

LESSON 9. An idea with a snowball effect

Communicative area: describing a famous Canadian winter festival

1. Look at the picture. What kind of festival do you expect it to be?



2. a) Read the information from a web-page. Answer the questions.

1. When and where is it held? 2. How long does it last? 3. How long has it been around? 4. Why was it created? 5. Is it a popular event? Why?

Welcome to Winterlude, an iconic festival that celebrates Canadian winter fun! It is considered to be the flagship event of the winter tourist season in Canada's Capital Region and on average welcomes 600,000 visitors. In 2007, it set an attendance record of 1.6 million visits to one of the Winterlude sites.

The festival was created in 1979 to celebrate Canada's unique northern culture and climate. Its organizers were inspired by our ancestors who would gather to enjoy each other's company during the long winter months. Since then, Winterlude is held in Ottawa and the city of Gatineau [ˈgætɪnəʊ] situated straight across the capital on the northern bank of the Ottawa River every year during the first three weeks of February. The festival offers a rich and varied program of indoor and outdoor activities that highlight Canada's cultural, artistic, and culinary diversity.

The main venue for many sporting events is the Rideau [rɪˈdəʊ] Canal Skateway, a section of the Rideau Canal passing through central Ottawa. Since 2005, it holds the official Guinness world record for the world's largest naturally frozen ice rink. It's about the size of 90 Olympic-sized rinks and is 7.8 km long. The canal is also Ontario's only UNESCO World Heritage Site – that means that it's recognized around the world as a very special part of Canadian culture.

When you think of racing on the ice, you probably think of being on skates or sleds. But at Winterlude we do things differently. Among the most popular events are the Bed (yes, the kind you sleep on) Race, the Waiters and Waitresses on Ice Challenge, Trotting on the Rideau, a horse race on the Rideau Canal Skateway, Winterlude Triathlon (8 km of skating, another 8 km of cross-country skiing and 5 km of running) and the Ice Dragon Boat race. And they all are for a great cause – to raise funds for local charities.

Confederation Park, better known as Crystal Garden, is the site for the ice lounge, musical concerts and the ice sculpture competition. More than 600 ice blocks are turned into imaginative ice sculptures by artists from around the world. And each of them is brilliantly lit up at night.

Other popular venues include the Snowflake Kingdom, which is located in Jacques-Cartier Park in Gatineau. This site is turned into a massive snow park with ice slides and snow sculptures and hosts numerous events and activities for children and their parents. It is the home away from home of the friendly Ice Hog family, the Winterlude mascots. Legend has it that back in the ice age, these magical relatives of ground hogs (*сурки*) crossed an ice bridge over the Bering Strait from Russia to Alaska and travelled deep into the Far North of what is now Canada. About 30 years ago, Mr Ice Hog heard about Winterlude, so he and Mrs Ice Hog and their twins, Nouma and Noumi, came down to investigate and have been the official mascots ever since!

During Winterlude, you can enjoy such must-do winter pleasures as tube sliding, skating, admiring ice and snow sculptures and play till you drop in the Snowflake Kingdom. So don't miss Canada's winter celebration in Ottawa!

b) Copy and fill in the table. Which of the events would you like to take part in or to watch?

Site	Activities	Additional information
...

c) Look at the pictures. What information is given about them?



1



2



3



4



5



6

3. Year after year, Winterlude runs smoothly thanks to the help of more than 800 volunteers. If you had an opportunity to join the team of Winterlude volunteers, what would you like to do?

4. Compare the Winterlude festival with winter holidays and festivals held in Belarus.

Project 

JEOPARDY!

1 Read the information about the *Jeopardy!* quiz show. In what way is it different from other quiz shows?

Jeopardy! is an American television quiz show created by Merv Griffin in the 1960s. The show features a quiz competition in which contestants are presented with general knowledge clues given in the form of answers. They must phrase their responses in the form of questions. For example, if a contestant selects “Presidents for \$200”, the clue could be “This Father of Our Country didn’t really chop down a cherry tree”. The correct response is “Who is / was George Washington?” Contestants are free to phrase the response in the form of any question; the traditional phrasing of “who is / are” for people or “what is / are” for things or words is almost always used.

2 You are going to play a variation of the *Jeopardy!* quiz show.

Split into 3 teams. Decide on 5 separate categories for the quiz. They can be “Values”, “Geography”, “History”, etc. They can be the same or different for all teams. Prepare 5 clues in the form of answers about Canada and the USA ranging in difficulty from easy (\$100) to difficult (\$500) for each category.

Play three rounds of the game with two teams competing against each other. The team who has prepared questions for the round works as a jury: read out clues, keep track of points (and time).

Put the following information on the board.

(name of the category)	(name of the category)	(name of the category)	(name of the category)	(name of the category)
\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300
\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400
\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

The first team starts and chooses a category and an amount, depending on how confident they are in being able to give the correct response. To make the competition tougher, you can introduce a time limit for answering the question (e.g. standard time is 30 seconds). If the team answers correctly, they can choose another clue. If the team answers incorrectly, the other team can either choose a new clue and amount or attempt to respond to the clue which was previously incorrectly answered. If neither team answers correctly, the host reads out the correct response.

