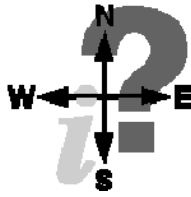


9.1 Canada: Governance and Citizenship

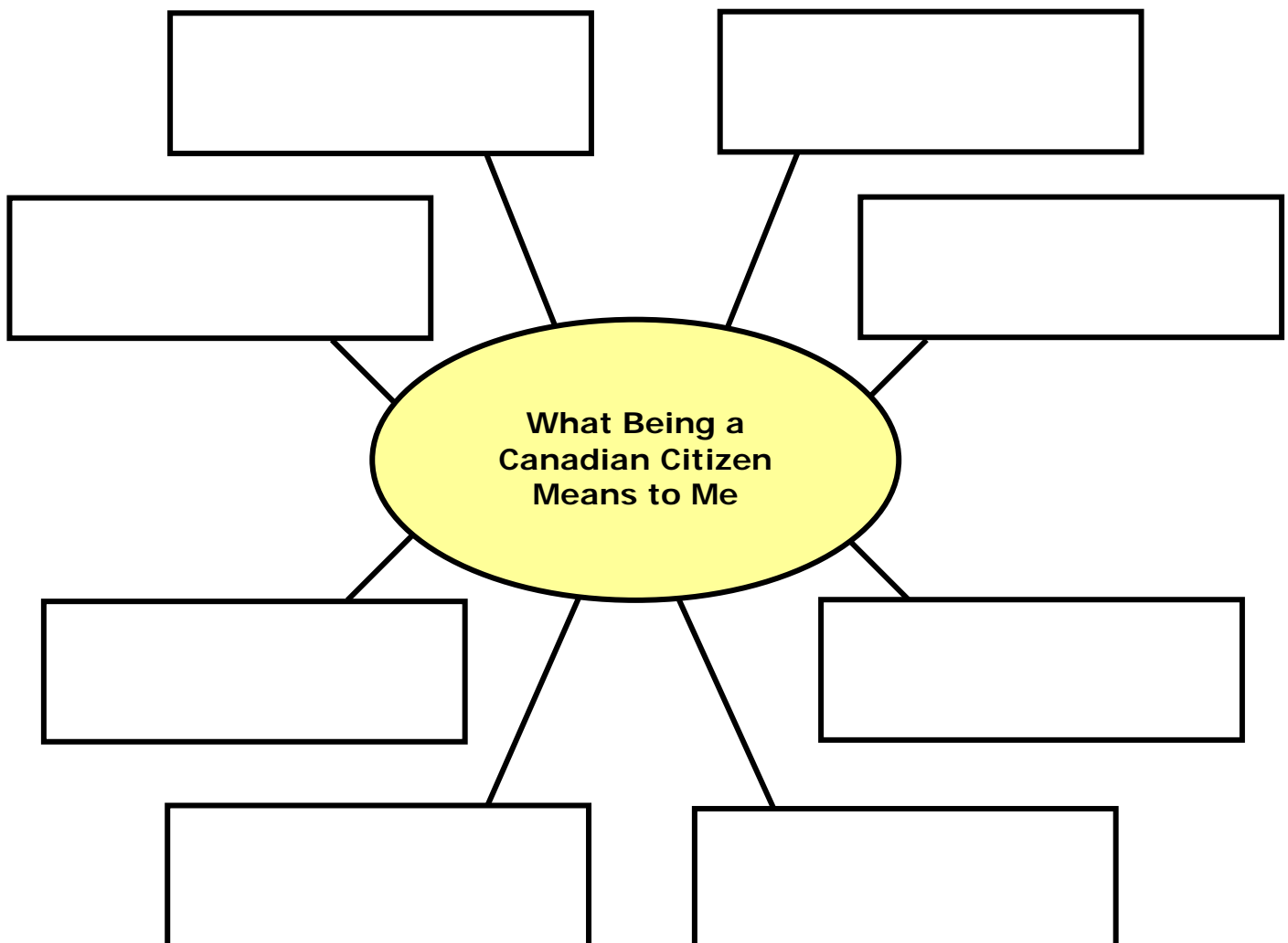


Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship

Citizen

A citizen is a person who belongs to and is protected by a nation/country. A citizen is either born in the nation or given citizenship by the government.

1. Canada is often described as being a great place to live, as compared with other countries in the world. Brainstorm what being a Canadian citizen means to you.



2. Read the [Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#) and list parts of the Charter that protect Canadians from being treated unfairly due to gender, age, race or religion.


Gender	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Age	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Race	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Religion	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>



3. Based on the information in the [Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#), identify your rights and freedoms in the following situations.

Situation	Rights/Freedoms
<p>You would like to vote in the next election.</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>You have been stopped on the street and searched, without reason.</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>You would like to leave the country.</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>You speak French as your first language and would like to become Premier of your province.</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>You testify as a witness and say that you have done something illegal.</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>


4. Describe a situation where you have used one of your rights that is protected by the Charter. Share your example with a group and listen to the examples of other students.

Use this tool: 

[Analyzing a Speaker I](#)

5. To describe what can be done to promote responsible citizenship in Canada, follow the steps below.

Step one: In a group, discuss and record responsibilities you have as a Canadian citizen.

Use this tool: 

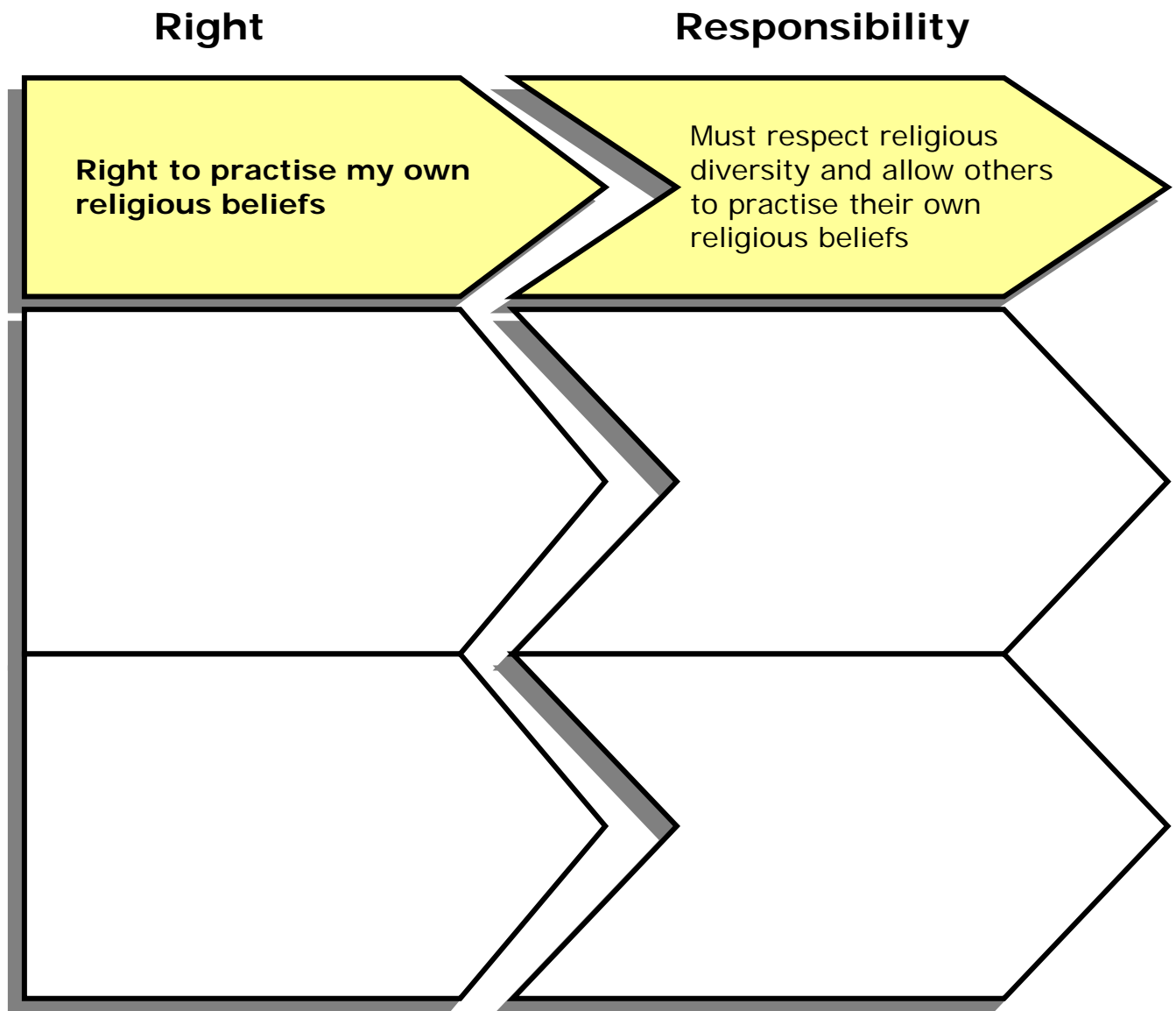
[Discussion Notes](#)

Responsibilities of Canadian Citizens:

- defend Canada
- obey Canadian laws
- respect other Canadian citizens
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Step two: Think about the connection between rights and responsibilities. In order to keep each of your rights as a Canadian citizen, what responsibilities do you have? What must you do or not do to make sure your rights are not taken away?

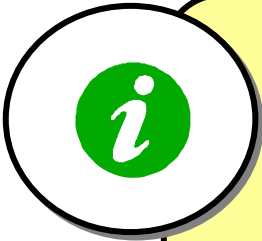
Fill in the chart that follows. Identify five of your rights, then identify the responsibilities linked to each right.



Right

Responsibility





Official Bilingualism

In 1969, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and his government brought in the *Official Languages Act*. This Act gave Canadians the legal right to speak French when receiving services from the federal government and the courts. Provinces also began to offer services in French. The Act was intended to provide equal opportunity for citizens who spoke either official language.

6. List parts from the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* that recognize the status and identity of Francophones (i.e., French-speaking people).

Use this information sheet:



- [Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#)

Majority

A majority is the biggest number or portion of a whole group of people.

Minority

A minority is the smaller number or portion of a whole group of people.



Democracy does not mean that if the majority agrees to something, a law is passed. In a democratic society, the rights of every individual, including those in a minority, are important.

7. In groups or as a class, discuss how Canada's democratic government protects the rights of minority groups. After the discussion, write a summary of key ideas below.

Use this tool:



[Discussion Notes](#)

Key Ideas from Group Discussion	
#1	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
#2	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
#3	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Key Ideas from Group Discussion	
#4	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
#5	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

8. Scan television video clips, Internet, newspaper articles and other media for articles about how rights protected in the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* affect individuals and communities. For example, look for news stories that relate to rights violations, people fighting to protect their rights or court cases about the rights of Canadians.

Choose a news story and fill out the **five Ws** (who, what, where, when, why) and **one H** (how) of the story.

Use this information sheet and tool:



- [News Story Search](#)
- [Question Organizer I](#)

9. In groups or as a class, discuss the following issue.

To what extent do the rights protected by the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* affect our quality of life?

When analyzing this issue, think about the responsibilities of Canadian citizens in knowing about and following the laws.

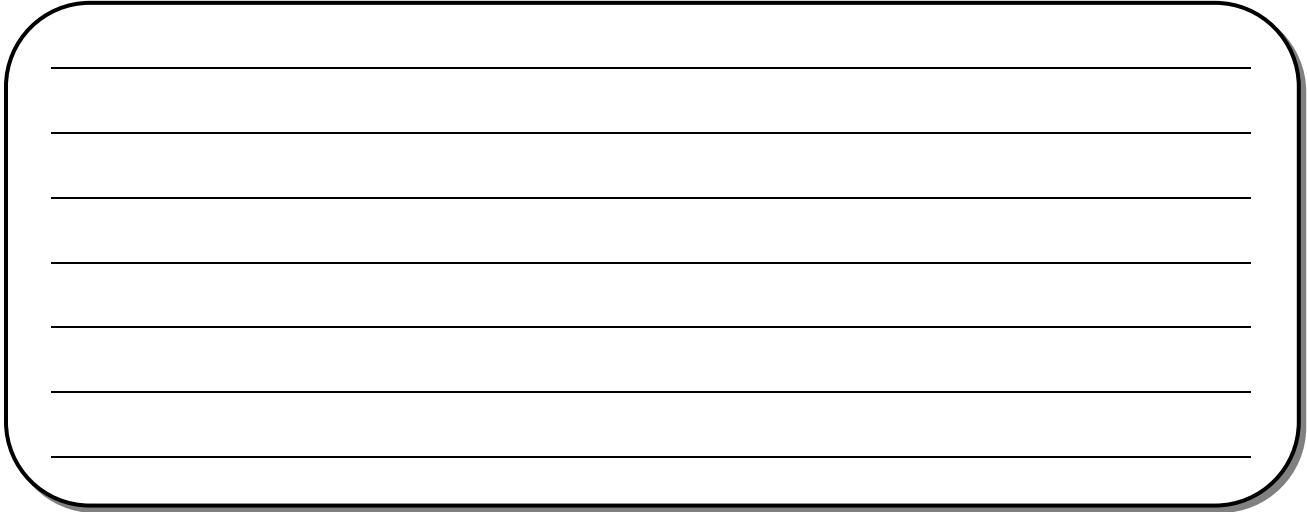
Use these information sheets and tools:



- [Issue Analysis](#)
- [My Position on an Issue](#)
- [Choosing Sides on an Issue](#)
- [Analyzing an Issue \(Steps 1 to 4\)](#)
- [Strategies for Working in a Group](#)
- [Assigning Group Roles](#)
- [Preparing for Group Work](#)
- [Reflecting on Group Work I](#)

Write your ideas in the space below before you begin the discussion.

My ideas on this issue are:



After you analyze the issue, look back at your initial thoughts and ideas. Have you changed your mind after learning new information and looking at different perspectives? Explain.

