

# Schools in Canada

## 1 The same or different?

- a) Read this text about the Canadian school system. Draw a table to show which type of school children go to at different ages.

In most of Canada children go to a Kindergarten when they are about five but Kindergarten is not compulsory. Elementary school is, and they start when they are six or seven. Each state or territory is responsible for its own education system and there are small differences between them.



After elementary school children go on to a Junior High School at about 12. They have to stay there until they are 15 or 16. Then they have the option: they can either leave school or go on to Senior High School for Grades 10–12. (In Quebec this is called a *collège d'enseignement général et professionnel*.)

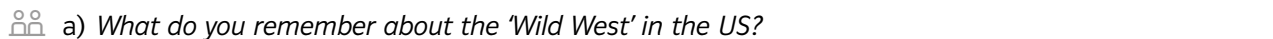
Most Canadians stay at school until they are 18. Senior high schools offer courses of one semester (half-year courses) or in some cases quarter-year courses.

High schools are mostly mixed and offer training for trade and industry as well as preparing pupils for university. An example of this is the 'Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program'.

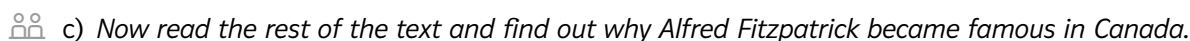
It enables students in Grades 11 and 12 to complete their high school diploma while starting their apprenticeship training. There are also cooperative education programs. They integrate classroom learning with practical experience in the workplace. Through this program students are better prepared to go on from high school to work, apprenticeship programs, college and/or university.

- b) How does this school system compare with the German system? What is the same or different?
- c) What about the US or the British school systems? Choose one and explain the difference between it and the Canadian system to a partner.
- d) Which of the school systems that you know do you think is best and why? Prepare a short talk for your class.

## 2 Frontier<sup>1</sup> College

-  a) What do you remember about the 'Wild West' in the US?
- b) Read the first paragraph of the text and find out about the western frontier of Canada. How was it different from the "Wild West" in the US?

When we talk about the Wild West and the American Frontier we usually think of cowboys on ranches and their fights with Indians or early settlers. That was the story in the US, where the settlers spread inland from the coasts. In Canada something very like that happened, too, with people coming to the areas on the east coast and around the St Lawrence River first. The land to the west was slowly opened up, but it was often more difficult to travel there than it was further south in the United States. There were huge forests and many lakes. Men went out to remote places to cut down trees, build roads and railways, or to find minerals and dig them out of the ground. Many of them were immigrants who had come from Britain, France and other parts of Europe to start a new life in the new country of Canada.

-  c) Now read the rest of the text and find out why Alfred Fitzpatrick became famous in Canada.

At the end of the 19th century the Reverend Alfred Fitzpatrick realised that in that huge area of Canada there were thousands of immigrants. Many of them could not speak English very well and most of them could not read or write.

*"Whenever and wherever people shall have occasion to congregate<sup>2</sup>, then and there shall be the time, place and means of their education."*

Reverend Alfred Fitzpatrick said this in 1920 – and he had already put it into action.


These new immigrants and other men who worked in remote places on the frontier had to do as their boss told them, and they didn't know enough to talk to him and tell him if he did something wrong. They lived in a camp where they worked, and if the boss was not fair to them with food or money, there was nothing they could do about it.

Fitzpatrick went to one of these remote camps and started to teach these men to read and write. Other young men came from the cities to help him. Many people who later became famous in other fields started their careers as teachers in the camps as part of Fitzpatrick's Frontier College. Fitzpatrick's idea worked both ways; the young men gained experience as teachers and leaders – and found out how men lived on the frontier. The men they taught gained the skills of reading and writing, and as time went on, other skills too.

The government of Canada saw how useful Fitzpatrick's work was. After World War I, even more immigrants came to Canada to find work. The government gave Fitzpatrick money to "Canadianize" them.

In the 1920s the College began to hire women as well, to teach the women workers. Then after the Second World War, the College started programs teaching people in remote communities, not just in the workers' camps. It also provided classes for ex-convicts, people with learning disabilities, and street people. Later it began working with teens, children, and families in urban centers. It is still doing this today. And every summer, the Frontier College opens Reading Tents to show young people that reading can be fun. The people who work there are still volunteers.

<sup>1</sup> frontier [frɪn'tɪə] – Frontier; <sup>2</sup> to congregate ['kɒŋgrɪgeɪt] – zusammen kommen

-  d) Write a timeline for the development of Frontier College. When do you think large numbers of immigrants went to Canada? Think of the history of Europe.
- e) Find out from the internet why Frontier College is still important today. Look under: <http://www.frontiercollegefoundation.ca/> and write some notes.
- f) How could something like Frontier College be useful where you live? Use your notes and write an e-mail to the Frontier College Foundation. Explain why you think it could be useful in your town and ask one or two questions.
- g) Use the photo to explain to your class what you have learnt about Frontier College.



A Frontier College volunteer teacher with his pupils and Fitzpatrick – third from right

## Lösungen

Lösungsvorschläge Seite 1

Ex. 1

a)

Age	Grade	Type of school
from 5	K	Kindergarten
5/6 – 12	1 – 6	Elementary School
12 – 15/16	7 – 9/10	Junior High School
15/16 – 18	10/11 – 12	Senior High School (In Quebec: <i>collège d'enseignement général et professionnel</i> )

- b) In Canada all the children in an area go to the same school after elementary school. This is like a German *Gesamtschule*. They don't have different types of schools like the *Haupt-* and *Realschule* and the *Gymnasium*. But they have to go to another school after Junior High. In Germany you can usually stay at the same school if you want to do *Abitur*.
- c) The Canadian school system is more like the US system or some parts of the British system. 1. US system: the children from one area all go to the same elementary school and the junior and senior high schools, so it is the same as Canada. 2. In Britain most children go from a primary school to a comprehensive school in their area and stay there if they want to until they are 17 or 18.
- d) *Individuelle Schülerlösungen*

Lösungsvorschläge Seite 2

Ex. 2

- a) *Individuelle Schülerlösungen*.
- b) There weren't the same cattle ranches and cowboys in the "Wild West" of Canada, but settlers spread in the same way as in the US, mostly from the east coast. It was more difficult to open up the land because of the forests. But in the same way as the US they built roads and railways across Canada and immigrants went to live there.
- c) Alfred Fitzpatrick became famous in Canada because he started the 'Frontier College'. He went to the camps in remote places on the frontier and he taught the men there to speak English, or to read and write. Other young men came as volunteers to help him.

## Lösungsvorschläge Seite 3

(FC = Frontier College)

d)	End of 19thC	Start of 20th C	1918	1920s	1945
	Fitzpatrick goes to first camp to teach. FC starts.	More young men go to teach for FC in camps.	Lots of new immigrants. FC to 'Canadianize' them.	Women start to teach other women at FC.	FC spreads to communities.

When wars end the soldiers are not needed any more and the numbers in the armies are cut down. After World War I and II the ex-soldiers and their families started to look for a new life. Many of them emigrated to Canada, America and Australia. In World War II many cities in Europe had been bombed or people left their land as the armies crossed Europe. They had nowhere in Europe to live.

e) Frontier College still teaches new immigrants and people who have found learning difficult. This is very useful, especially for people in Canada who don't speak English or French. It is also good to have somewhere for children to go in the summer holidays where they can learn that reading is fun.

f) Dear Sir or Madam,

I have just read about the Frontier College in Canada and that you set up Reading Tents for young people in the summer. My friends and I would like to start a Reading Tent in my town in the summer. Perhaps it could be at the swimming pool. There are lots of young people in my town – and older people – who don't read and write very well. A Reading Tent with lots of interesting books in a place where they are on holiday could show them that reading is fun and interesting, and they wouldn't have to sit inside all the time to do it. They could read outside if the weather was good. Could you give us some tips to help us? Where can we get books from? What do we need to be careful about?

Yours faithfully,

g) The photo shows that conditions in the camps were often not very good. In the winter the weather in Canada is very cold with lots of snow. Even with a stove a tent or a wooden hut was not very warm. The men needed a better education and some help to ask the bosses for better conditions. The volunteers of Frontier College helped the immigrants to speak English and taught them to read and write. This meant that they could get better work and that they could check what the bosses told them.