



Activity Sheet 3

“Today, the Governor General...”

Instructions

- Research and present in class one of the five themes below.
- Information and images can be found at www.gg.ca.
- Your introduction must begin with the words, “Today, the governor general ... “
- The body of your presentation must answer all the questions listed under your theme.
- In your conclusion, share your personal impressions on what you have learned.

Themes and avenues of research

1. Biographical:

“Today, the governor general . . . is Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary May Simon.”

- Who is Ms. May Simon (career, accomplishments, etc.)? To find out, visit www.gg.ca/en/governor-general/governor-general-mary-may-simon.
- When did she take office (installation date)?
- What events has she taken part in recently? Visit www.gg.ca/en/activities.

2. Descriptive:

“Today, the governor general . . . has a number of responsibilities, which can be grouped into five fields of activity.”

- What are these five fields of activity? Visit www.gg.ca/en/governor-general/role/responsibilities.
- What are her duties with regards to the Canadian Forces? Visit www.gg.ca/en/governor-general/role/responsibilities/commander-chief.
- Through what types of activities does she support Canadian values, such as diversity and inclusion? Give examples of recent events. Visit www.gg.ca/en/governor-general/role/responsibilities/bring-canadians-together.

3. Reflective:

“Today, the governor general . . . meets the students at [name of school].”

- Why does the governor general meet with groups of students? Visit www.gg.ca/en/governor-general/role/responsibilities/bring-canadians-together.
- If the governor general were to meet with you and your class today, during a visit to your school or an online conversation, what would you like her to learn about, see or discuss? Why?
- What would you ask her? Why?

4. Case study:

“Today, the governor general . . . recognizes Canadians who have made a difference in our society.”

- What are the Canadian honours? Visit www.gg.ca/en/honours/canadian-honours.
- Who in your community has received a Canadian honour or a governor general’s award? Present a few examples. Visit www.gg.ca/en/honours/recipients.
- Who do you think, in your community, deserves to receive a Canadian honour? Identify which honour they deserve. Justify your choice using the criteria listed in the sections about each honour at www.gg.ca/en/honours/canadian-honours.

5. Opinion piece or class debate:

“Today, the governor general . . . plays an essential role in protecting our parliamentary democracy.”

- What are the governor general’s responsibilities regarding our democracy? Visit www.gg.ca/en/governor-general/role/responsibilities/constitutional-duties.
- In your opinion, have there been any incidents in recent or not-so-recent history in which a governor general had to intervene in order to ensure good governance of the country?
- In your opinion, what is the real scope of the powers of the Crown that the governor general can use in exceptional circumstances? See the chapter on “Powers of the Crown” in Kevin MacLeod’s *A Crown of Maples: Constitutional Monarchy in Canada*, available in a PDF format at www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/royal-symbols-titles/crown-maples-publication.html.
- Do you agree with the statement that “the governor general plays an essential role in protecting our democracy”? (Why or why not? Justify your answer.)

