Québec
Province in Canada

PQ, QC

A personal view – Stéphane Lafortune
April 2022
Topics

- Scale: map
- Dates – history
- Water (St-Lawrence River) and cities, regions
- Montréal and region: Laurentians and Eastern Townships
- Québec City and region
- When to go: Montréal Jazz Festival (June), Québec Winter Carnival (February), Fall (colors), Spring (Sugar Shack)
- Hydro-electricity (95%); exports to US (New England, New York; via DC interconnection lines)
- Food: poutine, meat pie (tourtèire), bread pudding, baked beans, maple syrup (72% of world production), cheeses, rotisserie chicken is very popular; bagels and smoked meat in Montréal
- Winter Sports: ice hockey (Montréal Canadiens --Maurice Rocket Richard), going to Florida
- Some famous people from Québec: Céline Dion, Denis Villeneuve (Dune), Jean-Marc Vallée (Dallas Buyers Club), Leonard Cohen, Pierre Trudeau, Marc Garneau, Julie Payette, Farah Alibay
- Nobel Prize Winners from/born in Québec: Sydney Altman (Chemistry), Rudolph Marcus (Chemistry), Ralph Steinman (Medicine), Saul Bellow (literature)
- On the funny side: Poisson d’avril
Some Data about Québec

• Area (2.2x Texas, about size of Alaska, 3x France)
• Population: 8.5 M
• Languages: French (77%), English (7%), other (16%)
• Largest cities: Montréal (1.8M, 4M), Québec City (500K, 800K)
• Flag: Fleur de Lys
• National Holiday: June 24 (St-Jean Baptiste)
  • Canada Day: July 1
• Motto: “Je me souviens” [“I remember”]
1535: Jacques Cartier sails from St-Malo, France, to what is now Québec City and Montréal (St-Lawrence River – Fleuve St-Laurent)

1608: Québec City is founded

1642: Montréal is founded

Conjecture: Around 1665, my ancestor arrives in Nouvelle-France (first Lafontaine we think!)

1760: France loses war to England and Nouvelle-France becomes a British possession; about 80,000 French Canadians then

1867: The Dominion of Canada is created (4 colonies); the Queen of England remains head of state
  • At the same time, the US bought Alaska from Russia
Hydroelectricity

• Hydro-Québec: state-owned. Exports electricity.
• DC lines connecting Québec grid to New England states and New York State
  • Read more at: https://www.hydroquebec.com/clean-energy-provider/markets/
• More than 95% of electricity in Québec is generated by hydropower
Tourism

• 600 miles to drive from Ann Arbor to Montréal

• Montréal to Québec City: 160 miles

• Montréal to Tadoussac: 300 miles

• Montréal to Sept-Îles: 600 miles

• How to convert from Miles to Kilometers?
Tourism – Montréal and surroundings

• Walk around Old-Montréal
• Mont (Mount) Royal adjacent to downtown
• Quartier Latin
• Museums: Fine Arts, Contemporary, etc.
• Botanical Garden and Olympic Park (1976)
• La Ronde Amusement Park
• Arts & Festivals: Jazz, Film – Cirque du Soleil
• Drive to Laurentians (North) or to Eastern Townships (East)
Photos from Wikipedia

• Montréal:
  • https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montreal
Tourism – Québec City and surroundings

• Explore “Basse Ville” and its history
• Parliament of Québec, Plaines d’Abraham, Citadelle, etc.
• Explore restaurants in the city
• Winter Carnival in Québec City
• Go to Ile d’Orléans (bike)
• Go to La Malbaie Region
• Whale cruise in Tadoussac
Photos from Wikipedia

• Québec City:
  • https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quebec_City
Let’s talk Food!
Montréal Specialties

• Bagels

• Smoked meat
Maple syrup and Sugar Shacks

• 72% of world’s production of maple syrup

• “Cabane à sucre”

More on food

• French influence

• Rotisserie chicken!

https://www.st-hubert.com/fr/a-propos-de-nous/70ans.html
Hockey! Montréal Canadiens

• Maurice “Rocket” Richard (1950s)
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cp_9Cd4UdiM

• Guy Lafleur (1970s)
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12-x70nq0vl

• Mario Lemieux and Patrick Roy (1990-2000s)
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k4FpcE3uZck
Hockey Trivia...

- NHL hockey rink: 200’ by 85’

- International hockey rink: Approx. 200’ by 100’
Some Québécois (Quebec[k]ers)

• Céline Dion, Denis Villeneuve (Dune), Jean-Marc Vallée (Dallas Buyers Club), Leonard Cohen, Pierre Trudeau, Marc Garneau, Julie Payette, Farah Alibay

• Nobel Prize Winners from/born in Québec:
  • Sydney Altman (Chemistry)
  • Rudolph Marcus (Chemistry)
  • Ralph Steinman (Medicine)
  • Saul Bellow (literature)
April Fool’s Day in Québec and France

• Poisson d’avril !
National Anthem of Québec

Composed in 1975 By Gilles Vigneault

Search “Quebec gens du pays” on youtube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z6gXAZeOFo0
Extra slides
More photos...

• Montréal and outdoor staircases:
  https://lrdgcampus.com/blog/outdoor-staircases-a-photo-history-of-a-montreal-icon
Industries in Québec

• Natural resources...
• Aeronautics
• Bombardier: from snowmobiles to trains and planes
• Buses and trucks (electric): Prévost and Lion
• Fishing
• Dairy
• Furniture
Snowmobiles

• Invented by Joseph-Armand Bombardier in 1935
  • Ski-doo
  • Sea-doo
“Most beautiful” French songs...

• Search “Quand les hommes vivront d’amour” on youtube...
French Canadian explorers and Michigan

• Détroit: 1701, Antoine Cadillac

• St-Ignace: 1671, Jacques Marquette

• Charlevoix...