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2013/2014: Issue 2

A monthly current events resource for Canadian classrooms

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MISSION STATEMENT
LesPlan Educational Services Ltd. aims to help teachers develop students’ understanding of and ability to critically assess current issues and events by providing quality up-to-date, affordable, ready-to-use resources.

SUGGESTED APPROACH
What in the World? is a complete current events program that can be used on its own or to supplement an existing classroom routine. This classroom-ready resource offers ‘something for everyone’ and can be taught as a whole or in parts, in-class, or as a homework assignment.

WHAT IN THE WORLD?:

• ALLOWS FOR DIFFERENTIATED LEARNING
What in the World? is available in two levels to meet your students’ varied learning needs.

A Word file containing each month’s articles and questions is also posted online, so you can quickly and easily modify the articles and/or questions to suit your students’ specific needs.

• IS TECH-FRIENDLY
Project each month’s pdf on your Promethean or Smart Board to read articles together. Our pdfs also work seamlessly with assistive reading technology like Kurzweil.

• IS INTERACTIVE
On our student site at www.news4youth.com, students can vote in a monthly poll, submit their opinions to our moderated forum, and easily access links referenced in What in the World?.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE
This year’s issues will be posted to our website or mailed out on or about the following dates:

Issue 1 – August 27; Issue 5 – January 23;
Issue 2 – September 26; Issue 6 – February 27;
Issue 3 – October 31; Issue 7 – April 10;
Issue 4 – November 28; Issue 8 – May 8.

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On September 10, Quebec Premier Pauline Marois announced that her Parti Québécois (PQ) government plans to bring in a new law that would forbid Quebec civil servants from wearing religious symbols at work.

**FROM DAYCARE WORKERS TO JUDGES**

The proposed Charter of Quebec Values would affect teachers, judges, daycare workers, doctors, nurses, police, city workers, university staff and others. They would no longer be allowed to wear niqabs, hijabs, turbans, skullcaps and large religious jewelry, among other items.

The law would also require people receiving government services to reveal their faces. That goes against the practices of many Muslim women who believe their faces must covered when out in public.

**A LITTLE BACKGROUND**

Disputes over the rights of religious minorities in the province have been increasing since 2001. That year, a school board ruled that a Sikh student couldn’t wear a kirpan to class. A kirpan is a ceremonial knife important to the Sikh religion.

The Supreme Court of Canada, the highest court in the land, overturned that decision in 2006. It ruled that the school board went against the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. That charter guarantees freedom of religion.

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

According to the 2011 Census, 83 percent of Quebec’s population of 8 million is Roman Catholic.

Since then, other incidents have caused problems. For example, religious Jewish men have asked to deal only with male civil servants. Some Muslim women have demanded to see only female doctors. These cases are making some Quebeckers feel that certain religious groups are getting privileges others in the province don’t enjoy.

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**DEFINITIONS**

**Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms:** A bill of rights that forms the first part of the Constitution Act, passed in 1982. It guarantees certain political rights to Canadian citizens and civil rights of everyone in Canada.

**Charter:** A document describing the goals, rights, or principles of an organization or group.

**Civil Servants:** People employed by a government.

**Hijab:** Head coverings worn in public by Muslim women.

**Niqab:** Veils worn by some Muslim women in public, covering all of the face apart from the eyes.

**Skullcap:** A small close-fitting cap without a brim.
Québec’s Charter of Values

- A Step Forward, Or A Step Back?

**What’s Behind the Proposal**

Ms. Marois says that’s wrong. Everyone in the province should be dealt with fairly and without prejudice. The best way to ensure this? Keep religion out of public activities – and write this principle into the province’s laws.

“What is dividing us is not the religious practices of another group,” said PQ minister Bernard Drainville. “What divides us is the perception that citizens are getting special privileges.”

**The Critics Chime In**

Critics, however, say that the proposed law is unfair. One reason? It doesn’t call for the removal of all sacred symbols. For example, the crucifixes in the Quebec legislature and the cross atop Mount Royal in Montreal would stay. The PQ claims the historic value of these items makes them too important to remove.

Opponents also say the law will severely limit Quebeckers’ right to express their religious beliefs.

“A Sikh or Jewish man, a Muslim woman, or a woman who wants to wear a crucifix... should not have to choose between religious belief and economic well-being,” said federal Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau.

‘Completely Unacceptable’

Federal New Democratic Party (NDP) Leader Thomas Mulcair agreed with Mr. Trudeau’s point-of-view. Meanwhile, the federal government said it would test the charter in the Supreme Court if the law passes.

“If the law [appears to limit]... protections to freedom of religion, we will defend those rights vigorously,” said Jason Kenney, Canada’s minister for multiculturalism.

**But Will the Law Pass?**

The PQ will likely introduce the bill for debate in November. However, observers say that in the end, it may never go through. Why? The PQ is a minority government. Another party must vote for the bill to get the majority needed to pass it.

Premier Marois hopes that happens.

“The charter ... will bring people together,” she says. “It will identify a certain number of universal values.” J

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**Definitions**

**BILL**: a document containing a proposal for a new law

**CRUCIFIXES**: crosses with a figure of Jesus Christ on them

**DIVERSITY**: noticeable differences within a group

**ETHNIC**: relating to a group of people with the same culture and traditions

**MINORITY GOVERNMENT**: a party ruling with less than half of all seats

**MULTICULTURALISM**: the practice of giving equal importance to all the different cultures in a society

**PERCEPTION**: a particular way of understanding or thinking about something

**UNIVERSAL**: involving or affecting all the members of a group or society
1. Summarize, in the space below, the key details of the Parti Québécois’ proposed Charter of Quebec Values.


2. Using the information in the article and your own thinking, what are some of the reasons for and reasons against the proposed charter? Give specific examples to back up each point.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reasons for</th>
<th>Reasons against</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3. After completing the organizer, answer the following: Are you more in favour of or more against the proposed Charter of Values? Give reasons to support your response.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
TRUE OR FALSE?

Mark each statement T (True) or F (False). If a statement is false, write the word or words that make it true on the lines below.

_____ 1. Pauline Marois is leader of the Parti Québécois government.

_____ 2. Thomas Mulcair is the federal Liberal Party leader.

_____ 3. Justin Trudeau leads the provincial Liberal Party.

_____ 4. Jason Kenney is Quebec's multiculturalism minister.

JUST TALK ABOUT IT

1. Summarize the two different schools of thought behind immigration. Which perspective most closely matches your own? Why? Explain.

2. Consider the Parti Québécois' belief that everyone in Quebec should be treated “fairly and without prejudice.” As you see it, does treating everyone fairly mean treating everyone the same? Why or why not? Explain.

ONLINE

Go to www.news4youth.com and select the What in the World? tab to:

1. Find out more about the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (or visit http://www.pch.gc.ca/eng/1355760105725/1355760725223).

2. Vote in our monthly poll:

What's your position on the Charter of Quebec Values?

I am strongly in favour of the Charter of Quebec Values. / 
I am somewhat in favour of the Charter of Quebec Values. / 
I am somewhat against the Charter of Quebec Values. / 
I am strongly against the Charter of Quebec Values. /
YOUR TASK:

Answer the following questions about the above cartoon on a separate sheet of paper:

1. What do you already know about the proposed Charter of Quebec Values?
2. What is happening in the cartoon? Describe what you see and read.
3. As you see it, what might the cartoonist be saying about the impact of the Charter of Quebec Values? Give reasons to support your response.
The Davis Cup is one of the world’s premier events in men’s tennis. This year, Canada had high hopes of competing in the finals of this contest. But that dream ended on September 15th. At the last minute, our team lost to the eastern European nation of Serbia.

The Canadian tennis team was led by Martin Laurendeau. The players were Frank Dancevic, Daniel Nestor, Vasek Pospisil and Milos Raonic. They were just one win away from advancing to the last round of play. Then, Serbian Janko Tipsarevic beat Canada’s Mr. Pospisil. The win gave the host country a 3-2 victory in a best-of-five series.

**Mr. Pospisil’s injury**
Unfortunately, 23-year-old Mr. Pospisil was injured while diving for a ball. He failed to respond in time to his opponent’s return and lost the final point of the game.

“I... rolled my ankle and heard some pops which obviously isn’t good but that was it,” the athlete told reporters after the match.

**The Davis Cup**
The Davis Cup started as a contest between the United States and the United Kingdom in 1900. The tournament quickly grew to include Belgium, France, Australia and New Zealand. Today, the cup is managed by the International Tennis Federation (ITF). It’s the world’s largest annual international team competition in sport. This year, 130 nations competed.

**DID YOU KNOW?**
The women’s version of the Davis Cup, the Fed Cup, began in 1963.

Sixteen of the best national teams are assigned to the Davis Cup World Group. It’s the highest level of play in the tournament. The teams that have performed best the previous year make the list. (National teams not included in the World Group compete on a regional level.)

The World Group teams compete in eight first-round
ties consisting of five rubbers. The winners of those rounds compete in four quarter-final-round ties. Those victors meet in two semifinal-round ties. Then the two remaining winners compete in the final round tie.

The men compete in singles matches and in groups of two in doubles contests. The annual competition is played in different countries over four weekends.

DID YOU KNOW?
More than 45 million Canadians play tennis. About 1.5 million of them play frequently.

Tennis at a whole, new level
This year’s competition raised Canadian tennis to a new level.

The reason? At the beginning of the tournament, some analysts didn’t give the Canadian players much of a chance. True, the team boasts two rising stars of the sport. Mr. Raonic, who is 22, is ranked 11th player in the world. Mr. Pospisil is 40th. But how would they perform under pressure? And what about a third team member, doubles star Daniel Nestor? He has lots of experience: he’s 41. But would he hold up to the demanding play of tournament tennis?

As it turned out, everyone performed very well indeed. Excitement built in February after Canada’s stunning first-round victory over five-time champion Spain. Next was a 3-1 quarter-final win in April against Italy. That clinched the four men a spot in the semifinals. Fans were thrilled.

On to Japan
Now, everyone is optimistic about Canada’s chances next year. The Canadian team will play Japan in the first round of the 2014 Davis Cup from January 31 to February 2 in the Asian country.

Canada will face tough competitors. Japan holds a 5-0 record against seventh-ranked Canada. The two teams have not faced each other in Davis Cup play since 1938.

Mr. Laurendeau’s attitude? Bring ‘em on!
“When you go through a Davis Cup weekend like we did against Spain, Italy and now Serbia, it really prepares you,” he said. “After that, you always feel like you can tackle anything.”

A Short History of Tennis
Most historians believe tennis was invented in the 11th or 12th century by French monks.

The name tennis is thought to come from the French word Tenez! It’s a form of the verb tenir, meaning ‘to take’ – and the theory is that monks yelled “take this!” as they served the ball with their hand.

The game became popular after aristocrats learned how to play. They built indoor courts, then made bats to hit the balls made of cork wrapped in string, cloth and, later, leather.

By the 13th century, there were as many as 1,800 indoor courts.

By 1500, a wooden racket laced with strings made from sheep’s intestines was in use – along with a three-ounce cork ball.

Mr. Pospisil was equally enthusiastic.

“It’s the first time in history we’ve been this far [in the Davis Cup]. It has been incredibly special and it’s a great time for tennis in Canada.”

Definitions
Aristocrats: people in the highest class of certain societies
Rubbers: individual matches
Ties: elimination rounds or five collective matches. In the Davis Cup, ties are hosted by one of the two countries playing and take place over a three-day weekend.
ON THE LINES

Answer the following in complete sentences:

1. When and where was tennis first invented?

2. How had the game changed by 1500? Explain.

3. Which two countries first competed for the Davis Cup?

4. How many teams currently compete in this tournament?

5. Which organization manages this tournament?

6. How many countries play at the top level of this tournament?

7. Which countries did Canada compete against in 2013?
TRUE OR FALSE?

Mark each statement T (True) or F (False). If a statement is false, write the word or words that make it true on the lines below.

1. Milos Raonic fell and injured his ankle during the last game of the Davis Cup.  

2. The women’s version of the Davis Cup is called the Fed Cup.

3. Canada will play China in the opening round of the 2014 Davis Cup.

4. The Davis Cup is the world’s smallest international team competition in sport.

JUST TALK ABOUT IT

1. As you see it, what is the significance of Canada’s performance in the Davis Cup this year?

2. In your opinion, what is the value of sporting events like the Davis Cup for the players involved? For fans? For the general population? Give reasons to support your response.

LITERACY CORNER

Good readers make connections with what they are reading. As they read, they think about what the text reminds them of. This thinking – or reminding – is called connecting. A good connection is meaningful; it helps readers to better understand their reading.

What connections can you make to the article “Canadian Tennis Reaches New Heights”?

ONLINE

Go to www.news4youth.com and select the What in the World? tab to:

1. Investigate the Tennis Canada home page (or visit http://www.tenniscanada.com/index.php?title=HOME%20PAGE&pid=3).

A terrible civil war in Syria began two-and-a-half years ago. Since then, it has claimed more than 100,000 lives. Another two million refugees, including one million children, have fled to nearby countries. As well, 4.25 million have been displaced inside the nation. In all, some seven million people desperately need help because of the war.

How did this terrible conflict begin?

ROOTS OF THE CONFLICT
The roots of the violence go back to March, 2011. That was when the Syrian people, inspired by the Arab Spring, rose up against their government.

Protesters were angry with President Bashar al-Assad, who has ruled Syria for 12 years. This harsh dictator banned opposition parties and severely restricted Syrians’ personal freedoms. Torture and corruption are widespread. Life there is cruel.

Yet Mr. Assad refused to step down. Instead, he ordered his army to attack anyone and everyone against him.

The people didn’t give up, however. They fought back. By August 2011, the rebels had organized into a group called the Free Syrian Army. By July 2012, the conflict had become a full-scale civil war.

ABOUT SYRIA
With a 4,500-year history, Syria is one of the oldest nations in the world. It is more than twice the size of New Brunswick, and is made up of fertile plains, mountains and deserts. Damascus is the capital and Arabic is the official language.

Most of Syria’s 22.5 million citizens are Muslims who belong to the Sunni sect (74 percent) or the Alawite Shia sect (12 percent). Ten percent of the population is Christian. President Assad and the group who run the government are Alawite Shia.

SANCTIONS IMPOSED
Western countries, including Canada, have been horrified by the suffering of the Syrian people.

DEFINITIONS

ARAB SPRING: a series of uprisings in the Arab world that began in December 2010 and led to changes of government in many Middle Eastern and North African nations.

CIVIL WAR: a war between groups within one nation.

CORRUPTION: dishonest or illegal behavior by officials or people in positions of power.

DICTATOR: a person who holds absolute power in government.

DISPLACED: forced to move to a new location.

REFUGEES: people forced to flee to escape violence or persecution.

SECT: a subdivision of a larger religious group.
people. They have tried using sanctions to force Mr. Assad and his government to step aside, but these penalties have had little impact.

The Security Council is the United Nations (UN) branch that can approve military action against a country. It has wanted to get involved in the conflict to stop the bloodshed, but it, too, has been unsuccessful. Why? Because before it can act, all Council members must agree on the plan – and China and Russia have refused to authorize military intervention. They support Mr. Assad’s government, saying it has a right to fight against the rebels.

**CRISIS POINT**

Calls for action grew louder, however, on August 21. That was when sarin gas was used in Syria. It caused tens of hundreds of citizens to die a painful death.

Western countries strongly denounced the attack. U.S. President Barack Obama said using a chemical weapon demanded a harsh response. If the Security Council wouldn’t act, then individual countries should. He tried to convince Americans and other nations to support limited military action.

But key U.S. allies, including Canada, the United Kingdom and France, said they wouldn’t act without UN approval. Some worried that Syria would strike back. Then, the situation could spiral out of control. Others reacted to reports that the Syrian rebels include al-Qaeda terrorists and other extremists. Do they deserve support from the West?

For his part, Mr. Assad strongly denied using chemical weapons. “No country in the world uses a weapon of ultimate destruction against its people,” he declared. He said the rebels were to blame.

Then, on September 9, a breakthrough. Syria agreed to a proposal by Russian President Vladimir Putin to put its chemical weapons under international control and allow them to be destroyed. In exchange, the U.S. wouldn’t attack.

**A GOOD SOLUTION?**

Many were glad that military action had been avoided. Others, however, felt that Syria wouldn’t follow through.

---

**DEFINITIONS**

**ALLIES:** states cooperating with others for military purposes

**AL-QAEDA:** a terrorist Islamic group that tries to violently disrupt the economies and influence of Western nations

**DEGRADE:** lower the grade of something; reduce its worth

**DENOUNCED:** criticized severely

**RESOLUTION:** a formal statement of a decision

**SARIN GAS:** a chemical weapon (a substance dispersed to cause death or severe harm, banned under international law)

**VETO:** prevent legislation or action proposed by others

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The United Nations (UN) was created after World War II. It was formed to work towards peace, cooperation, social progress and economic stability. A total of 192 nations, including Canada, belong to the UN.

The Security Council is the most important branch of the UN. Fifteen countries belong to this council. Five – China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States – are permanent. They can veto any resolution. The other 10 are elected for two-year terms. Five are replaced every year.

“We don’t believe it ... will stop the ... killing of Syrian people,” said a rebel spokesman. “It gives [Mr.] Assad more time. And every minute, every hour that passes will cost us more blood.”

But others were more hopeful.

“If the international community [can] degrade even a small portion of Syria’s chemical weapons then it’s a risk worth taking,” said weapons expert Dina Esfandiary.
ON THE LINES

Answer the following in complete sentences:

1. List at least three important facts about Syria.

2. Name the leader of Syria.

3. Describe the impact the civil war has had on people in Syria.

4. Which two countries have prevented the UN Security Council from taking action against Syria?

5. Explain why calls for foreign involvement in Syria’s civil war increased in late August.

6. Explain why many countries did not favour responding to the attack with military action.

7. What did Syria agree to do in early September?
BETWEEN THE LINES

An inference is a conclusion drawn from evidence. A plausible inference is supported by evidence in the article and is consistent with known facts outside of the article.

What inferences can you draw from the fact that the Syrian government severely restricts access to foreign journalists?

JUST TALK ABOUT IT

As you see it, how should the world respond to recent events in Syria? Give reasons to support your response.

ONLINE

Go to www.news4youth.com and select the ‘What in the World’ tab to:

1. Read more about Syria (or visit https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/sy.html).
2. View photos of Syria (or visit http://www.trekearth.com/gallery/Middle_East/Syria/).
3. Find out more about the conflict in Syria on the BBC website (or visit http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-17258397).
4. Learn more about the Zaatari refugee camp, home to 130,000 of Syria’s refugees (or visit http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-23801200).

J
Imagine that you are an investigative reporter interviewing the person in this scene. Generate two powerful questions to ask in your interview. (A powerful question is not easy to answer, is specific to the situation, is open-ended and requires further research.) Then, record plausible answers — those that are most likely to be given, believable, and supported by evidence in the image.

A young Syrian girl washes a pan at the Atme refugee camp, along the Turkish border in the northwestern Syrian province of Idlib, on September 17, 2013. (GIOVANNI DIFFIDENTI/AFP/Getty Images)
MAP ASSIGNMENT

Complete this map assignment to better understand the article “Syria Takes Centre Stage.”

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Obtain the required resources and read all the instructions before starting.
2. Colour your map after all labelling is completed.
3. Print in pencil only first, then go over the printing in black ink.
4. Work carefully and neatly.

Resources Required: pencil, black pen, pencil crayons, ruler, eraser and an atlas.

Part A Locate and label the following countries in CAPITAL letters and shade each as indicated:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Turkey (orange)</th>
<th>Syria (red)</th>
<th>Iraq (purple)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus (yellow)</td>
<td>Lebanon (green)</td>
<td>Jordan (brown)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel (orange)</td>
<td>Egypt (pink)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Part B Locate and label the capital cities of these countries and underline each city name.

Part C Locate and label the following countries in CAPITAL letters and shade each as indicated:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bulgaria (purple)</th>
<th>Russia (brown)</th>
<th>Georgia (pink)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Armenia (green)</td>
<td>Iran (red)</td>
<td>Saudi Arabia (yellow)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Part D Locate and label the following Syrian cities:

Aleppo
Homs (Hims)

Part E Locate and label the following and shade all salt water dark blue:

Black Sea
Mediterranean Sea
Red Sea

Part F Locate and label the following rivers and shade them light blue:

Euphrates
Tigris
Nile

Part G Locate and label the Dead Sea and shade it light blue.

Part H Locate and label the Suez Canal.

Part I Shade all remaining territory grey.

Part J Complete your map with a frame, title and compass.
A breakthrough hamburger was unveiled at a taste-testing in London, England on August 5th. It looked like a regular burger on a bun, but it certainly wasn’t. It was the world’s first cultured burger, made up of tens of billions of lab-grown cells. It also was the most expensive burger ever. Dr. Mark Post, of the University of Maastricht in the Netherlands, spent two years and $338,000 developing it.

‘A VERY GOOD START’
While the media looked on, two food testers took bites. It was just a plain, grilled burger with nothing on it – not even salt and pepper. So it was unlikely to win a best-burger contest. But the big question was: did it taste like the real thing?

“It’s close to meat,” said the first taster, a nutritional scientist, “but it’s not that juicy. The consistency is perfect.”

“The mouth feel is like meat,” said the second, a food writer. “I miss the fat ... but the general bite feels like a hamburger.”

Dr. Post was satisfied. “It’s a very good start,” he said.

THE MEAT INDUSTRY
The production of beef and other meat is a huge industry. It contributed $23 billion to the Canadian economy alone in 2009.

As the middle class in China and other developing nations continues to grow, demand for meat is expected to rise by 50 percent by 2050.

Nearly one-third of the world’s ice-free land is used to raise livestock or grow fodder. What if we used this land to grow crops for humans instead? How much more food could be produced?

DEFINITIONS

**CONSISTENCY:** the degree to which a substance is thick, smooth, or firm

**CULTURED:** grown in a science lab

**FOODDER:** feed for livestock, especially hay or straw

**INEFFICIENT:** not working in the best possible way, especially by not using time, supplies or energy in the most effective way

**LIVESTOCK:** farm animals kept for use and profit
Then there’s global warming. **Ruminants** like cows expel methane as they digest food. Methane is a strong greenhouse gas, and these animals produce more of these gases than all the cars, trucks planes and ships on Earth combined.

Lab-made beef is a great solution to these problems, Dr. Post says. It needs 99 percent less land than livestock. It also uses between 82 and 96 percent less water, and produces up to 95 percent fewer greenhouse gases.

**The Ethical Argument**

For animal welfare groups, there’s another reason to support Dr. Post’s work. A single sample of stem cells could yield 20,000 tonnes of beef. That’s enough for 175 million quarter-pounders, which require 440,000 slaughtered cows.

“Anything that reduces the suffering of animals is welcome,” said Ben Williamson, an animal-rights activist.

**A Frankenburger Recipe**

The key ingredient in cultured beef is stem cells. Dr. Post took them from a cow’s shoulder, then fed them with nutrients and growth-promoting chemicals. They multiplied, then formed small strips of muscle about a centimetre long. Dr. Post used 20,000 strands to form the patty.

Lab-grown meat is white, so beetroot juice was added to make it look as much like the real thing as possible. The idea was to reduce the ‘ick’ factor – the main objection most people have to this product.

**Hamburger Hurdles**

Other problems must be resolved before lab-grown beef can be offered as a replacement to traditional beef, however. For one thing, real meat is made up of different cells, not just the fibres produced by Dr. Post’s process. So his patties lack the fat that makes burgers appealing. He says he’ll try adding fatty tissue to make them tastier, and nutrients to make them healthier.

Another issue? Money. So far, Google co-founder Sergey Brin has covered the cost of Dr. Post’s work. But one reason for the public burger tasting was to attract funding for further development.

Finally, this meat would have to be fully tested for safety.

**Not a godsend**

Not everyone sees lab beef as a godsend, either.

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**About Stem Cells**

Our bodies have many specialized cells, such as skin cells, muscle cells, red blood cells and brain cells. As well, the body has stem cells. These ‘master cells’ can develop into any of these other kinds of cells.

Adult stem cells serve as a sort of internal repair system. They don’t divide unless the body is hit by disease or an injury. If that happens, they spring into action to replace the dead or damaged cells.

Most stem cell research focuses on growing human tissue that can be transplanted to replace worn-out or diseased muscle, nerve cells, cartilage or organs.

“[Some] 1.4 billion people in the world are obese and … one billion people go to bed hungry,” said one professor. “That’s just unacceptable. Solutions don’t just lie with producing more food. [We also need to change] access and affordability, so better food gets to those who need it.”

At any rate, it will likely be a decade before this beef is in supermarkets.

“I think it will take a while,” agreed Dr. Post. “This is just to show we can do it.”

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**Definitions**

**Godsend:** a very helpful or valuable event, person, or thing.

**Ruminants:** mammals that digest plant-based food by softening it in part of the stomach, then regurgitating it to chew again.
Answer the following in complete sentences:

1. What evidence is there that meat production is important to the Canadian economy?

2. Describe the new food that was tested in England in early August.

3. List at least two reasons why this new food was developed.

4. What is the name of the body’s master cells?

5. Describe how the new cultured hamburger was produced.

6. List at least two hurdles that must be overcome before this cultured meat is sold to the public.
Making an inference: An inference is a conclusion drawn from evidence. A plausible inference is supported by evidence in the article and is consistent with known facts outside of the article.

What inference(s) can you draw from the fact that demand for meat is expected to rise by 50 percent by 2050?

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JUST TALK ABOUT IT

a) For what reasons are some people in favour of lab-grown beef? For what reasons are some people against lab-grown beef?

b) Overall, are you more in favour of or more opposed to lab-grown beef? Give reasons to support your response.

ONLINE

Visit our student website at www.news4youth.com and click on the What in the World? tab to:

1. Read more about issues relating to raising and eating beef (or visit http://www.globalissues.org/article/240/beef).


3. Watch and listen to Dr. Post talk about why his burger is a good alternative food source and how it is made (scroll down to bottom of article to see video – 11:44 minutes in length) (or visit http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/07/31/frankenburger-test-tube-meat-served-first-time_n_3678581.html).

4. Finally, submit your thoughts to our forum:

Would you eat lab-grown beef? Why or why not?

An effective paragraph is clearly written, logically organized (including an introduction and a conclusion), and supported with plausible reasoning. J
A C R O S S

5. in 2009 beef production in Canada was valued at $23 _____
6. farm animals kept for use and profit
8. Dr. Post extracted cells from this part of a cow
10. mammal that digests plant food and regurgitates it to chew again
11. feed for farm animals
12. Sergey Brin co-founded this company

D O W N

1. a growing middle class in this country will demand more beef
2. artificial hamburger unveiled in this English city
3. stem cells serve as an internal _____ system
4. Dr. Mark Post works at the _____ of Maastricht
5. juice added to fake burger to reduce ‘ick’ factor
7. when something is grown in a laboratory
9. a greenhouse gas
QUICKS

QUEBEC'S CHARTER OF VALUES

Write the letter that corresponds to the best answer on the line beside each question:

1. Which party is in power in Quebec?
   a) Liberal
   b) Conservative
   c) Parti Québécois
   d) Coalition Avenir Quebec

2. Which is the largest religious group in Quebec?
   a) Roman Catholic
   b) Muslim
   c) Jewish
   d) Protestant

3. A person employed by the government is called a:
   a) civil servant
   b) contractor
   c) bureaucrat
   d) manager

4. True or False? The proposed charter of values bans all Quebec citizens from wearing religious symbols.

5. True or False? The Supreme Court of Canada ruled that a Quebec student could not wear a ceremonial knife to class.

CANADIAN TENNIS REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

Write the letter that corresponds to the best answer on the line beside each question:

1. Where was tennis invented?
   a) South America
   b) China
   c) France
   d) Germany

2. Which two countries first competed for the Davis Cup?
   a) United Kingdom and France
   b) United States and Russia
   c) France and Egypt
   d) United Kingdom and United States

3. Which country defeated Canada in the Davis Cup this September?
   a) Serbia
   b) Italy
   c) Spain
   d) United States

4. True or False? Sixteen of the best teams are assigned to the Davis Cup World Group.

5. True or False? Vasek Pospisil is Canada's highest-ranked tennis player.
QUizzes

SYRIA TAKES CENTRE STAGE

Write the letter that corresponds to the best answer on the line beside each question:

1. Which is the largest religious group in Syria?
   a) Arab Sunni Muslim           b) Alawite Shia Muslim
   c) Christian                   d) Buddhist

2. Which two countries have prevented the UN Security Council from acting against Syria?
   a) Russia and China            b) Russia and France
   c) United States and China     d) United Kingdom and France

3. Why did U.S. President Obama favour a military strike against Syria?
   a) to assist the rebel forces   b) to punish Syria for using chemical weapons
   c) to disable Russian arms depots d) to protect Syria’s Christian minority

4. True or False? Bashar al-Assad has ruled Syria for 12 years.

5. True or False? Some 100,000 people have been killed so far in Syria’s civil war.

FRANKENBURGERS AND FRENCH FRIES

Write the letter that corresponds to the best answer on the line beside each question:

1. How much of the world’s ice-free land is used to raise livestock or grow fodder?
   a) 20 percent                   b) 33 percent
   c) 55 percent                   d) 70 percent

2. What gas do ruminants expel as they digest their food?
   a) oxygen                      b) carbon dioxide
   c) methane                     d) nitrogen

3. Which cells can develop into any other kind of cell?
   a) stem cells                  b) skin cells
   c) red blood cells             d) muscle cells

4. True or False? Traditional meat is a highly efficient food.

5. True or False? The first lab-grown burger was made up of billions of cells.
MATCH THE CAPITALS: INSTRUCTIONS

1. Using an atlas, match the capital city with the correct province, state, and country.
2. In front of each city, list the letter on the map associated with that location.

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Quebec’s Charter of Values

Weigh the Pros and the Cons

1. Summary of the key details of the PQ’s proposed Charter of Quebec Values:
   - new legislation would forbid civil servants from wearing obvious or large religious symbols at work;
   - ban would affect teachers, judges, daycare workers, doctors, nurses, police, city workers and university staff, among others;
   - the law would also require those receiving government services not to cover their faces;
   - idea is to keep the civil service neutral;
   - the principle of neutrality must be written into the province’s laws as an expression of societal values;
   - the government will likely introduce the bill for debate in November.

2. Reasons for the charter:
   - disagreements over the rights of religious minorities have been increasing in the province since 2001;
   - displays of religion may support the view that one group is favoured over another;
   - the charter would guarantee that everyone is dealt with fairly and without prejudice;
   - the charter would downplay differences and encourage newcomers to fully integrate into mainstream society.

Reasons against the charter:
   - the charter is unfair because it doesn’t call for the removal of all sacred symbols in the province. (As well, the names of towns such as Saint-Hubert would not have to be changed);
   - the charter would severely curtail Quebeckers’ individual rights to express their religious beliefs;
   - no should have to choose between a job and wearing symbols of their faith;
   - the proposed charter goes against the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms;
   - the charter takes away from the diversity that creates a multicultural fabric that fosters understanding between people.


Editorial Cartoon

1. Quebec’s Parti Quebecois is proposing a new Charter of Quebec Values that would forbid civil servants from wearing obvious or large religious symbols at work. As well, people receiving government services would be banned from covering their faces. The purpose of the proposed law is to guarantee that everyone is dealt with fairly and without prejudice. Some people are strongly in favour of this legislation, while others are strongly opposed.

2. There are three panels making up this cartoon. The first panel shows a gathering of people, possibly at a cocktail party; the six people are nicely dressed, they’re holding drinks, and chatting in someone’s living room (there’s a picture on the wall and a table lamp in one corner). Five of the people look like they’re chatting together and having a good time; they have smiles on their faces. One person is off to the left, looking as if he feels somewhat left out. He’s frowning and glancing sideways at the others.

In the second panel, the man off to the side is smiling, looking at the others, and saying the word ‘ Quebec.’ The others have a stricken look on their faces – they’re grimacing, their eyes are bulging out, and they look unhappy. Their conversation has stopped.

In the third panel, the man off to the side is looking smug – like the cat that ate the canary. The others have launched in fighting and arguing. They are beating each other, yelling, and looking very fierce and unhappy.

3. The cartoonist may be suggesting that issues in Quebec (in this case, the Charter of Quebec Values) can be very divisive. People who otherwise get along have strong opinions on the topic that get in their way of being reasonable and open to other’s viewpoints.
1. **When and where was tennis first invented?**
   Most historians believe it was started about 1,000 years ago by French monks. The name may have come from the French word 'tennis' (to take). (The theory is that monks would yell 'take this!' as they served the ball with their hand. The game became popular after aristocrats learned how to play.)

2. **How had the game changed by 1500? Explain.**
   By 1500, a wooden racket laced with strings made from sheep’s intestines was used—along with a cork ball weighing around three ounces. It was popular in England and France and the game was only played indoors where the ball could be hit off the wall.

3. **Which two countries first competed for the Davis Cup?**
   The United States and the United Kingdom started this tennis contest in 1900. (The tournament grew to include Belgium, France, Australia and New Zealand.)

4. **How many teams currently compete in this tournament?**
   This year, 120 nations (including Canada) competed. (The four-man teams compete in singles matches and in doubles contests. The annual competition is spread over four weekends and each round is played in a different country.)

5. **Which organization manages this tournament?**
   The International Tennis Federation (ITF) manages the Davis Cup—the world’s largest annual international team sport competition. (The women’s equivalent is the Fed Cup, launched in 1963.)

6. **How many countries play at the top level of this tournament?**
   Sixteen of the best national teams are assigned to the World Group—the highest level of play. The teams that have performed best the previous year make the list. (National teams not included in the World Group compete on a regional level.)

7. **Which countries did Canada compete against in 2013?**
   In February Canada defeated five-time champion Spain and then beat Italy in April. That clinched a spot in the semifinals against Serbia which they lost in mid-September. (Play starts again in January 2014 when Canada faces Japan.)


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**SYRIA TAKES CENTRE STAGE**

1. **List at least three important facts about Syria.**
   1) the population of Syria is 22.5 million; 2) Syria is one of the oldest nations in the world; 3) it is more than twice the size of New Brunswick; 4) Syria is made up of fertile plains, mountains and desert; 5) the capital is Damascus; 6) Arabic is the official language; and 7) most of Syria’s citizens are Muslims who belong to either the Arab Sunni sect (74%) or the Alawite Shia sect (16%).

2. **Name the leader of Syria.**
   President Bashar al-Assad—he has ruled for the past 12 years. (Under his leadership, opposition parties were banned and personal freedoms were severely restricted. Torture and corruption were widespread. Life has been harsh and unfair.)

3. **Describe the impact of the civil war has had on people in Syria.**
   The war has claimed more than 100,000 lives so far. Over two million refugees, including one million children, have fled to neighbouring countries, while another 4.25 million have been displaced inside Syria. Some seven million people are in urgent need of help. (Many Western countries, including Canada, imposed sanctions against Syria but these had little impact.)

4. **Which two countries have prevented the UN Security Council from taking action against Syria?**
   China and Russia have refused to support military intervention. (They say Syria is justified in using violence against the rebels.)

5. **Explain why calls for foreign involvement in Syria’s civil war increased in late August.**
   A chemical weapon, sarin gas, was used in Syria, causing a painful death for tens of hundreds of citizens— including many children. Many countries denounced the attack and U.S. President Barack Obama said the use of these weapons demanded a harsh response. (Syria denied using chemical weapons and blamed the rebels for the attacks.)

6. **Explain why many countries did not favour responding to the attack with military action.**
   Traditional U.S. allies, including Canada, the United Kingdom and France, said they would not participate in military action without UN approval. (There were concerns that the action would spark a Syrian reprisal. There were also concerns about the Syrian rebels. Some reports indicate they have been infiltrated by extremists who preach violence against the West.)

7. **What did Syria agree to do in early September?**
   Syria agreed to a Russian proposal to put its chemical weapons under international control if the U.S. agreed not to attack. (The Americans and Russians worked out a deal to identify and destroy Syria’s chemical weapons and the chemical weapons production equipment.)
1. **What evidence is there that meat production is important to the Canadian economy?**
   Beef production contributed $23 billion to Canada’s economy in 2009. Over the past 50 years, global meat consumption has quadrupled from 70 million tonnes in 1961 to a current total of 283 million tonnes per year. Experts say demand from a growing middle class in China and other developing nations will cause meat consumption to rise by 50 percent by 2050.

2. **Describe the new food that was tested in England in early August.**
   The world's first cultured burger, made up of billions of lab-grown cells, was unveiled. It also was likely the most expensive burger ever. Researchers spent two years and $338,000 to develop it.

3. **List at least two reasons why this new food was developed.**
   1) Traditional meat is a highly inefficient food. Nearly one-third of the world's ice-free land is used to raise livestock or grow fodder.
   2) Ruminants expel methane, a potent greenhouse gas, which contributes to global warming. These animals produce more greenhouse gases than all the cars, trucks, planes and ships on the planet.
   3) Lab-grown beef may be more ethical if it reduces the number of cows that are slaughtered for food.

4. **What is the name of the body's master cells?**
   Stem cells. (They can develop into other kinds of cells and they serve as an internal repair system.)

5. **Describe how the new cultured hamburger was produced.**
   Stem cells were extracted from a cow's shoulder and cultured in a lab with nutrients and growth-promoting chemicals. They came together into small strips of muscle about a centimetre long and 20,000 were used to form a patty. Then, beetroot juice was added to make it look like the real thing.

6. **List at least two hurdles that must be overcome before this cultured meat is sold to the public.**
   1) Real meat is made up of different cells, not just meaty fibres. The cultured beef patties lack the fat that makes burgers appealing. (However, scientists think it's possible to add fatty tissue to help taste, as well as nutrients.)
   2) Cost is a big obstacle—Google co-founder Sergey Brin has financed the research thus far. (One reason for the public burger tasting was to attract additional funding.)
   3) The cultured meat must pass government safety tests before it could be sold to the public.

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**PUZZLE**

**QUizzes**

*Quebec's Charter of Values*
1. c 2. a 3. a 4. False 5. False

*Canadian Tennis Reaches New Heights*
1. c 2. d 3. a 4. True 5. False

*Syria Takes Centre Stage*
1. a 2. a 3. b 4. True 5. True

*Frankenburgers and French Fries*
1. b 2. c 3. a 4. False 5. True

**MATCH THE CAPITALS**

*Provinces and Territories*
E) Iqaluit Nunavut F) Denver Colorado
H) Quebec City Quebec D) Annapolis Maryland
B) Fredericton New Brunswick I) Bismarck North Dakota

*Countries*
J) Rome Italy C) Damascus Syria
A) Paris France G) Mexico City Mexico
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**English Publications**

- *The Canadian Reader* (Grades 3, 4 and 5)
- *What in the World?* Level 1 (Grades 5, 6 and 7)
- *What in the World?* Level 2 (Grades 8, 9 and 10)

**French Publications**

- *Nos Nouvelles* (3ᵉ, 4ᵉ et 5ᵉ année)
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**P.S.** Please contact us if you would like sample copies of *The Canadian Reader* or *What in the World?* to distribute at a conference or professional development day seminar.