

Lesson Extension

Follow-up the lesson with a customized research assignment into a Saskatchewan riding.

Assessment of Student Learning

Students will be assessed on their computer literacy and will receive a grade for their completion of the worksheet.



Assessing Canada's Federal Election Results – Student Worksheet

Name: _____

1. Go to the Atlas of Canada Web site located at atlas.gc.ca and click on the **English** button.
2. On the left hand side of the Atlas of Canada home page under **Explore Our Maps**, move your cursor over **Reference Maps**. In the pop-out menu that appears, move your cursor over **Federal Elections** and click. In the new page that appears click on the link to **The 37th Federal Election, 2000 Map** or **The 38th Federal Election, 2004 Map**. Using the blank outline map of Canada provided by your teacher, create your own Canada Elections map. Shade in the areas represented by the 5 political parties, as shown on the map on your screen. Be as accurate as possible and remember to include a legend and title on your map.
3. Looking at your Elections 2000 or 2004 map of Canada, describe the regional representation for each of the 5 major political parties.

4. Refer to your map of Canada's Election 2000 or 2004 results as you attempt to analyze the results in terms of income, population density and language.
 - a. In the **Explore Our Maps** menu, move the cursor over **Economy**. In the pop-out menu that appears, move your cursor over **Income** and click. In the new page that appears click on the link to the **Median Income of Individuals (1995\$) Map**. Compare the map on your computer screen to your Canada Elections map. Describe the relationship between income and political party representation?

- b. In the **Explore Our Maps** menu, move the cursor over **People & Society**. In the pop-out menu that appears, move your cursor over **Population** and click. In the new page that appears click on the link to the **Population Density, 1996 Map**. Compare the map on your computer screen to your Canada Elections map. Describe the relationship between densely populated areas and political party representation?

- c. Describe the relationship between sparsely populated areas and political party representation?

- d. In the **Explore Our Maps** menu, move the cursor over **People & Society**. In the pop-out menu that appears, move your cursor over **Official Languages** and click. Click on each of the links to the maps in this section:

- English – French Bilingualism Map
- Knowledge of French Map
- Knowledge of English Map
- Mother Tongue (English) Map
- Mother Tongue (French) Map

Examine the connections between language and political party representation. Record your observations below.



5. With reference to the following factors, suggest reasons for the relationships between:
- income and political representation in Canada

- population density and political representation in Canada

- language and political representation in Canada

6. Return to the Atlas of Canada's **37th Federal Election, 2000 Map** or **38th Federal Election, 2004 Map**. Click on the **Read more about this map** link located in the small text box on the map or at the end of the abstract.

- How many electoral districts are found in

- Canada: _____
- Saskatchewan: _____

- Using the **Get Info from Map** tool, above the map, click on one electoral district in Saskatchewan and compare the **Total Number of Electors on the Lists**, with the **Number of Valid Votes**. Give reasons for this discrepancy and explain how the Canadian government might encourage more Canadians to take advantage of their right and responsibility to vote in federal elections. (Consider Australia's policy of making it a federal offence if a voter does not vote in a federal election.)

