

# How well do you really know the National Flag of Canada?

## Let's test your knowledge and find out!

1. WHAT TYPE OF MAPLE LEAF IS IN THE CENTRE OF THE CANADIAN FLAG?

- ☐ A) A mountain maple leaf
- ☐ B) A silver maple leaf
- ☐ C) A sugar maple leaf
- ☐ D) A stylized maple leaf

2. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING SYMBOLS WAS THE FIRST TO EMERGE AS AN EMBLEM OF CANADA?

- ☐ A) The beaver
- ☐ B) The maple leaf
- ☐ C) Hockey
- ☐ D) The canoe

3. THE NUMBER OF POINTS ON THE MAPLE LEAF DEPICTED ON THE CANADIAN FLAG REPRESENTS THE NUMBER OF PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES IN CANADA.

☐ True OR ☐ False

4. IN 1921, WHICH COLOURS WERE PROCLAIMED BY KING GEORGE V AS THE OFFICIAL COLOURS OF CANADA?

- ☐ A) Red, white and blue
- ☐ B) Red and white
- ☐ C) Green and yellow
- ☐ D) Gold and blue

5. IN WHAT YEAR WAS THE CURRENT CANADIAN FLAG OFFICIALLY ADOPTED?

- ☐ A) 1921
- ☐ B) 1942
- ☐ C) 1965
- ☐ D) 1979

6. WHEN IS NATIONAL FLAG OF CANADA DAY CELEBRATED EACH YEAR?

- ☐ A) July 1
- ☐ B) February 15
- ☐ C) September 10
- ☐ D) December 8

7. THE CANADIAN RED ENSIGN WAS USED AS AN OFFICIAL FLAG PRIOR TO 1965. WHICH OF THESE ELEMENTS WILL YOU FIND ON THAT FLAG?

- ☐ A) British Red Ensign
- ☐ B) The Royal Union Flag in the canton
- ☐ C) Shield of the Coat of Arms of Canada
- ☐ D) All these answers

8. TRUE OR FALSE: WHEN THE NATIONAL FLAG OF CANADA IS DISPLAYED WITH THE FLAGS OF THE 10 PROVINCES AND 3 TERRITORIES, THE FLAGS OF THE PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES FOLLOW IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER.

☐ True OR ☐ False

9. WHEN SHOULD A FLAG BE REPLACED?

- ☐ A) At the end of the year
- ☐ B) On February 15
- ☐ C) When it is damaged

10. TRUE OR FALSE: THERE ARE STRICT LAWS GOVERNING THE USE OF THE NATIONAL FLAG OF CANADA.

☐ True OR ☐ False

### BONUS QUESTION

THE STUDY OF FLAGS IS KNOWN AS "VEXILLOLOGY".

☐ True OR ☐ False





# NOW, LET'S CHECK YOUR ANSWERS!

**1. D A stylized maple leaf.** To be fair, this is a bit of a trick question because the leaf on the Canadian flag does not represent any specific species of maple. However, it is inspired by the leaf of the sugar maple.

**2. A The beaver.** One of Canada's first emblems was... the beaver! This is because of the importance of the beaver to the fur trade, which was a major economic factor that drove exploration in Canada from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**3. False** The design of the stylized maple leaf on Canada's National Flag is meant to help keep the symbol visible and distinct when seen from far away and in windy conditions. Its 11 points are solely a feature of graphic design, and do not reflect Canada's provinces and territories.

**4. B Red and white.** Red and white became Canada's national colours by proclamation of King George V in 1921. Besides a historical connection to France and Britain, two of Canada's founding European nations, red and white might also represent the red of autumn maple leaves, and the white of the snow.

**5. C 1965.** The national flag of Canada was declared official by proclamation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on January 28, 1965.

**6. B February 15.** The National Flag of Canada was first raised on Parliament Hill, in Ottawa, on February 15, 1965. February 15 was declared National Flag of Canada Day in 1996 to honour this important anniversary.

**7. D All these answers.** The Canadian Red Ensign features a red background, the Union Jack and the shield of Canada's coat of arms in the fly. The Canadian Red Ensign was a popular patriotic symbol of Canada. However, it was never the national flag of Canada. Before our current National Flag was adopted in 1965, the official national flag of Canada was the British Union Jack.

**8. False** The flags of the provinces and territories are displayed according to the order in which they entered Confederation, starting with the provinces, and followed by the territories. If more than one province joined in a given year, their flags are ordered by their population at the time of their joining. This gives the following order: Ontario (1867), Quebec (1867), Nova Scotia (1867), New Brunswick (1867), Manitoba (1870), British Columbia (1871), Prince Edward Island (1873), Saskatchewan (1905), Alberta (1905), Newfoundland and Labrador (1949), Northwest Territories (1870), Yukon (1898) and Nunavut (1999).

**9. C When it is damaged.** As a sign of respect, the National Flag must be in good condition when it flies. If it is no longer in good condition because it is frayed or has faded colours, it must be replaced with a new flag.

**10. True** There are laws that regulate the commercial use of the flag. However, there are no laws that govern how private individuals and organizations display the flag. There are customs and conventions for proper use of the flag and the Government of Canada has certain rules that are followed on government property throughout the country. These act as guidelines and good practice for everyone to follow.

**Bonus question. True** Vexillology is the study of flags. Vexillologists, or flag experts, often consider the National Flag of Canada to be a particularly well-designed flag.

