

# CANADA-EUROPE TRADE HISTORY LESSON

## TEACHER'S VERSION

### Lesson Information

---

#### **Objectives:**

The primary objective of this lesson is to give students an overview of how the history of trade between Canada and Europe developed into the CETA agreement between Canada and the European Union. It aims to establish the importance of the relationship between the two continents and generate ideas on how this relationship may develop in the future.

#### **Description:**

The purpose of this lesson plan is to introduce students to the history and importance of trade between Canada and Europe, providing background to the landmark CETA negotiations. This lesson will build on their prior knowledge of Canadian history, including the fur trade, to look at its relevance for the current trade agreement with the European Union.

#### **Suggested Courses:**

- ❧ CIE3M - The Individual and the Economy, Grade 11
- ❧ CIA4U - Analyzing Current Economic Issues, Grade 12
- ❧ CLN4U - Canadian and International Law, Grade 12
- ❧ CPW4U - Canadian and International Politics, Grade 12

**Time Requirement:** 75 minutes

#### **Materials:**

- ❧ Teacher's Version: Lesson Plan
- ❧ Student Version: Handout
- ❧ PowerPoint presentation
- ❧ Internet connection, computer, projector/screen

## Warm Up

---

**Format:** Whole class

**Activity:** Brainstorming

**Time:** 5 minutes

**Instructions:**

Explain to students that they will be learning about the history of trade between Canada and Europe. Ask the students if they can name any countries that have a trading relationship with Canada in Europe. Write the names of the countries on the board as a spider diagram and ask the students to copy the information onto their handout.

Ask students to consider the countries on the board and name any specific information they have learned about Canada's trade history with that country. This can include examples of goods traded, dates of treaties, fun facts, etc. Write the information on the board under the country names and ask the students to add the points to their handout.

## Activity 1: Timeline of Canada-Europe Trade

---

**Format:** Whole class

**Activity:** Lecture, timeline

**Time:** 25 minutes

**Instructions:**

Begin the topic of Canada-Europe trade with the PowerPoint provided to cover the timeline of important events in the history of transatlantic trade. Using the PowerPoint information to introduce the following points:

- ☞ Explain relationship between Canada and Europe has existed for centuries, beginning in the 1600s.
- ☞ Highlight the importance of fur trading, which is often seen as the foundation of commerce between the two regions.
- ☞ Discuss the other goods that are commonly traded between both countries, such as fish, timber, agricultural products, minerals, energy, and manufactured goods.
- ☞ Explain the major countries in Europe that are involved in trading with Canada, such as the UK, France, Germany, and Netherlands

As students listen to the lecture, ask them to complete the timeline on their handout with the main ideas from the lecture.

**Timeline and Answer Key:**

**1530s** – Jacques Cartier conducts the first fur trading between Europe and the First Nations.

**1604** – Samuel de Champlain establishes the first Canadian trading post in Port Royal, Nova Scotia.

**1670** – The Hudson's Bay Company is established, gaining a monopoly of trade in the Bay and ownership of all lands drained by rivers flowing into the Bay.

**1701** – The Great Peace of Montreal is signed between European settlers and the First Nations.

**1713** – The Treaty of Utrecht sees Britain gain control of New France (Canada) and the right to trade freely in its waters.

**1763** – The French cede their stake in New France to Britain in the Treaty of Paris and the fur trade is revitalised

**1867** – Canada becomes a self-governing Dominion of the British Empire, allowing it to make its own trade agreements with other countries, including Europe.

**1871** – The United Kingdom relaxes its protectionism, allowing Canadian products to be exported to Europe without tariffs.

**1947** – Canada and European countries sign the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which provides preferential access for goods moving between countries.

**1957** – The European Economic Community (now the European Union) is established, leading to increased economic cooperation between Canada and Europe.

**2004** – Canada and the European Union (EU) begin negotiations on the Canada-EU Trade and Investment Enhancement Agreement (TIEA). This agreement was later superseded by CETA.

**2007** – Canadian and EU leaders agree to conduct joint study to examine costs and benefits of pursuing a closer economic partnership.

**2008** – Canada signs the Canada-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Free Trade Agreement with Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein.

**2013** – The Canada–European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) is agreed in principle, which will provide Canada and the EU with increased access to each other's markets for goods, services, and investments.

**2016** – Canada and EU sign historic trade agreement (CETA) during EU-Canada Summit.

**2017** – The Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) enters into force provisionally, awaiting ratification by all EU member states.

## Activity 2: Reading Activity

---

**Format:** Individual, whole class

**Activity:** Reading, brainstorming

**Time:** 15 minutes

**Instructions:**

Ask students what they know about CETA. Write points on the board if they provide any ideas or information. Allow 2-3 minutes for this activity.

Ask the students to read the short text introducing CETA. Allow 5 minutes for quiet reading and note taking.

When students have finished reading and taking notes, discuss the following topics:

- Ask the students what the main points of the text are and add them to the information on the board.
- Ask the students what benefits they see to the CETA agreement and add them to the board.
- Ask if the students can think of any downsides to CETA.

**Suggested Answer Key:**

- ☞ CETA is a free trade agreement between Canada and the European Union (EU).
- ☞ The agreement removes trade barriers, such as tariffs and quotas, and facilitates the movement of investment capital, goods, and services between Canada and the EU.
- ☞ The agreement provides access for Canada to the EU market.
- ☞ Consumers will enjoy lower prices on a wide range of goods due to the elimination of tariffs.
- ☞ CETA will increase trade and investment between Canada and the EU, drive economic growth, and create jobs on both sides of the Atlantic.
- ☞ Could lead to stronger economic ties in the future.

## Activity 2: Reading Activity

---

# The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement

**CETA**, or the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, is a free trade agreement between Canada and the European Union (EU). It was signed in 2017 after seven years of negotiations and entered into provisional application in September 2017. The agreement removes trade barriers, such as tariffs and quotas, and facilitates the movement of investment capital, goods, and services between Canada and the EU.

CETA provides significant benefits to citizens, businesses, and governments in both Canada and the EU. On the Canadian side, the agreement provides access to a market of over 500 million people with whom to trade and invest. Consumers in both Canada and the EU will enjoy lower prices on a wide range of goods, including cars and electronics, due to the elimination of tariffs. Businesses will benefit from improved access to a larger market, reduced red tape, and the ability to trade more freely. For governments, it eliminates expensive administrative and bureaucratic procedures, while offering short-term economic stimulus and long-term growth opportunities.

Overall, CETA is a win-win arrangement that will increase trade and investment between Canada and the EU, drive economic growth, and create jobs on both sides of the Atlantic. In 2020, CETA contributed up to \$26 billion to Canada's GDP and up to \$27 billion to the EU's GDP. It is an important step towards the goal of a closer Canada-EU economic partnership.

## Activity 3: Video Activity

---

**Format:** Individual, class

**Activity:** Listening, note taking, discussion

**Time:** 15 minutes

**Video Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbKOvxIYpDc&t=10s>

**Instructions:**

Students will listen to a video about CETA produced by the European Commission. The following definition can be given to provide context and briefly explain the function of the European Commission in the EU:

*The European Commission is the executive arm of the European Union. It is responsible for developing and enacting legislation, implementing decisions, and managing the day-to-day business of the EU. The European Commission is composed of 28 Commissioners—one from each EU Member State—who are appointed by the Council, which is made up of the governments of the Member States. Together, they set the EU agenda and are responsible for the Union's budget.*

Answer any questions the students may have about the European Commission.

Hand out the question sheet and ask the students to read through the questions carefully. Play the video, pausing after the first viewing to allow the students to finish writing. Play the video a second time so that they can check their work and complete any missing answers.

Check the answers with the class and answer any follow-up questions. Ask the students what they found most interesting about the video and why it is interesting to them.

**Answer Key:**

1. a) Trade in goods: €60 billion      b) Trade in Services: €30 billion
2. 150,000 Pascal Jolivet wine company bottles are sold to Canada each year.
3. Dredging equipment is excluded from the Coastal Act by CETA.
4. a) Grana Padano    b) Parmigiano-Reggiano
5. Canada and the EU agree on the value of free trade and the free economy, how the economy should be regulated, and how to ensure that free trade does not damage public policy interest

## Activity 3: Video Activity – Transcript

---

### CETA AGREEMENT

**Cecilia Malmström:** It is the most modern and advanced trade agreement ever made, actually, and it opens up fantastic possibilities for entrepreneurs and companies and consumers in Europe, but also in Canada. And it strengthened, of course, the very tight friendship and Alliance we have with our Canadian friends.

**Mauro Petriccione:** Canada is one of 12 trading partners, about 60 billion a year of trading goods, a bit less than 30 billion in trading services. It's a huge investor in Europe. There's more than hundred and twenty billion of Canadian...Euros of Canadian investment in Europe.

**Pauline Guillot:** We have already been present in Canada for 15 years, this represents around 10% from our turnover, with around 150,000 bottles per year. The agreement between the EU and Canada could help our exports to Canada by allowing us to be more competitive. We are also more present and more visible on the Canadian market and we're becoming more attractive for tourists, it means that more people are coming to Sancerre, we have a lot of Canadian clients who love our wines. So, this is all very positive and interesting, including in terms of human interaction with Canada.

**Dominique Bombaert:** Dredging equipment is excluded from the Coastal Trade Act by CETA, so that will help us to use our foreign equipment in Canada.

**Mieke Fordeyn:** It's not our intention to take over the market of local contractors, but it's our intention to join forces with them and to work together to bigger projects which were not feasible before.

**Attilio Zanetti:** Canada is a big country. Quantities to Canada are more important. Canadians are very fond of Italian PDO cheeses in general, Grana Padano and Parmigiano-Reggiano in particular. I expect advantages from CETA agreement. We expect many people to impact positively on turnover, new jobs, and positive spillover on the communities where we are operating.



**Antonio Multari:** We have around 1,200 employees worldwide. Out of them, 1,000 are in Europe, around 700 are here in Germany. In Canada, the electrical approvals are different to the EU. This is, for us, a kind of a challenge, since we have to adapt our products for the Canadian needs, and this is increasing our prices, which makes us difficult to be competitive compared to local manufacturers. We believe that, due to the CETA agreement, we can improve our situation. That means that we can increase our market share in Canada.

**Mauro Petriccione:** The Canadians have very similar view to the ones we have about not only the value of free trade and the free economy, but also how you should regulate that economy and how you should make sure that free trade does not damage public policy interest.

**Cecilia Malmström:** It simplifies access to the Canadian markets. We have access to their public procurement on all levels, and they're actually planning for a lot of investment in public procurement where we compete. And it also makes it easier for our service companies to have access to the market, and for the staff who work in the service companies to temporarily come and provide that service. And it also includes a very ambitious chapter on sustainable development where we commit to, together, work on issues such as good environment, labour standards, etc.

## Consolidation: Debate

---

**Format:** Small groups (4-5), whole class

**Activity:** Debate

**Time:** 15 minutes

**Instructions:**

Break the class into small groups of 4-5 students. Hand out the discussion questions and allow the student 10 minutes to discuss the questions that are most interesting to them. One person in the group should take notes on the main points of the discussion.

For the final 5 minutes of the class, ask the notetaker from each group to give a summary of their group discussion. Answer any final follow up questions and challenge any controversial opinions.

**Questions:**

1. How has trade between Canada and Europe changed over time? What economic benefits does it offer to both regions?
2. Do you think that the pros of CETA outweigh the cons of CETA?
3. What do you think are the biggest challenges facing CETA implementation?
4. How do you think CETA will impact Canada's economy?
5. What do you think are the potentials and risks of CETA to Canadian businesses?
6. Do you think CETA will create new opportunities for Canadian workers?
7. In your opinion, how can trade between Canada and Europe be improved?

## Extension: Group Research Activity

---

**Format:** Group (3-4)

**Activity:** Research, homework

**Time:** 1 hour

**Instructions:**

Divide students into groups of 3-5. Ask them to divide the task equally between each group member.

Assign each group to research a major country in Europe that trades with Canada. Tell them to include the following information:

- ❧ The major types of goods traded between the countries;
- ❧ Current trade routes and methods, e.g., air cargo, shipping, etc.;
- ❧ The effects CETA has had on the trade relationship between Canada and the country assigned to them.

Ask each group to create a poster that displays the major trading relationship between each country. The poster can be created digitally or physically and submitted in the next class.

Suggested country choices:

- ❧ Germany
- ❧ France
- ❧ Spain
- ❧ Portugal
- ❧ Poland
- ❧ Belgium
- ❧ The Netherlands
- ❧ Austria
- ❧ The Baltics (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania)
- ❧ Italy
- ❧ Hungary