

Lesson Notes: Families in Canada (Pre-Assessment Guide)

Learning Goal

Students will understand how families in Canada are affected by:

- Divorce laws
- Economic problems

Students will also learn how to:

- Identify key ideas
 - Ask good research questions
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1. Understanding the Topic

A. Divorce Laws in Canada

Canada has a law called the Divorce Act.

Key Ideas:

- In the past → divorce was difficult
- Today → divorce is easier
- The law focuses on the **best interests of the child**

Class Discussion Questions:

- Why do people get divorced?
 - How can divorce affect a family?
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B. Effects of Divorce

On Parents:

- Can leave unhappy relationships
- May have stress or money problems

On Children:

- May feel sad, confused
- Do better when parents don't fight

On Families:

- More types of families today
(single-parent, blended families)
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2. Economic Problems and Families

Big events like the 2008 global financial crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic affected families.

Class Discussion Questions:

- What happens when people lose jobs?
 - How does money affect family life?
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Effects of Economic Problems

Children:

- Less money for food and school needs

Parents:

- Job loss
- Stress

Elderly:

- Need more help
- May feel lonely

3. Key Vocabulary (Important Words)

Students should understand these words before the assessment:

- **Family diversity** = different types of families
- **Divorce** = ending a marriage
- **Best interests of the child** = what is best for the child
- **Economic problems** = money difficulties
- **Support systems** = help from government/community
- **Family resilience** = staying strong during hard times

4. Asking Good Research Questions

Good questions help you learn more.

Rules for Good Questions:

- Start with: **How / Why / What**
- Not yes/no questions
- Clear and simple

Examples:

- How does divorce affect children?
- Why do families have money problems?
- What support helps families the most?

Practice Activity:

change a bad question into a good one

(e.g., “Is divorce bad?” → “How does divorce affect families?”)

5. Thinking About Different Perspectives

When studying families, we must think about different people:

- Children
- Parents
- Grandparents
- Lawyers / social workers

Guiding Question:

- Do all people experience divorce or money problems the same way?
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6. Thinking About Time

Families change over time.

Important Time Periods:

- Past (divorce was rare)
- Present (divorce is more common)

Guiding Question:

- How are families today different from the past?
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7. Before the Assessment – Checklist

You should be able to:

- ✓ Explain divorce laws simply
 - ✓ Describe effects on children, parents, elderly
 - ✓ Understand key vocabulary
 - ✓ Ask 2–3 good research questions
 - ✓ Think about different perspectives
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Quick Summary for Students

- Families change over time
- Divorce and money problems affect families
- Different people have different experiences
- Good questions help you learn