

Educational Resources

CANADIAN SYMBOLS AT PARLIAMENT

Symbols Identification Activity

In a large group or in pairs, have students place tokens on what they think is a symbol.



Questions to ask your students:

- What makes a particular object a symbol?
- Does it tell a story?
- How can symbols be grouped?
- What or whom can symbols represent?

CANADIAN SYMBOLS AT PARLIAMENT

(insert symbol)		
What I KNOW...	What I WONDER...	What I LEARNED...

CANADIAN SYMBOLS AT PARLIAMENT



This is a farmer with a spade and a pitchfork.
What kind of work do farmers do?



This is a lumberjack holding an axe and a peavey.
What do lumberjacks do?



This is a hard-rock miner, with a helmet and diamond drill.
Why does he wear a helmet with a light?



This is a sailor and two anchors.
What are anchors used for?

CANADIAN SYMBOLS AT PARLIAMENT



CANADIAN SYMBOLS AT PARLIAMENT



CANADIAN SYMBOLS AT PARLIAMENT

Who or What am I?

The following plants, animals and people can be found in Canada's Parliament Buildings. Can you guess which symbol matches which description? Write your answer in the space provided.

1. You can find me on a 5¢ coin. I have a long flat tail. What am I? _____
2. You can see me on Canada's coat of arms. I have a long horn that comes out of my forehead. What am I? _____
3. You will see me on a shield representing Wales. On the shield I am red and sometimes I breathe fire. What am I? _____
4. I grow wheat and use heavy equipment like tractors.
Who am I? _____
5. I like to swim. My friends and I always travel in schools. Our numbers impressed many early Canadians. What am I? _____
6. I am a flower. I was made famous in a poem by a Canadian soldier-doctor.
What am I? _____
7. I live in the ocean. I am very big! What am I? _____
8. I often get mixed up with the animal on the quarter. I am brown and have antlers.
What am I? _____
9. I wear a lamp on my head because it is dark working underground.
Who am I? _____
10. I like to eat nuts. I have a bushy tail. What am I? _____

unicorn	squirrel	moose	beaver	farmer
orca	miner	dragon	fish	poppy

Ontario – White Trillium

Use your imagination and the clues given in the description below to colour the page.

The trillium represents Ontario. This white flower grows in the forest in the springtime. It is a special flower because it always has three leaves and three petals. The trillium has been the official flower of Ontario since 1937.



Ontario – White Trillium



Quebec – Madonna Lily

Use your imagination and the clues given in the description below to colour the page.

The Madonna lily looks like the heraldic fleur-de-lys on Quebec's flag. It is the symbol of French culture in France and Quebec. The Madonna lily was Quebec's flower for 36 years but it does not grow naturally in Quebec. In 1999, Quebec chose a new flower that does grow naturally in the province: the blue flag iris.



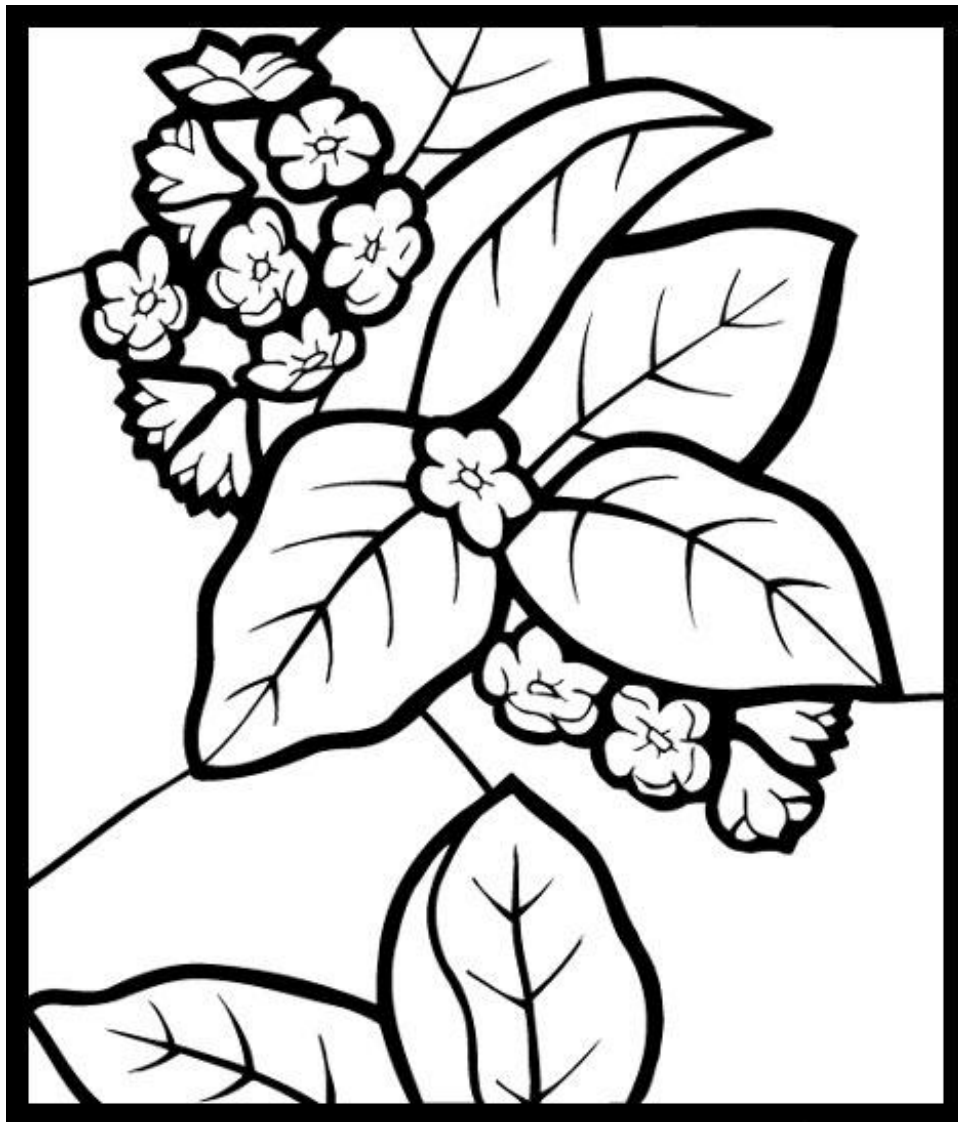
Quebec – Madonna Lily



Nova Scotia – Mayflower

Use your imagination and the clues given in the description below to colour the page.

Nova Scotia's floral emblem, the pink mayflower, grows along the east coast of North America. Early American settlers who saw it as the first flower of spring gave it its name. They named it after their ship, which carried them to North America in 1620. Nova Scotia chose the mayflower as its flower in 1901.



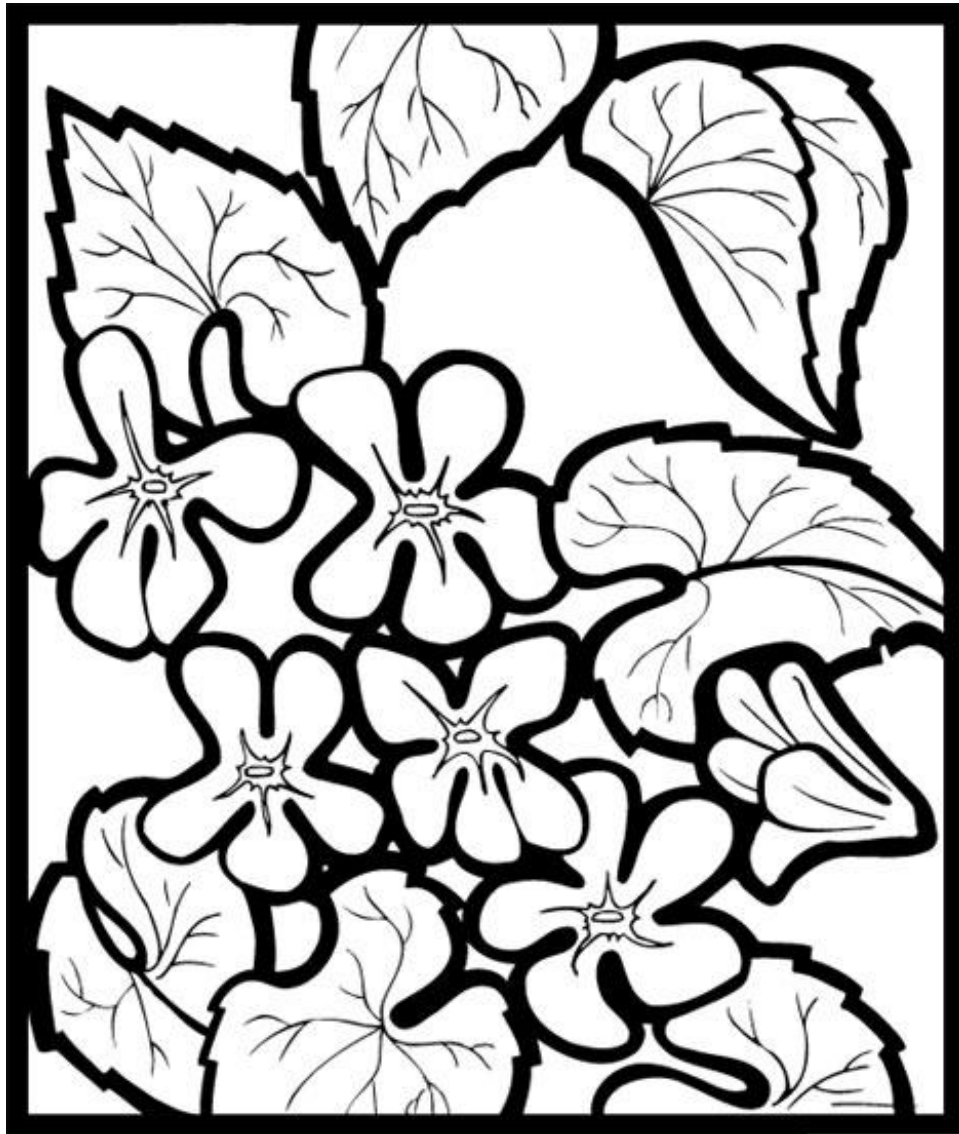
Nova Scotia – Mayflower



New Brunswick – Purple Violet

Use your imagination and the clues given in the description below to colour the page.

The small purple or dark blue flower that grows in wet meadows and forests is the purple violet. It grows very well all over New Brunswick. It was chosen as the provincial flower in 1936.



New Brunswick – Purple Violet



Manitoba – Prairie Crocus

Use your imagination and the clues given in the description below to colour the page.

The prairie crocus is lavender-coloured and has been Manitoba's flower for a hundred years. Children in Manitoba chose it in a vote in 1906. It blooms very early in the spring, sometimes even before all the snow has melted.



Manitoba – Prairie Crocus



British Columbia – Pacific Dogwood

Use your imagination and the clues given in the description below to colour the page.

British Columbia's pacific dogwood has big white flowers which bloom on tall trees in April and May. The pacific dogwood has been British Columbia's floral emblem since 1956.



British Columbia – Pacific Dogwood



Prince Edward Island – Lady's Slipper

Use your imagination and the clues given in the description below to colour the page.

The lady's slipper, a pink orchid, represents Prince Edward Island. It is named the lady's slipper because it looks like a woman's shoe. It was chosen as PEI's flower in 1947. It grows in the cool shade of the forest, and blooms in the springtime.



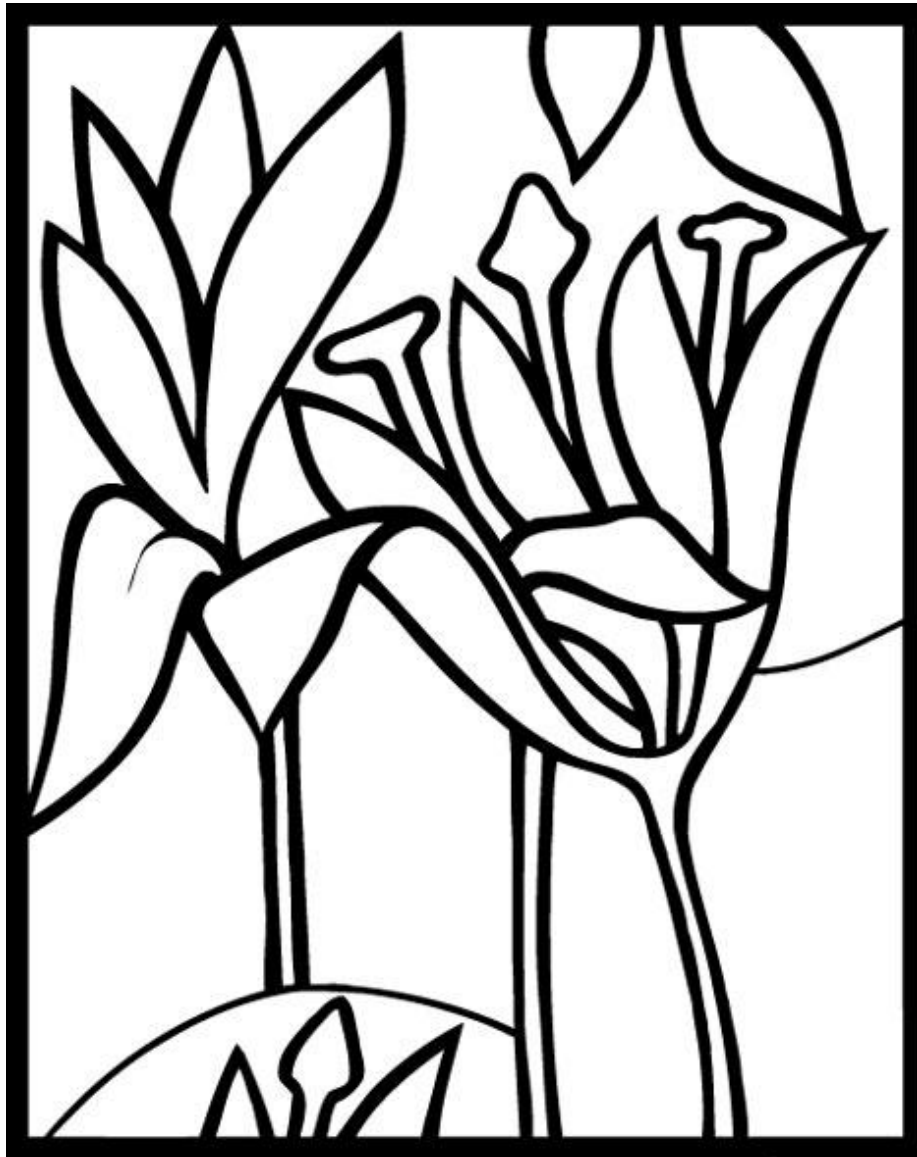
Prince Edward Island – Lady's Slipper



Saskatchewan – Western Red Lily

Use your imagination and the clues given in the description below to colour the page.

Saskatchewan's western red lily grows in meadows and light forests. It is tall and bright red. The western red lily was chosen in 1941 as the provincial flower. It also appears on Saskatchewan's flag.



Saskatchewan – Western Red Lily



Alberta – Wild Rose

Use your imagination and the clues given in the description below to colour the page.

The wild rose is the flower that represents Alberta. In 1930, school children from the province chose the pink prickly rose. It grows across Canada from Quebec to British Columbia.



Alberta – Wild Rose



Newfoundland and Labrador – Pitcher Plant

Use your imagination and the clues given in the description below to colour the page.

Newfoundland and Labrador's red pitcher plant was chosen in 1954 as the province's floral emblem. It is called the pitcher plant because part of it can fill with water, like a pitcher. Curious insects fly into the flower, get trapped in the water, and the plant eats them!



Newfoundland and Labrador – Pitcher Plant



Northwest Territories – Mountain Avens

Use your imagination and the clues given in the description below to colour the page.

The mountain avens is short and white. It can grow in high, rocky ground. It has small leaves. It was chosen as the flower of the Northwest Territories in 1957.



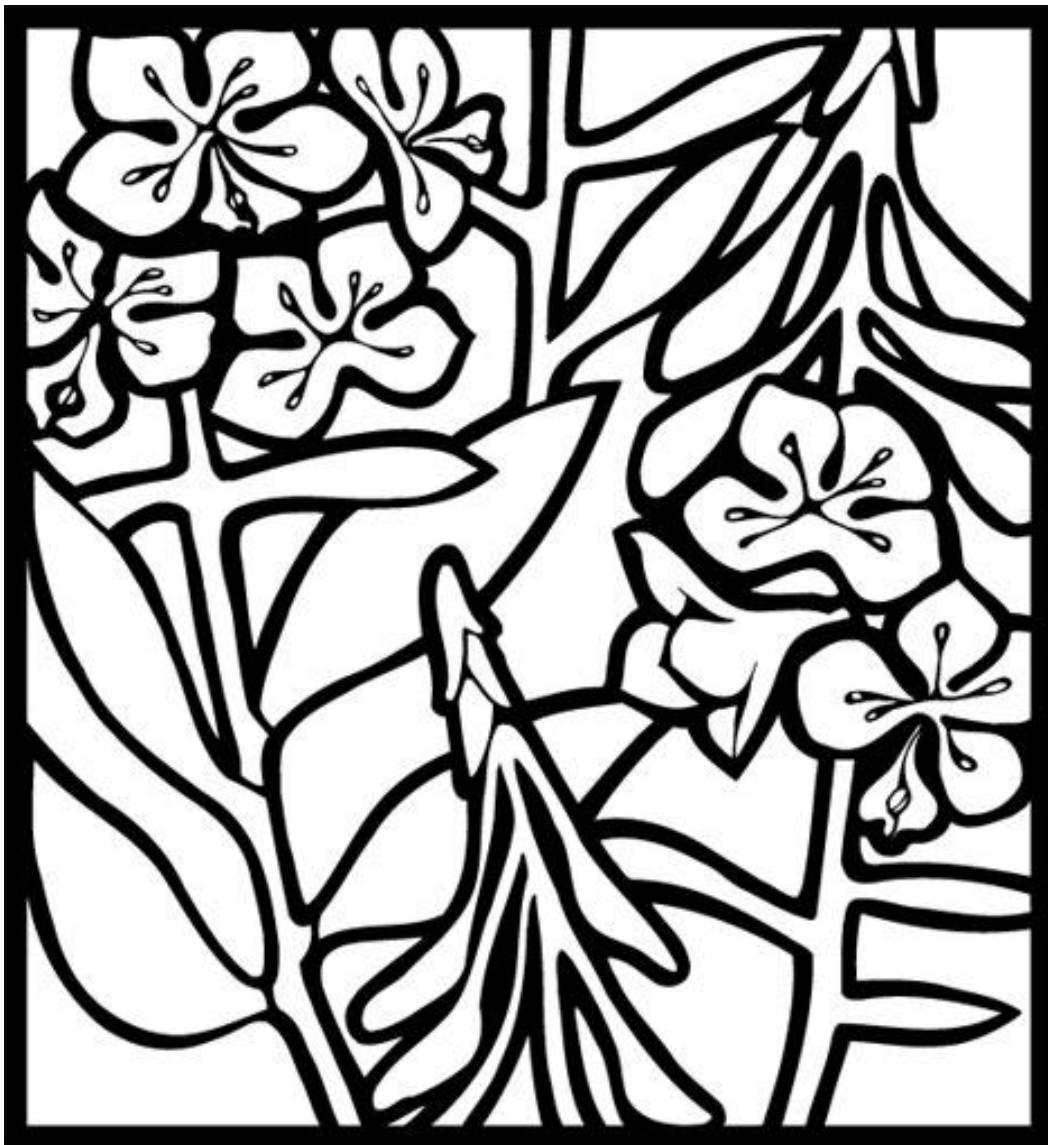
Northwest Territories – Mountain Avens



Yukon – Fireweed

Use your imagination and the clues given in the description below to colour the page.

The fireweed is a tall plant with many small dark pink flowers. It grows in a lot of places. It can grow in clearings, or next to roads and rivers. It is called “fireweed” because it is one of the first plants to grow after a fire. The Yukon chose it in 1957 as its official flower.



Yukon – Fireweed



Think About...

Why do you think there are so many symbols in and around the Parliament Buildings?

- Which symbols do you think are the most important for Canadians?

Why are the Parliament Buildings so large and so grand?

- Why is Parliament an important place?
- Why do lots of people go there just to see it?

Why is Parliament located in Ottawa and not another city in Canada?

- Is it close to your home or far from your home?
- Do you think this is a good place for the capital city to be located? Why?

Who works in these grand buildings?

- What kind of work do you think the Prime Minister of Canada does?
- How do you become the Prime Minister of Canada?
- Do you think it is easy or hard to be the Prime Minister? Why?
- Who are Senators and MPs and from where do they come?

How do you get a job at Parliament?

- Did you know that university students work there in the summer as [guides](#), showing people around the building? What would that be like?
- Do you know what a "page" of the [Senate](#) or of the [House of Commons](#) does?

What else would you like to know about the Parliament of Canada?

- How can we [find out](#) what we want to know?