

# neXID

## CANADIAN

*by Dennis Foon*

### Study Guide



[greenthumb.bc.ca](http://greenthumb.bc.ca)

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# New Canadian Kid- Company List

Green Thumb Theatre presents "**New Canadian Kid**" written by Dennis Foon, based on a concept by Jane Howard Baker, and originally produced by Green Thumb Theatre for Young People, Vancouver, British Columbia.

## 08-09 Production Supporter



## Production Credits

"Menchu"	Emmelia Gordon
"Mog"	Chris Cochrane
"Nick"	Aslam Husain
"Mom"	Tamara McCarthy

Stage Manager	Sarah Wallin
Director	Patrick McDonald
Playwright	Dennis Foon
Production Designer	Drew Facey

Green Thumb Theatre is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and engages, under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement, professional Artists who are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association.

## Office Staff

Tour Manager	Nadine Carew
Production Manager	Alex Currie
Administrative Assistant	Samantha Currie
General Manager	Ivan Habel
Bookkeeper	Jessie Li
Artistic Director	Patrick McDonald
Fundraising Manager	Andy Price
Communications Manager	Ritu Sidhu

This study guide was written by **Sunita Singh Pierce**. Sunita has been working in theatre and with children for the past 16 years. She has a BFA in Theatre and a BEd, minor in Curriculum Instruction, both from Simon Fraser University.

Illustrations used in this guide are by provided by **Ron & Joe** and protected by copyright. Financial assistance for this study guide was provided by Green Thumb Theatre and the Imperial Oil Foundation.



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*Note: Many of the exercises in this guide are not original creations of the author. The author of the guide is not attempting to claim the exercises as her own invention. They have been acquired and obtained from other learning materials. Where no credit is given, the original source is unknown.*

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# New Canadian Kid- BC Curriculum, Synopsis & Characters

## New Canadian Kid and the BC Curriculum

This Study Guide has been designed to help you decide how to prepare your students to see and understand the play. Included in this booklet are suggestions on how to work the performance into your curriculum and ideas on how to promote classroom discussion about friendship, understanding and diversity in the classroom, the community and globally!

## Synopsis

Nick recently arrived from the fictitious country of “Homeland.” He struggles to fit in at his new school in Canada, where he is unable to communicate in the language of his fellow students. To depict Nick’s frustration a clever theatrical approach has been incorporated: Nick and his family speak English, while all the other students speak gibberish. This signature production commissioned by Green Thumb Theatre explores the experience of being an outsider trying to fit in.

## Characters

**Nick** – a young boy who is new to Canada

**Mom** – Nick’s mother who is also new to Canada

**Mog** – a school bully and Mencha’s best friend

**Mencha** – Mog’s best friend and Nick’s new friend



# New Canadian Kid-Background & Discussion

## Production History

The inspiration for this Green Thumb Theatre production originated when a Vancouver school teacher noticed the rich resources of the ESL students in her class, and the diverse stories that they had to tell.

In the early 1980s, Carole Tarlington initiated a program where children interviewed each other to learn what it was like for them to come to Canada. Dennis Foon, who was the Artistic Director of Green Thumb at the time, joined the project and helped to shape the interviews into a play. It was called **Immigrant Children Speak**.

## Immigrant Children Speak

Dennis Foon later used the interviews to develop a script for professional actors at Green Thumb Theatre. He worked with Jane Howard Baker (director of the initial production) to develop the concept of using gibberish in the play. This would help the audience understand what it was like to be bombarded by a foreign language.

Green Thumb has toured New Canadian Kid extensively within Canada, the U.S. and the Pacific Rim. Modified versions have been produced by many other companies around the world, under the title "New Kid."



# New Canadian Kid- Show Etiquette & Tips

## Getting your students ready for the Play

When young people attend a live theatrical performance for the first time they often do not realize how different it is from watching a movie or television show. Live presentations can be more challenging for performers, because unforeseen circumstances can arise and affect their performance. Mistakes cannot be edited out! This makes for a more dynamic experience for both performers and audience members.

## Pre-performance

It is important that you **please remind your students** of the following:

- It is rude and disruptive to talk, eat and drink during the play.
- Photos and recordings are not allowed.
- Excessive movement can be distracting to others watching the play.

## Active Viewing

To make the most out of watching this live performance, **please encourage your students to** not only watch the play for the story, but to also pay attention to the set, costumes, music and lighting. These aspects are an important part of a live performance and will enhance later discussions about the play and the students' experience watching it.



# New Canadian Kid- Show Etiquette & Tips

## **Post performance**

Now that your students have seen the play it's time to further enrich their experience.

The following activities are provided as suggestions and starting points for further exploration into the themes brought up in New Canadian Kid. Activity sections are divided by grade purely based on suggested suitability but are not limited to each age group.

Near the end of this guide you will find several worksheets that investigate aspects of the performance. All the worksheets are in keeping with the BC Ministry of Education Curriculum Guidelines and may be used simultaneously with other units you are teaching during the school year.



## Kindergarten

The following activities are provided as suggestions and starting points for further exploration into the themes brought up in New Canadian Kid. Activity sections are divided by grade purely based on suggested suitability but are not necessarily limited to each age group.

Near the end of this guide you will find several worksheets that investigate aspects of the performance. All are in keeping with the BC Ministry of Education Curriculum Guidelines.

*These suggestions address the **Standards of Social Studies, Social Responsibility and Language Arts Curricula.***

**Social Studies** - Application: simple interpretations from personal experiences, oral sources, and visual representations.

**Society & Culture, Politics & Law** - Awareness of Canada.

**Personal Planning** – Personal Development (Mental Well-Being & Healthy Living).

**Language Arts** – Self and Society (Personal Awareness, Comprehend and Respond and Working Together).



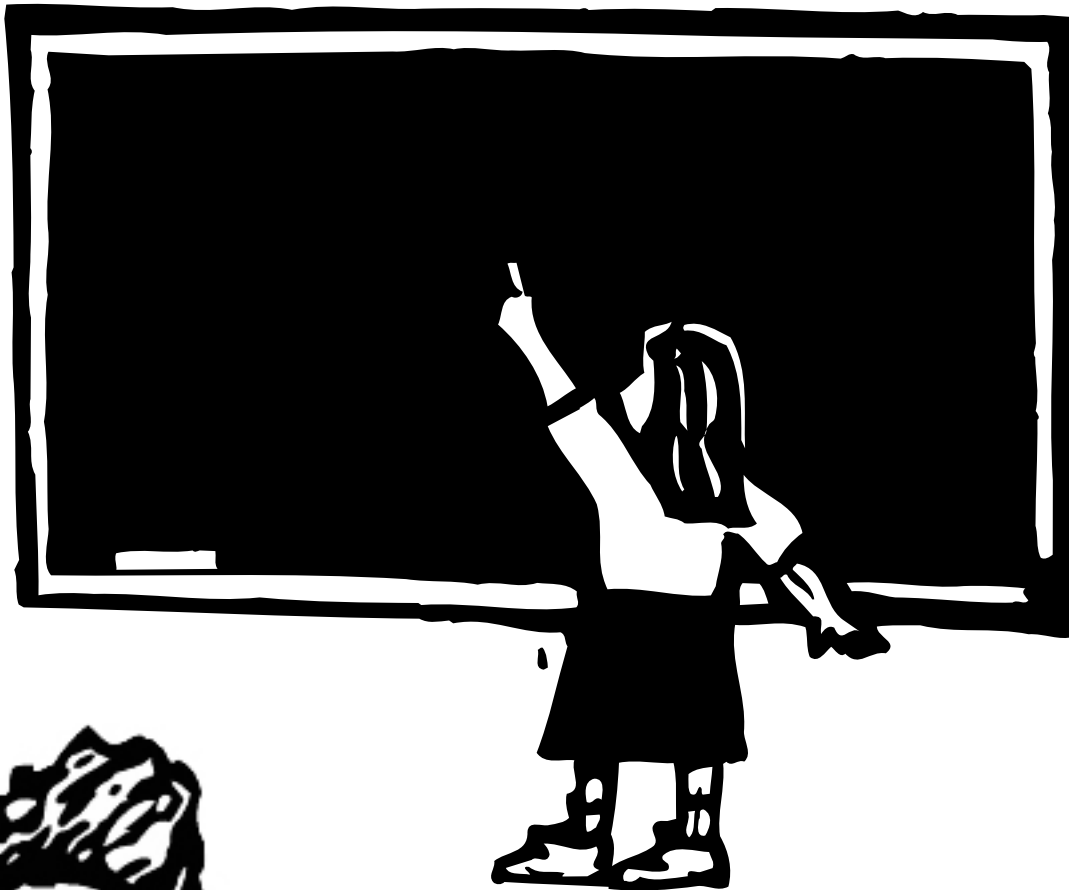


**Springboard for Discussion**

- Who was your favourite character? Why?
- Which character did you not like? Why?

Making Connections:

- o Have you ever moved before?
- o Did it make you feel happy or sad? (all moves are relevant – whether in the neighbourhood, city to city, country to country etc...)
- Do you know how to make friends with someone who is new?
- Did you understand what Mencha and Mog were saying? If you did, how did you figure it out?



## Activities

### Welcome to Our School!

As a class, brainstorm ideas on how to welcome a new student/Nick to your school, (e.g. sharing classroom supplies, snacks, introducing themselves, showing the new student around the school, playing with them during centres etc...).

After brainstorming, ask each student to pick one thing they would do and draw a picture of themselves and the new student/Nick performing that activity.

**EXTENSION:** This could make a great bulletin board display/reminder as to how to welcome newcomers!

### We are all Different, but Still the Same! Game

Please refer to the We are all Different, but Still the Same! Game worksheets.

### Passports!

Please refer to the Passports! worksheet in the pull out worksheet section. This project can span the school year and can be a way to introduce students to different countries and cultures!

*\*Extra: There is also a word scrambler and crossword in worksheets section.*



# New Canadian Kid- Curriculum Connections

## Grades 1 & 2

1 & 2

The following activities are provided as suggestions and starting points for further exploration into the themes brought up in New Canadian Kid. Activity sections are divided by grade purely based on suggested suitability but are not necessarily limited to each age group.

Near the end of this guide you will find several worksheets that investigate aspects of the performance. All are in keeping with the BC Ministry of Education Curriculum Guidelines.

*These suggestions address the Standards of **Social Studies, Writing and Social Responsibility, Language Arts** and **Math Curricula**.*

**Social Studies** - Application: simple interpretations from personal experiences, oral sources, and visual representations.

**Society & Culture, Politics & Law** - Awareness of Canada.

**Math** – Statistics/Data Analysis.

**Personal Planning** – Personal Development (Mental Well-Being & Healthy Living)

**Language Arts** – Self and Society (Personal Awareness, Comprehend and Respond and **Working Together**).

**Fine Arts** – Exploration & Imagination, Context.



# New Canadian Kid- Curriculum Connections

## Springboard for Discussion

- Who was your favourite character? Why?
- Which character did you not like? Why?

Making Connections:

o Have you ever moved before? Did it make you feel happy or sad?  
(all moves are relevant – whether in the neighbourhood, city to city,  
country to country etc...)

- Do you know how to make friends with someone who is new?
- Why did the playwright have Nick and his Mother speak English, and the Canadian characters speak gibberish (a made up language)? Did you understand Mog and Mencha at the beginning of the play? What about at the end?
- What happened in the beginning, middle and end of the play?

1 & 2



# New Canadian Kid- Curriculum Connections

## Activities

### Let's Talk Nonsense!

1 & 2

1. Pick a simple fairytale that most of your students are very familiar with. For example, "Goldilocks and the Three Bears."
2. Pick students to play each character and have them act it out – the rest of the class will be the audience, (be prepared to prompt them if they get lost or get the giggles!).
3. When they are finished, tell them that they are now going to perform it again, except this time they are not allowed to use English. They can make up their own language - gibberish!
4. Afterwards, get some audience/cast feedback. What did they like? What differences did they find between the two versions? How easy was it for your actors to stick to gibberish?

### Welcome to Our School! Graphic Organizer

Using the Graphic Organizer provided for you in the worksheets section, brainstorm the positive and negative ways a new student may be treated by peers. Do this as a class.

#### *Suggestions:*

- create an overhead copy to work on as a class and then have your students copy the work onto their own paper copies.
- students who have trouble with scribing/copying (e.g. ESL or early Grade 1) can draw pictures in the organizer instead.



# New Canadian Kid- Curriculum Connections

## Activities

### Different But the Same

Please refer to the Different But the Same worksheet for a sample graph.

Collect data from you classmates, (e.g. eye colour, hair colour, pierced ears, favourite flavour of ice cream, favourite colour etc...) and then use this data to help make conclusive statements about the classroom!

The purpose of this exercise is to emphasize that we are all different and that diversity is what makes our classrooms (and the world!) a more interesting and better place to live in! How boring would it be if we were all the same?

### Passports!

Please refer to the Passports! worksheet in the pull out worksheet section. This project can span the school year and can be a way to introduce students to different countries and cultures!

*\*Extra: There is also a word scrambler and crossword in the worksheet section.*

1& 2



# New Canadian Kid- Curriculum Connections

## Grades 3, 4 & 5

The following activities are provided as suggestions and starting points for further exploration into the themes brought up in New Canadian Kid. Activity sections are divided by grade purely based on suggested suitability but are not necessarily limited to each age group.

3,4  
& 5

Near the end of this guide are several pull out worksheets that investigate aspects of the performance. All are in keeping with the BC Ministry of Education Curriculum Guidelines.

*These suggestions address the Standards of **Social Studies, Writing and Social Responsibility, Language Arts** and **Math Curricula**.*

**Social Studies** - Application: critical thinking skills – including questioning, predicting, imagining, comparing, classifying– to selected problems or issues, map reading skills, creating a presentation on a selected topic.

**Society & Culture, Politics & Law** - Identify similarities and differences between cultures, assess why immigrants may come to Canada, individual challenges they face and contributions they make.

**Math** – Statistics/Data Analysis.

**Language Arts** – Self and Society (Personal Awareness, Comprehend and Respond, and Working Together).

**Fine Arts** – Exploration & Imagination, Context.



# New Canadian Kid- Curriculum Connections

## Springboard for Discussion

- Discuss the production. How did the set/ costumes / sound / acting / writing / directing get the story across? What worked? What didn't? Why?
- Why do you think that the playwright chose to have the Canadians speak gibberish and the Homelanders speak English?

### Name Calling & Bullying:

- o Why do you think that Mog was bullying Nick?
- o How did this make Nick feel? What would you have done in Nick's place?
- o Why do you think Mencha became Nick's friend?
- o Did you make any personal connections with this play?

*\* Students may enjoy role playing some of their suggestions as to what they think Nick could/should have done.*

3,4  
& 5





# New Canadian Kid- Curriculum Connections

## Activities

### Let's Talk Nonsense!

1. Pick a simple fairytale that most of your students are very familiar with. For example, "Goldilocks and the Three Bears."
2. Pick students to play each character and have them act it out – the rest of the class will be the audience, (be prepared to prompt them if they get lost or get the giggles!).
3. When they are finished, tell them that they are now going to perform it again, except this time they are not allowed to use English. They can make up their own language - gibberish!
4. Afterwards, get some audience/cast feedback. What did they like? What differences did they find between the two versions? How easy was it for your actors to stick to gibberish?

*\* Try the gibberish version again, but this time, assign students to translate what is happening as it is being performed.*

3,4  
& 5



# New Canadian Kid- Curriculum Connections

## Activities

### Passports

Please refer to the Passports! worksheet in the pull out worksheet section. This project can span the school year and can be a way to introduce students to different countries and cultures!

### Create a Country!

In a group of 4 or more, come up with your own country and culture! Brainstorm and prepare a presentation about the language, food, clothing and customs of your country! Bring your presentation to life using drawings and maybe even demonstrating the language and national dance! Use the library, the internet and your imagination to guide you.

### Letter Home

When we meet Nick at the beginning of the play, he is very homesick and misses his Homelander friends very much.

Imagine that you are Nick and write a letter to your best friend back in Homeland. What kind of things would you tell her/him? Would you tell them a bit about Canada, your new school, Mog, Mencha, the food, how much you miss them? This is a chance for your students to be creative!

*\*Extra: There is also a word scrambler and crossword in the worksheet section.*



# New Canadian Kid- Curriculum Connections

## Grades 6 & 7

The following activities are provided as suggestions and starting points for further exploration into the themes brought up in New Canadian Kid. Activity sections are divided by grade purely based on suggested suitability but are not necessarily limited to each age group.

Near the end of this guide are several worksheets that investigate aspects of the performance. All are in keeping with the BC Ministry of Education Curriculum Guidelines.

6 & 7

*These suggestions address the Standards of **Social Studies**, **Writing and Social Responsibility**, **Language Arts** and **Math Curricula**.*

**Social Studies**- Application: critical thinking skills – including questioning, predicting, imagining, comparing, classifying– to selected problems or issues, map reading skills, creating a presentation on a selected topic.

**Identity, Society and Culture** - Identify similarities and differences between cultures, assess diverse concepts of Canadian identity.

**Math** – Statistics/Data Analysis.

**Language Arts** – Self and Society (Personal Awareness, Comprehend and Respond and Working Together).

**Fine Arts** – Exploration & Imagination, Context.

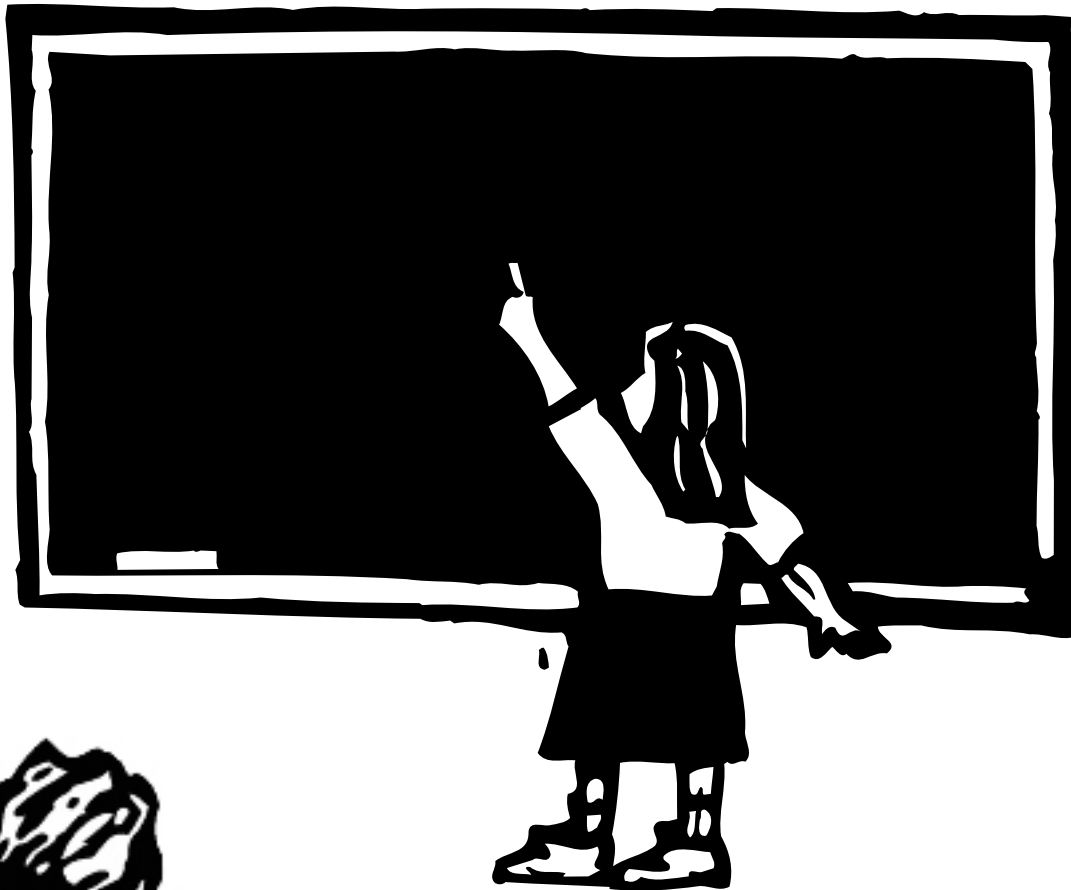


# New Canadian Kid- Curriculum Connections

## Springboard for Discussion

- Discuss the production. How did the set/ costumes / sound / acting / writing / directing get the story across? What worked? What didn't? Why?
  - Why do you think that the playwright chose to have the Canadians speak gibberish and the Homelanders speak English?
  - Do you think that this play is relevant today? Why or why not?
- Mog bullied Nick in a variety of ways. What do you think was the most hurtful? Why?

6 & 7



# New Canadian Kid- Curriculum Connections

## Activities

### Create a Country!

In a group of 4 or more, come up with your own country and culture! Brainstorm and prepare a presentation about the language, food, clothing and customs of your country! Bring your presentation to life using drawings and maybe even demonstrating the language and national dance! Use the library, the internet and your imagination to guide you.

### Classroom Globe

6 & 7

With the exception of First Nations peoples, all Canadians are descendants of ancestors from other countries.

1. Ask your students to share all of the countries that their ancestors came from– they may need to do some research at home with their families.
2. Using an overhead world map, or a large paper map colour in or mark with pins all the countries the class is connected to.
3. Discuss/brainstorm why students' families may have come to Canada. This activity can lead into Passports.

### Passports!

Please refer to the Passports! worksheet. This project can span the school year and can be a way to introduce students to different countries and cultures!



# New Canadian Kid- Curriculum Connections

## Activities

### Let's Talk Nonsense!

In New Canadian Kid, the Canadians speak “gibberish” – a made up language. Ask two students to pick the “where” and “who” of a situation (the teacher may supply this or the audience) and then begin to act it out, speaking only in gibberish. Two other students can act as their translators, first listening to their partner and then explaining what they have said to the audience.

Basically, the translators are, somewhat, in charge of what is happening. This is an exercise in give and take – it's important that every student gets involved!

*\*Extra: There is also a word scrambler and crossword in the worksheet section.*

6 & 7



# New Canadian Kid- Extra Resources

## **In the Library: Books about Immigration and Emigrating Non-Fiction**

Coming to Canada - Susan Hughes

If the World Were a Village: A Book about the World's People – David Smith

The Kids Book of Canadian Immigration – Deborah Hodge

We are a Rainbow – Nancy Maria Grande Tabor

## **Fiction**

Annushka's Voyage – Edith Tarbescu

When Jessie Came Across the Sea – Amy Hest

Good-bye, 382 Shin Dang Dong – Frances Park

One Green Apple – Eve Bunting

How I learned Geography – Uri Shuelevitz

The Name Jar – Yangsook Choi

Spoken Memories – Alik

My Name is Yoon – Helen Recorvits

Tug of War and Between Two Worlds – Joan Lingard

The Arrival – Shaun Tan

The Old Brown Suitcase – Lillian Boraks-Nemetz



# New Canadian Kid- Extra Resources

## In The Computer Lab: Immigration, Canada and Making Friends!

Here are some great websites to explore the next time you and your students are in the computer lab, or even at home! They've got some great ideas, games and information.

United Nations CyberSchoolBus: <http://www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/index.shtml>

Canada's Immigration Museum: <http://www.pier21.ca/schoolsandkids>

Statistics Canada for Kids: <http://www.statcan.ca/english/edu/zone/activity.htm>

Canadian Themed Games: <http://www.dltk-kids.com/Canada/games.htm>

Canadian Geographic Kids: <http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/cgkids/cgkids.asp>

Canadian Kids Link page: <http://www.canadiankids.net/ck/default.jsp>

How to Make Good Friends!:

<http://www.shykids.com/shykidsfriends.htm>

<http://www.kidscape.org.uk/childrenteens/makingfriends/1makingfriends.html>

Bullying Prevention & Help Sites

<http://www.bullyingcanada.ca>

<http://www.bullying.org>

<http://www.championsagainstbullying.com/>

Canadian Children's Rights Council: [http://www.canadiancrc.com/Bullying\\_Canada.aspx](http://www.canadiancrc.com/Bullying_Canada.aspx)

Canadian Safety Council: <http://www.safety-council.org/info/child/bullies.html>

Books about bullying: <http://www.kidsturncentral.com/topics/books/bullybooks.htm>





## We are all Different, but Still the Same! Game

**POSITIVE**

**NEGATIVE**



# New Canadian Kid- Worksheets

## Different but the Same- Graph

### Student Names

## Categories

[illegible]

# New Canadian Kid- Worksheets

## PASSPORT!

This activity can be used to support a unit on multiculturalism, geography etc...

**Materials Needed:** photos of each student or drawings, coloured construction paper for passport cover, white paper for pages, a stapler, felts or pencil crayons, and glue.

1. Create your passport cover with the coloured construction paper by folding it in half and decorating the front and back.
2. Fold white paper in half and place between the covers. Staple to make a booklet.
3. Glue photo/picture on the front page and write in their name, age and birthplace.
4. As you study each country throughout the year (or whatever amount of time you allot) students draw a picture of themselves in that country using the facts they have collected. (e.g. France – drawing of student standing in front of the Eiffel Tower or the Louvre)

**or**

- 4B. Decide which countries you want your class to visit. Have students research facts through books, the internet and guest speakers. Students record important facts about the country in their passports. If you are able to make a stamp or sticker for each country (e.g. Egypt = Pyramid)

students can stick them to the appropriate page of their passport!

**EXTENSION:** at the end of your unit, have a party with your classroom of world travelers. Wear international clothing, play world music and eat international cuisine together!



# New Canadian Kid- Worksheets

## New Canadian Kid Word Scrambler!

Here are some key words from Green Thumb Theatre's play "New Canadian Kid."

By rearranging the letters, can you find the words?

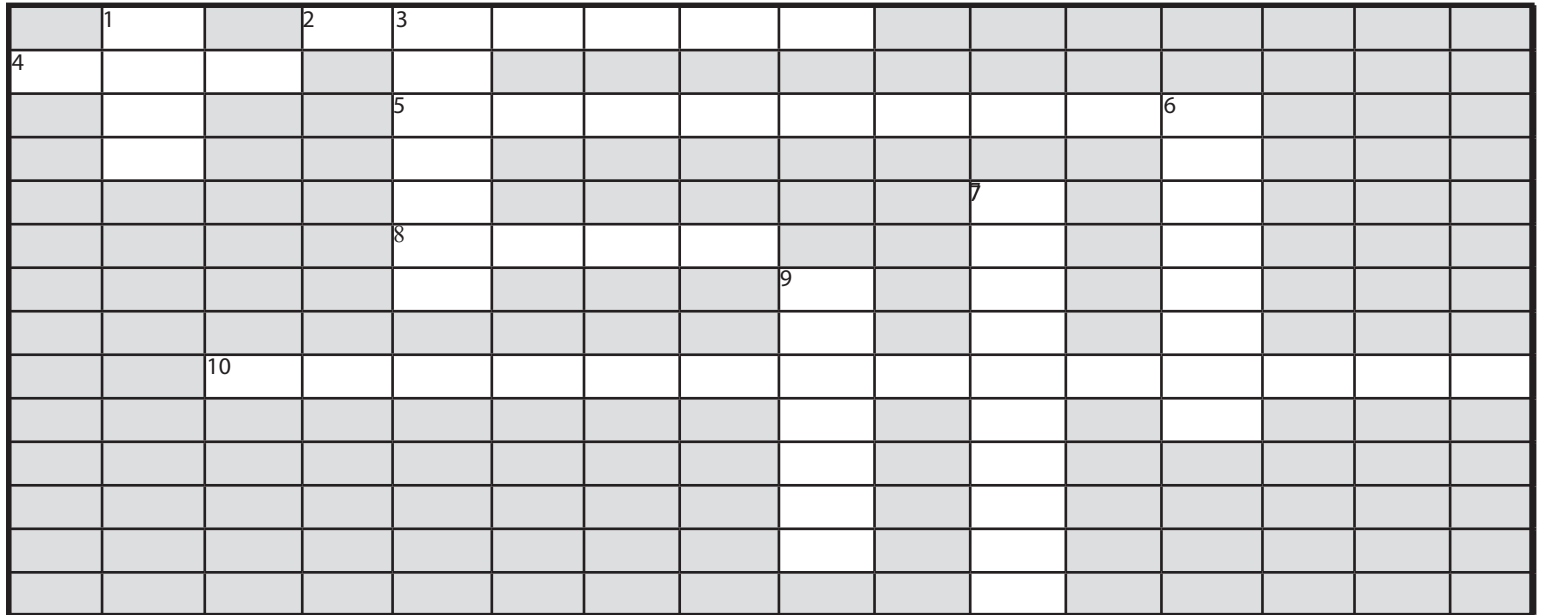
1. OGIVMN – Nick has just finished doing this.      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
2. LOMEANHDER – Nick is from here.      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
3. LUBIYGNL - Mog does this.      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
4. KINC- Main character!      \_ \_ \_ \_
5. NADACA – Nick's new home      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
6. RACOTLACLU – Nick thought he broke one.      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
7. LOWB – Mog broke it.      \_ \_ \_ \_
8. ONELYL – Nick felt like this.      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
9. SIEFRND – Everyone needs these!      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
10. HARSIGN – It's good to practice this.      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

**ANSWERS:** 1. moving 2. Homelander 3. bullying 4. Nick 5. Canada 6. calculator 7. bowl 8. lonely  
9. friend 10. sharing



# New Canadian Kid- Worksheets

## New Canadian Kid Word Crossword!



### ACROSS

2. Who does Nick introduce to his Mom?
4. Who was the bully in the play?
5. What language did Mencha & Mog speak?
8. What bad word did Mog call Nick?
10. What is the title of the play?

### DOWN

1. What did Nick's friends from "Homeland" give him?
3. What language did Nick speak?
6. Where did Nick come from?
7. Who wrote this play?
9. What did Nick's Dad do before he came to Canada?



# New Canadian Kid- Worksheets

## New Canadian Kid Word Crossword!- Answers

	<sup>1</sup> B		<sup>2</sup> M	<sup>3</sup> E	N	C	H	A							
<sup>4</sup> M	O	G		N											
	W			<sup>5</sup> G	I	B	B	E	R	I	S	<sup>6</sup> H			
	L			L								O			
				I						<sup>7</sup> D		M			
				<sup>8</sup> S	G	A	K			E		E			
				H				<sup>9</sup> T		N		L			
								E		N		A			
		<sup>10</sup> N	E	W	C	A	N	A	D	I	A	N	K	I	D
								C		S		D			
								H		F					
								E		O					
								R		O					
										N					

## ACROSS

2. Who does Nick introduce to his Mom?
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**DOWN**

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6. Where did Nick come from?
7. Who wrote this play?
9. What did Nick's Dad do before he came to Canada?



# The New Canadian Kid Thanks You

Thank you for taking the time to use/review the New Canadian Kid Study Guide as a resource to further enrich your students' experience watching the play.



We want to hear from you and your students!

Visit our website at **greenthumb.bc.ca** and tell us what you thought about the play, your experience and future play ideas- we welcome letter's as well. You can also add our link to your classroom website to explore the site as an activity.

**Good luck in the school year and we hope to see you next year!**

## Contact Information

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08-09 Education Supporter

**Great-West Life**  
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