


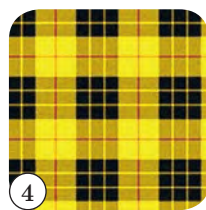
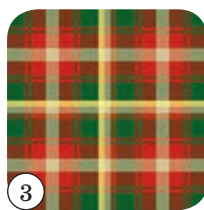
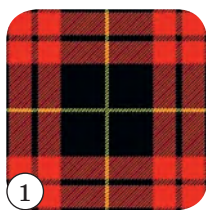
## LESSON 8. Different shades of maple

Communicative area: describing Canadian symbols

1.  What word combinations that start with the word *maple* can you make? Write them down.

2. a) Read the questions below. How many of them can you answer?

1. When did Canada get its current national flag? 2. What is a sugaring off season? 3. What is Canada's liquid gold? Why? 4. Which picture shows the Maple Leaf Tartan? What holiday is it connected with? 5. What is snow taffy? 6. What does the maple tree symbolize?



b) Read the website information and check your ideas. Which of the questions isn't answered? Are there any *maple* word combinations you mentioned in ex.1? Add the new ones to your list. How are they related to Canada?

While Canada is famous for its 3 Ms – Moose, Mountains, and Maple leaf – it's the third that gets the honour of making its everlasting mark right in the middle of the country's national flag. Its adoption in 1965 was the result of almost forty years of discussion, thousands of designs and a heated debate in Parliament. The anniversary of the event is observed across the country on 15 February, which is known as National Flag of Canada Day. The maple leaf also found its way into Canada's once unofficial national song, "The Maple Leaf Forever". It can be seen on the logos of different companies and sport teams, too. Maple leaf pins and badges are proudly worn by Canadians abroad.

The Maple Leaf Tartan was specially designed by David Weiser for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Canada's Dominion status marked in 1967. Inspired by the colours of the maple leaf through the changing seasons, the tartan's pattern has the green of summer leaves, the gold of early autumn, the red of the first frost and finally, the brown tones of the fallen leaves before winter. A symbol of national pride, the tartan is worn by Canadians from all backgrounds – regardless of their ancestry – especially on national days like Canada Day (1 July) and Tartan Day (6 April). On 9 March, 2011, the Maple Leaf Tartan was declared an official national symbol.

Although the maple leaf is closely associated with Canada, the maple tree became an official emblem of the country only on 25 April, 1996. It is a Canadian symbol of strength and endurance as it survives the toughest environmental conditions. Indigenous Canadians believed that maple trees could protect from demons and evil spirits.

Delicious maple syrup ['sɪrəp] has always been a source of pride for Canadians. The indigenous groups were the first maple sugar and maple syrup producers. To celebrate the sugar moon they even performed rituals like the Maple dance. They also considered maple syrup to be a great source of nutrition and energy.

One of the reasons why maple syrup is a strong symbol of Canada is because it meets 85% of the world's maple syrup demand alone, with the majority (75% of the world production) centered in Québec. It's a significant source of money for the country since it exports \$312.9 million worth of maple syrup and maple syrup related products. So maple syrup is Canada's liquid gold. Believe it or not, it is 26 times more expensive than crude oil because it takes 40 litres of sap (the "blood" of the tree) to make one litre of maple syrup. Maple syrup is also a high source of employment for Canadians.



People say "as Canadian as maple syrup" to show that something is completely Canadian. The famous saying shows how close maple products and production are connected with the country's identity. It is so symbolic that it has become a standard gift offered by Canadian diplomats abroad. Whenever tourists leave Canada, they often have maple syrup related products in

their luggage. Maple syrup is so iconic in Canada that it even has a secret maple syrup reserve — The Global Strategic Maple Syrup Reserve in Québec. Where other countries work towards oil reserves, Canada puts its focus and resources to make sure that the world never runs out of maple syrup.



Today, there are festivals celebrating maple syrup and the beginning of the sugaring off season. It's the time of the year when it feels like winter but you see little hints of spring: freezing nights and warm days cause the sap to run in maple trees. Maple syrup festivals bring together generations and cultures in a country known for its diversity. They include sleigh rides, sap to syrup demo, delicious snow taffy, log-sawing contests, snowshoe races, plank races, square dancing, nature walks, live old-time music and more. Canadians think that maple syrup is the symbol of the country because it perfectly reflects and inspires Canada's most fundamental value — unity.

**c) Are the following statements true or false? Add some information to prove the true statements. Correct the false ones.**

1. The current national flag is younger than the country.
2. The Maple Leaf Tartan has been known since 1867 when the Dominion of Canada was born.
3. The maple tree is the oldest official emblem of the country.
4. European explorers taught the First Nations how to make maple syrup.
5. The main centre of maple syrup production is located in the province of Québec.
6. Maple syrup festivals are usually held in autumn.

**3. a)**   **Making snow taffy is part of traditional Canadian culture. Look at the picture. How do you think snow taffy is made? Listen to a Canadian speaking about it and check your guesses.**



**b)**   **Listen again. What do you need to make snow taffy? Make a list of the necessary equipment and ingredients. Write down the instructions.**

**c) What new *maple* word combinations have you heard?**

4. a)  Work in pairs. Play Tic-tac-toe.

**How to play:** Read the task on your card. Choose one space and do the task: explain, answer the question, or say a few sentences to describe something. If your partner is happy with your answer, put your mark, X or O. The player who has put three marks in a horizontal, vertical, or diagonal row wins the game.



b) Prepare a similar task for another pair. Exchange the tasks and play the game again.

5. a)  Get a card and study the information about a Canadian symbol.



b) You have 5 minutes to share the information with the others. Who has collected more symbols? Can you recognize them in the collage?