

# Sense of Place: What is Canada?

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**Rex Murphy** describes himself as a Newfoundlander biting at the heels of Canadian conservatism. The same establishment he playfully chides in his weekly CBC radio show Cross Country Checkup and frequent visits to CBC's National Magazine, regularly finds Rex to be an entertaining and fiercely witty speaker.



## Atlantic Canada

1. What makes Newfoundlanders so attached to their place of birth?
2. Why is it difficult to describe a **Canadian** national identity?
3. According to Mary Pratt, where is Canada's place in the world historically?
4. Explain what Rex means when he asks, "Does simple arithmetic constitute a country?"
5. According to the Ontario artist in Gaspé, who is trying to categorize and describe us?
6. According to the Quebec wildlife expert, what are Canadians proud of in terms their culture?
7. What are the two commanding factors at play in shaping Canadian identity?

## Ontario

8. Why is it that Rex describes the falls as an "un-Canadian piece of triumph"?
9. Who are we *not* in terms of our national identity?!
10. What is it that Americans do differently about their leaders, holidays, and symbols?
11. Why are some Americans moving into Canada?
12. Who has helped conceptualize the Canadian landscape?

## **Multiculturalism**

13. Who is a Canadian? When do we drop the *hyphenation* of someone's identity?
14. According to one of the Sephia Queens, how do you know someone is a Canadian?
15. According to Richard Gwyn, how is Canada unlike every other country in the world?
16. What is about Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver that best exemplifies Canada?

## **Western Canada**

17. What brings people of a nation together? Does *that* explain Canada's identity?
18. Why is it that members of each region of Canada don't know about the others?
19. What inspired the most recent round of patriotism in Canada?
20. Will Canada stay together as a country forever?

## **Finding a Common Centre**

21. Describe the relationship between Canada's Aboriginals and the rest of Canada?
22. What are we protecting when we "stand on guard for thee"? What do we celebrate?
23. (*Listen carefully to the lyrics of the song sung next.*)
24. How are Canadians and Americans viewed differently overseas? **Why?!**
25. Why has it been so difficult to nail down Canadian identity?
26. So... what is a Canadian?!