

Speaking Card 26

Basic Facts about Canada

● What do you know about Canada?

Canada is a country located / situated in the northern part of the North American continent. It is the second largest country in the world by area. Not many people live there because of the cold weather. The population is only 35 million. People speak English in most of the country, but they also speak French in the province of Quebec. The currency is the Canadian dollar. Queen Elizabeth II is the Queen of the country, but Canada has its own government.

● What about Canadians?

Canada is made up of a lot of nations. Nowadays most Canadians are of European and Asian origin. The native Canadians are called First Nations and they live mostly in Ontario and in British Columbia. You can find many totem poles there. The Inuit people live in the north. In the past they hunted and fished to survive.

● What do you know about Canadian geography?

There are different landscapes in Canada. In the south there are many forests / lakes / plains. In the north, you'll find mostly ice /snow and glaciers. The temperature in some places can go down to -40 °C. The Rocky Mountains are located on the west coast of Canada. The highest mountain is Mount Logan (5,959 m), located in Yukon. The country is divided into ten provinces and three territories.

● What Canadian cities do you know?

The capital of Canada is Ottawa, located in the province of Ontario. That's where the parliament and government are / have their seats. The largest / the most multicultural city is Toronto. There are lots of different neighbourhoods, such as Chinatown, Little India and Little Italy. Toronto's number one attraction is the CN Tower

(553 m). Montreal is a major city in the province of Quebec, where most of the people speak French. Montreal is known for its art scene and jazz festival. The most important city on the west coast is Vancouver in British Columbia. It was voted as the city with the best quality of life in the world.

● What other places should you visit in Canada?

Canada has a lot of beautiful national parks, such as Banff in Alberta, with dramatic landscapes and a lot of animals. Other places to see are Niagara Falls on the border between Canada and the United States / Peggy's Cove Lighthouse in Nova Scotia. Tourists can also go up north to watch the Northern Lights (= polární záře).

● What are some Canadian hobbies and pastimes?

Canadians like to play sports. Some popular sports are ice hockey and American (Canadian) football. The national sport is lacrosse, which was first played by Native Canadians. Another popular sport is curling. It is played on an ice rink. Players try to get a curling stone to a mark with the help of a broomstick.

● Do you know any famous Canadians?

Many famous singers were born in Canada, such as Justin Bieber / Celine Dion / Avril Lavigne, as were the actors Seth Rogen / Ryan Gosling. Also, many successful ice hockey players come from there, like Sidney Crosby / Wayne Gretzky.

● What are some Canadian symbols?

Canada is famous for its natural beauty, so there is a maple leaf on the Canadian flag. The national animal is the beaver. Other typical things for the country are / include ice hockey / maple syrup / moose / black bears / mounted police.

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