

I would like to discuss a topic about two splendid countries such as Russia and Canada. It is noticed that these two greatest countries, on the one hand, have a set of similarities, but on the other hand they have different traditions, customs, habits, lifestyle and so on. My goal is to learn deeper this kind of information about Canada and Russia.

Let me start with the comparison of the nature of these countries. As everyone knows, Russia is the biggest country in the world and Canada is the second-largest country after Russia, it means that both countries have a diverse nature and an enormous amount of different picturesque places, huge fields, beautiful forests, high mountains, wonderful lakes and rivers. Do you know that in Russia there is the deepest lake in the world that is called Lake Baikal? In turn, in Canada there is Niagara Falls that is the widest waterfall among others. It is considered that Niagara Falls is the most famous and the most beautiful one because the view of this waterfall is really incredible. Also I would like to denote that the climate of these countries is very similar. Russia has very harsh winters in some places, especially in Siberia as well as Canada has severe winters with a lot of snow in the north of the country.

In my opinion, one of the most interesting and engrossing aspect in learning other countries is their culture, traditions and customs. I have known that in Russia and Canada there are some holidays that are the same. Of course, they are New Year and Christmas. However, In Russia we celebrate these holidays for 9 days, but in Canada people have only some days of holidays. As for Christmas, Canadians celebrate it on the 25th of December. We celebrate it on the 7th of January. In both countries people decorate a Christmas tree, give presents to each other and gather together with family. Nevertheless, there are some differences in celebrating these holidays. The differences lie in the fact that Canadian traditional dishes are a turkey or a goose, but in Russia we have the traditional salad "Oliver" and the salad "Herring under a fur coat". Moreover, people in Canada prefer to celebrate New Year outside, for instance, on the rink, unlike Russia, where people celebrate it at home around the festive table. As for me, I adore New Year and Christmas, because it is time of miracle and the fulfillment of all desires.

For me it was very enthralling to look for the information about the lifestyle of Canadian people. In Canada people believe that the best way to grow up good, polite and intelligent children is to bring them up in a friendly family with mother and father. I would like to notice that in Russia people have the same point of view. But unfortunately, in our country there is a huge number of single parent families. I know that in Canada single parent families are not the exception too. As for children, in Canada when students finish school, they have to leave parent's home and start to live separately. In Russia young people can live with their parents as much time as they want and it is not shameful. But I prefer Canadian lifestyle in this aspect, because I completely agree that when you are 18, you should not depend on your parents, you should achieve your goals by your own using your own force. One more interesting fact that I have learnt about Canada it is that when people meet for the first time, they shake hands, and it does not matter whether you are a woman or a man. By contrast, in Russia only men shake hands; if women get acquainted they prefer to hug each other. Canadians are very friendly, outgoing and responsive. They are always ready to help and they have friendship with their neighbors unlike in Russia. I do not know why, but in our country people do not like their neighbors in the majority of cases. I was really pleasantly surprised when I read that in Canada the better part of people do not smoke in comparison with Russia, where, to my deepest regret, a lot of people, including teenagers smoke. I do not smoke and I am proud of it! But I think that we are, I mean Canadians and Russians, very optimistic, kind and nice nations and it unites us.

The system of education is one more point that I am going to review in both countries because I am a pupil of the 11th form and for me it is very important to know everything about the education in these countries. As I found out, general structure - preschool, primary, secondary and higher education - is the same in both countries, but each stage has its differences. Primary and secondary education in both countries is free, but in Russia pupils study for 11 years whereas in Canada they are at school for 12 years. One more significant difference that I descry is that to graduate from school in Canada a student has to pass 16 exams, in Russia it is an easier process, because a student has to pass 4 exams only. As for higher education, I like that in Canada you can work on probation in any company while you are studying at university. In Russia, you cannot do it. But, in my opinion, it is very important to gain experience for your future profession that is why I would like to continue my higher education in Canada.

In conclusion, I would like to say that Russia and Canada are really great countries with magnificent nature, unusual traditions, friendly and kind people. We have so many similarities, but at the same time we are so different, and it is wonderful, because every country, every nation should have its own otherness. For example, when foreigners think about Russia they immediately imagine bears, hat with ear flaps, accordion and Red Square. When foreigners think about Canada they imagine hockey, maple-leaf, Niagara Falls. I am very proud that I live in Russia, but on the other hand, I want to see other countries, to see their culture, traditions, people, nature and then with the large luggage of knowledge to return to my country and use my experience in my future profession.