

You Decide

Charter Challenges for Grade Six



The *Charter* series includes:

For teachers

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Extension Activities
A Short Summary of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*
Curriculum Connections
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For students

The animal route

Adinak and the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*
Story One: Morley Moose and Mobility Rights
Story Two: Ava Reindeer and Equality Rights
Story Three: Rufus Raccoon and Search and Seizure
Story Four: Atilla Raven and Freedom to Associate

The alien route

Planet Beboth and the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*
Story One: Axu Alien and Mobility Rights
Story Two: Aqua Skyseeker and Equality Rights
Story Three: Orion Axel and Search and Seizure
Story Four: Razor Cosmos and Freedom to Associate

Funded by Alberta Justice

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For more information, go to www.abclawnet.ca.

Introduction to Teachers

Charter Challenges for Grade Six is designed as a teaching and learning resource for grade six students.

Students are offered the choice of visiting either the fictional animal land of Adinak or the alien planet of Beebonk. There they explore stories that may be considered unfair, and decide if these situations could be successfully challenged under our existing *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

The stories explore four sections of the *Charter*. Further activities and challenges associated with the Charter are included after each story. The resource may be used as an introductory activity, support material, or as a core lesson.

Extension Activities

The following activities are designed to (a) incorporate critical thinking and (b) facilitate student understanding about how the *Charter* protects rights and freedoms in Canada.

Presentation Formats

The activities are suitable for in-class presentations or for presentation to a wider audience using formats such as blogs, newspapers, displays, and so on.

Judgment

Through a bulletin board or on-line display, students depict which section of the *Charter* has historically made the **most** difference to Canadians. Defend the choice.

Ranking

Students rank rights and freedoms guaranteed in the *Charter*. The ranking may illustrate in order of most important to least important the value of the charter to (a) all Canadians, (b) immigrants, (c) official language minorities, (d) grade six students.

Creating

Students

- Write fictional stories similar to the ones in the package, but with a focus on different rights or freedoms
- Write blogs reflecting on the importance of the *Charter*, and comparing their life to a child in a country with limited charter rights.
- Create a charter of rights for the grade six classroom.
- Devise a two column chart of “wants” and “rights.” Explain the difference between a want and a right in terms of protecting individual and collective rights.

A Short Summary of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*

The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, also known as simply the *Charter*, came into force on April 17, 1982. The *Charter*, based on the rule of law, is part of the constitution of Canada and was written to guarantee all Canadians access to fundamental rights and freedoms.

The *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* is important because it supersedes other laws that are proven to be inconsistent with the *Charter*. Canadian courts frequently arrive at decisions in which they invoke the *Charter* to bring Canadian laws into accordance with the principles and values of Canadian society.

Section 1: *Guarantee of Rights and Freedoms*

The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* guarantees the rights and freedoms set out in it subject only to such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.

Section 2: *Fundamental Freedoms*

The *Charter* recognizes the following primary fundamental freedoms

- freedom of conscience and religion
- freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication
- freedom of peaceful assembly
- freedom of association

Sections 3, 4, and 5: *Democratic Rights*

Protects democratic rights such as the right to vote, and contains rules that guarantee Canadians a democratic government.

Section 6: *Mobility Rights*

Protects the right of Canadians to move from place to place, and Section 6(1) ensures that all Canadian citizens are free to come and go as they please.

Sections 7 to 14: *Legal Rights*

Outlines rights that protect Canadians in their dealings with the justice system. Legal rights include the right to be secure against unreasonable search or seizure (Section 8 of the *Charter*).

Section 15: *Equality Rights*

Guarantees that every individual in Canada – regardless of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, colour, sex, age or physical or mental disability – is to be considered equal.

Other

The *Charter* also recognizes the multicultural heritage of Canadians, protects official language and minority language education rights, and guarantees the rights of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada.

Curriculum Connections

This resource is connected to the Alberta Grade Six Social Studies Program of Studies and examines *Citizens Participating in Decision Making*. It applies to knowledge and understanding outcomes and skills related to dimensions of thinking, social participation as a democratic process, research for deliberate inquiry, and communication, all within the context of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

Evaluation Rubric

This is a generic rubric and can be adapted to individual assignments.

Level Criteria	4 Excellent	3 Proficient	2 Adequate	1 Limited *	Insufficient/ Blank *
Demonstrates understanding of how the Charter protects rights and freedoms of Canadians (6.1.3)	Provides comprehensive information about the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.	Provides thorough information about the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.	Provides basic information about the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.	Provides sketchy information about the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.	No score is awarded because there is insufficient evidence of student performance based on the requirements of the assessment task.
Demonstrates critical thinking to analyze the extent to which the Charter protects individual and collective rights of Canadians (6.1.2; 6.1.3; 6.S.1)	Provides rich and detailed examples of the extent to which the Charter protects individual and collective rights of Canadians.	Provides meaningful examples of the extent to which the Charter protects individual and collective rights of Canadians.	Provides appropriate examples of the extent to which the Charter protects individual and collective rights of Canadians.	Provides vague examples of the extent to which the Charter protects individual and collective rights of Canadians.	
Communicates information (4.S.8.6)	Communicates information in a compelling manner to engage the audience.	Communicates information in a purposeful manner to interest the audience.	Communicates information in a straightforward manner generally holds the attention of the audience.	Communicates information in a superficial manner that does little to sustain attention of the audience.	

Links and Resources

1. Canada Inc. *Fundamental Freedoms Project Interactive*. www.charterofrights.ca/en/02_00_01
2. Canadian Heritage. *Your Guide to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. www.pch.gc.ca/progs/pdp-hrp/canada/freedom_e.cfm
3. Canadian Legal FAQs. *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* www.law-faqs.org/nat/char.htm
4. Department of Justice. *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/charter>
5. John Humphrey Centre. *Youth Guide to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. <http://jhcentre.org/dnn/Portals/0/Publications/Youth%20Guide.pdf>
6. Library and Archives Canada. *Building a Just Society*. www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/rights-and-freedoms/index-e.html
7. The Loyal Edmonton Regiment Museum. *Rights and Freedoms- Introduction*. www.lermuseum.org/ler/cof/rightsandfreedom/
8. The University College of Cape Breton Children's Rights Center. *Children's Rights Education Curriculum Resource*. http://discovery.uccb.ns.ca/psych/images/uploads/Final_Grade_6_Curriculum.pdf