

## SOCIAL STUDIES 9 UNIT 3: SECTION 1

### Population by Language Spoken Most Often at Home

Examine the three charts “Population by language spoken most often at home” from Statistics Canada. The statistics are from national census taken in 1991, 1996, and 2001.

These charts identify the number of Canadians who speak French most at home, the number of Canadians who speak English most at home, and the number of Canadians who speak a non-official language in their home.

Read the charts and answer the questions that follow.

#### POPULATION BY LANGUAGE SPOKEN MOST OFTEN AT HOME, CANADA, PROVINCES, TERRITORIES AND CANADA LESS QUÉBEC, 1991, 1996 AND 2001

	English					
	1991		1996		2001	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Canada	18,440,535	68.3	19,294,835	67.6	20,011,535	67.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	559,505	99.2	542,630	99.2	503,985	99.2
Prince Edward Island	124,620	97.3	129,190	97.2	129,950	97.4
Nova Scotia	858,130	96.3	866,260	96.3	863,730	96.2
New Brunswick	488,560	68.2	502,530	68.9	496,680	69.0
Quebec	761,810	11.2	762,455	10.8	746,895	10.5
Ontario	8,499,520	85.2	8,900,845	83.6	9,337,615	82.7
Manitoba	947,085	87.7	971,610	88.3	983,270	89.1
Saskatchewan	921,085	94.4	923,445	94.6	916,790	95.2
Alberta	2,305,200	91.5	2,432,680	91.1	2,681,525	91.2
British Columbia	2,909,930	89.6	3,189,880	86.5	3,279,345	84.8
Yukon Territory	26,740	96.7	29,240	95.4	27,310	95.8
Northwest Territories			34,970	88.6	33,370	89.9
Nunavut			9,160	37.1	11,060	41.5
Canada less Quebec	17,678,730	87.6	18,532,415	86.3	19,264,640	85.6



	French					
	1991		1996		2001	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Canada	6,288,425	23.3	6,448,615	22.6	6,531,375	22.0
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,340	0.2	1,015	0.2	990	0.2
Prince Edward Island	3,045	2.4	3,045	2.3	2,820	2.1
Nova Scotia	22,260	2.5	20,710	2.3	19,790	2.2
New Brunswick	223,270	31.2	222,450	30.1	217,775	30.3
Quebec	5,651,790	83.0	5,830,080	82.8	5,918,390	83.1
Ontario	318,695	3.2	306,790	2.9	307,295	2.7
Manitoba	25,040	2.3	23,140	2.1	20,895	1.9
Saskatchewan	7,155	0.7	5,830	0.6	4,810	0.5
Alberta	20,180	0.8	17,815	0.7	20,670	0.7
British Columbia	14,555	0.4	16,585	0.4	16,905	0.4
Yukon Territory	395	1.4	540	1.8	430	1.5
Northwest Territories			370	0.9	385	1.1
Nunavut			230	0.9	225	0.8
Canada less Quebec	636,635	3.2	618,535	2.9	612,985	2.7

	Non-official language					
	1991		1996		2001	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Canada	2,265,075	8.4	2,784,645	9.8	3,096,110	10.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	3,090	0.5	3,510	0.6	3,100	0.6
Prince Edward Island	430	0.3	625	0.5	615	0.5
Nova Scotia	10,550	1.2	13,000	1.4	14,045	1.6
New Brunswick	4,660	0.7	4,660	0.6	5,250	0.7
Quebec	396,695	5.8	452,540	6.4	460,295	6.5
Ontario	1,158,835	11.6	1,435,160	13.5	1,640,640	14.5
Manitoba	107,260	9.9	105,550	9.6	99,535	9.0
Saskatchewan	47,790	4.9	47,340	4.8	41,550	4.3
Alberta	193,800	7.7	218,690	8.2	238,950	8.1
British Columbia	323,020	9.9	483,295	13.1	572,625	14.8
Yukon Territory	520	1.9	865	2.8	780	2.7
Northwest Territories			4,110	10.5	3,345	9.1
Nunavut			15,285	62.1	15,380	57.7
Canada less Quebec	1,868,380	9.3	2,332,135	10.9	2,635,815	11.7

Source: Statistics Canada, <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/Products/Analytic/companion/lang/tables/langhome.cfm>, 23 July 2009.

**Highlight** the answers to questions 1 to 3 below. Type your response to question 4 between the blue brackets provided.

1. Identify the number of Canadians who speak English in their homes.
2. Identify the number of Canadians who speak French in their homes.
3. Identify the number of Canadians who speak a non-official language in their homes.
4. How have these statistics changed over the ten-year time span?

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Next, look at the statistics for **Alberta**. **Highlight** the answers for questions 5 to 7. Type your answer to question 8 between the blue brackets provided.

5. How many Albertans speak English in their homes?
6. How many Albertans speak French in their homes?
7. How many Albertans speak a non-official language in their homes?
8. How have the statistics for Alberta changed over the ten years?

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The use of languages spoken at home is just one item of research from census reports from Statistics Canada. From this data, Statistics Canada has determined that when families live in a minority setting it appears that the families most often do not speak their mother tongue at home. You can compare this chart to the interactive map from the *Get Focused* section of this lesson to compare the statistics.

**Answer the following questions.** Type your responses between the blue brackets provided.

1. How is the language you speak at home influenced by the main language spoken in the community in which you live?

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2. Identify any challenges and/or opportunities that individuals who speak English or French in a minority setting may encounter.

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Save your completed handout to your **Activities** folder.