



NFB FILM

STUDY GUIDE

OTTAWA, CANADA'S CAPITAL

Color or Black & White — 14 minutes
Produced by the National Film Board of Canada, 1958.

Suggested Uses: Social Studies classes in junior high schools. Auditorium showing and curriculum enrichment for all grades.

SYNOPSIS

This portrait of the Ottawa of today provides many colorful impressions of the beautiful and busy headquarters of a vital, growing nation. More than a capital, Ottawa is also an international city, for Canada's growing importance in the world has brought to her avenues embassies and legations from all parts of the world. The camera picks out a few of these as it makes its tour of the city. It singles out, too, some of the traditional pomp and circumstance which survives in formalities at Government House, official residence of the Queen's representative.

Now recognized as one of the tulip capitals of the world, springtime in Ottawa is a distinctive time of year and a delight to the camera fan. The film lingers over the miles of scenic drives and waterways that almost encircle the city and along which tulip beds of all descriptions spill over in a riot of color.

The film explores also, for the audience to see at close hand, the grounds and interiors of the stately Parliament Buildings, providing descriptions of the House of Commons, the Senate Chamber and the Peace Tower. From the Peace Tower we hear the bells of the carillon spreading their music over the city.

Not just a city of government and taxes, Ottawa, we see, possesses an individuality all her own and promises, under the Federal District Commission's plan, to become a national capital of which Canada can be genuinely proud.

CONCEPTS

The following are the main learning concepts presented in the film. These points should be checked before showing the film because by knowing them a more accurate judgment may be made of the extent to which the film will be of use in the class. Some of these concepts are more difficult than others and their degree of application will be governed by the grade level at which the film is used:

1. The site of Canada's capital city was chosen by Queen Victoria.
2. It was selected so as to be easily accessible to both French and English.
3. Because nearly fifty embassies and legations are located there, Ottawa has become almost an international city.
4. Most federal departments are located in Ottawa.
5. Parliament, the reason for the city's existence, is the centre of Ottawa.

6. In the House of Commons, 265 Members of Parliament of different parties, different tongues, different viewpoints, from different regions, meet in the conduct of the country's affairs.
7. The Rideau Canal was built by Colonel By to serve as a sort of "emergency back door" to the Great Lakes in the event of American invasions.
8. The pillars of Confederation Hall at the entrance to Parliament symbolize the spirit of unity in purpose born with Confederation.
9. Maintenance of the natural beauty of the city and the study of plans for future growth are carried out by the Federal District Commission.

CLASS PREPARATION

a) Introduction:

As well as forming a part of a study of Canadian Government, this film would be useful as a field trip on film to Canada's capital. In the latter case, auditorium or large group showings would be quite effective.

A picture of the Houses of Parliament would serve as an immediate focus for class attention.

b) Words Which May Cause Difficulty:

accessible
embassy

legation

carillon
voyageur

c) Directive Questions Answered in the Film:

1. Who chose Ottawa as Canada's capital? Why was this site selected?
2. Why can Ottawa be described as an international city?
3. What makes Ottawa a beautiful city?
4. What is the center of city? What are the names of some of the more important government buildings here?
5. Why was the Rideau Canal built? Why is it important today?
6. What is the significance of the Memorial Chamber, and Confederation Hall?

SUGGESTED FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

1. Take up and discuss the directive questions. Relate them as much as possible to the various concepts presented in the film.
2. On an outline map of Canada, locate and label Ottawa and the ten provincial capitals.
3. Discuss the different functions of provincial and federal governments.
4. Discover what is meant by a government department. Make a study of one particular department.
5. Become familiar with the long-range plans to beautify Ottawa.

RELATED VISUAL AIDS

Films:

A CAPITAL PLAN (NFB — 11 minutes)
THE SCEPTRE AND THE MACE (NFB — 30 minutes)

Filmstrips:

HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT (NFB — Color)
OTTAWA (NFB — B&W)
OUR GOVERNMENT: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (NFB — B&W)

