# Chapter 2: Expressions of Nationalism

Social Studies 20-1

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#### **Definitions**

- Expressions = the process of making known one's thoughts or feelings
- Nationalism = the collective, shared sense of belonging of people who identify themselves as a nation
- Expressions of Nationalism = When individuals or groups of people communicate or act on this shared sense of belonging
- We might think of patriotic expressions such as waving a flag, singing the national anthem, or competing in an international event on behalf of one's country. These are all expressions of nationalism, but there are many more examples to explore.

# How is Nationalism Expressed?

- People can choose to express their nationalism in a variety of ways, including through:
  - celebrations of identity
  - political actions
  - The writing and telling of history
  - artwork (painting, sculpture, illustration, and graphic design)
  - literature (novels, plays, and poetry)
  - multimedia (television, websites, movies, animation, and video games)
  - magazines and newspapers
  - songs and music
  - speeches
- Nationalism can also be expressed in how people live as a nation, in their daily lives and ways of life.

## **Expressions - Examples**

Examine the photos. What understandings of nation do these expressions communicate?





George Littlechild's art at the Comox Valley Art Gallery Courtenay, British Columbia

Tank Man (also known as the Unknown Protester or Unknown Rebel) is the nickname of an unidentified man who stood in front of a column of tanks on June 5, 1989, the morning after the Chinese military had suppressed the Tiananmen Square protests.

# Why Express your Nationalism?

- People express their nationalism both **consciously**, meaning that they are aware of what they are doing and why, and **subconsciously**, meaning that they are not fully aware.
- Expressions of nationalism can be motivated by a variety of things, but are often motivated by the **desire to reinforce feelings of belonging** in the people of a nation.
- The reinforcement of these feelings can lead to the unification of the individuals of the nation, to the confirmation of a nation's identity, and to reflections on one's own personal identity.
- Individuals and nations also express their nationalism to communicate
  their collective understandings of geography, culture, language, ethnicity,
  the land, religion and spirituality, and citizenship.

### What nation(s) do you identify with?

What types of connections and experiences do you share with other members of the nation(s)?

Have you ever expressed your feelings related to these connections and experiences?

# Case Studies: Explorations of Expressions of Nationalism

- Ukrainians
- Metis
- Acadians
- Canadians
- FNMI

For this task, you will be assigned a group. Your group must create a shareable document (PowerPoint to present and one page of summary notes for your peer) on your assigned nation.

- Identify a range of expressions of nationalism demonstrated by the members of that nation. (Minimum of 5)
- 2. What shared experience of the members of the nation is reflected in each expression?
- 3. Is the shared experience related to geography, language, spirituality and religion, ethnicity, culture, citizenship, or a combination of any of these?
- 4. Include any other relevant information that helps form your understanding of this nation.

# Chapter 2 Review

- What are expressions of nationalism?
  - What are different ways nations express their nationalism?
  - Be able to identify different expressions
- What shared experiences impact expressions of nationalism?
  - Specifically for Ukrainians, Metis, Acadians, and Canadians
- In what ways have you expressed nationalism?