

Canada: Marcel Makes a Sacrifice | Worksheet Packet

Geography Focus

Map of Canada



Map of Canada by MapGrid, CC BY-SA 4.0. Source: Wikimedia Commons.

Directions:

- ☐ Label the province of Ontario and indicate where the capital city of Toronto is with a star
- ☐ Label each of the provinces and territories of Canada
- ☐ Label the United States, Alaska, Greenland, and Iceland
- ☐ Label the Hudson Bay, Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, and Great Lakes



Map of Canada Labeled with Scale



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Directions:

1. Using the scale, estimate the straight-line distance from the western edge of British Columbia (near Vancouver Island) to the eastern edge of Newfoundland and Labrador (near St. John's). Give your answer in kilometers, then convert to miles.

_____ km _____ mi

2. Using the scale, estimate the straight-line distance from the northernmost land in Nunavut (top of the Arctic islands) to the southern tip of Ontario (near the Great Lakes). Answer in kilometers.

_____ km

3. Estimate the distance in miles from Ontario to Whitehorse. _____ mi

Vocabulary Focus & Sentence Writing

Word Bank:

universal	medical tourism	province	alliance	monopoly	privatized
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Match the term to its definition:

1. _____ When a corporation or government has total control over a good or service.
2. _____ Paid for by individual people and companies.
3. _____ Something that's applicable to everyone in a group.
4. _____ Canada has ten of these, rather than states.
5. _____ When someone travels to another country for a medical procedure.
6. _____ A formal agreement between two nations to support each other and work together.

Write two sentences using any two words from the word bank above. Try to connect your sentence to the story.

7. _____

8. _____

American vs. Canadian Healthcare

Using the chart below, list 3–4 key differences between the American and Canadian healthcare systems. Focus on tradeoffs (cost, access, wait times, choice, quality, etc.). Use page 11 of the book as your source.

American System	Canadian System

Reading Comprehension and Personal Reflection

Answer the following questions based on your reading.

1. How does Marcel feel about the healthcare system in Canada?

2. What was the sacrifice that Marcel made?

3. Explain the danger that Marcel's father, Alain, faced if he waited for treatment.

Long Answer Response:

4. Which value mattered most in this story—fairness (everyone treated the same), speed (getting help quickly), or quality (getting the best care)? Use two details from the text to support your answer.

Personal Reflection Prompt:

5. How would you feel if someone in your family needed serious medical care but was told they had to wait months for treatment? Explain your feelings and connect them to Marcel's family's experience.

Marcel Makes a Sacrifice | Answer Key

Geography Focus

Map of Canada



Map of Canada by MapGrid, CC BY-SA 4.0. Source: Wikimedia Commons.

Directions:

- ☐ Use the answer key above to correct student work.

Map of Canada Labeled with Scale



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Directions:

1. BC (Vancouver Island area) → St. John's: ~5,200 km ≈ ~3,225 miles (accept rounded down estimate)
2. Northern Nunavut (high Arctic) → Southern Ontario: ~4,600 km
3. Toronto → Whitehorse: ~2,540 miles (≈ 4,080 km)

Vocabulary Focus & Sentence Writing

Word Bank:

universal	medical tourism	province	alliance	monopoly	privatized
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Match the term to its definition:

1. **Monopoly** When a corporation or government has total control over a good or service.
2. **Privatized** Paid for by individual people and companies.
3. **Universal** Something that's applicable to everyone in a group.
4. **Province** Canada has ten of these, rather than states.
5. **Medical tourism** When someone travels to another country for a medical procedure.
6. **Alliance** A formal agreement between two nations to support each other and work together.

Write two sentences using any two words from the word bank above. Try to connect your sentence to the story.

7. and 8. **Opened-ended. Answers will vary. Look for correct usage of the term and connection to the story.**

American vs. Canadian Healthcare

Using the chart below, list 3–4 key differences between the American and Canadian healthcare systems. Focus on tradeoffs (cost, access, wait times, choice, quality, etc.). Use page 11 of the book as your source.

American System	Canadian System
<i>Answers will vary. Examples:</i>	
<i>Mostly privatized; Medicare/Medicaid for the elderly/poor</i>	<i>Universal, tax-funded, province-controlled</i>
<i>Insurance companies compete</i>	<i>Private companies cannot offer the same service as the government</i>
<i>More specialists, faster service, more innovation</i>	<i>More general practitioners, longer wait times for specialists, tests, surgeries</i>

Reading Comprehension and Personal Reflection

Answer the following questions based on your reading.

1. How does Marcel feel about the healthcare system in Canada?

Answer key (model): At first, Marcel thinks Canada’s universal system is fair and good because care is free at the visit. As he learns about long waits and shortages—especially when his dad gets sick—he starts questioning it and investigating other options.

2. What was the sacrifice that Marcel made?

Answer: He gave up his spot in the competitive computer programming program so the family could go to Ohio for immediate surgery, and he would attend school there temporarily.

3. Explain the danger that Marcel’s father, Alain, faced if he waited for treatment.

Answer: Alain had a stomach tumor; waiting months risked the tumor spreading and made the situation potentially life-or-death. The delay also meant ongoing severe pain and reduced chances of successful treatment compared to immediate surgery.

Long Answer Response:

4. Which value mattered most in this story—fairness (everyone treated the same), speed (getting help quickly), or quality (getting the best care)? Use two details from the text to support your answer.

Answers will vary. Examples:

- Speed model: Speed mattered most because the “front of the line” surgery was still 5.5 months away, so the family traveled to the U.S. for immediate surgery. Marcel even gave up his program to make quick treatment possible.
- Fairness model: Fairness mattered most because Alain believes universal healthcare is right even when it’s imperfect, and he initially refuses expensive U.S. care because cost shouldn’t block treatment
- Quality model: Quality mattered most because the story highlights specialists, technology, and faster procedures in the U.S., and Jacques argues those differences could change outcomes in serious cases.

Personal Reflection Prompt:

5. How would you feel if someone in your family needed serious medical care but was told they had to wait months for treatment? Explain your feelings and connect them to Marcel’s family’s experience.

Open-ended, answers will vary. Grade for: clear emotion + explanation + connection to Marcel’s family’s experience (wait months / fear / urgency / sacrifice).