Articles and Questions

Each issue of ***What in the World?*** includes:   
  
1) a PDF file (the complete document) **and**

2) a Word file that contains **only** the articles and questions. This file does **not** contain an Answer Key.

This **Word** file allows students to complete assignments using a computer either at school or at home. Teachers can assign all or parts of the file by email attachment or a school website. The **Word** file also allows teachers to:

• easily modify and format content including changing fonts and text sizes

• create a PDF document and use Adobe Reader's 'Read Out Loud Mode'

• save paper and copying costs and help protect the environment

• promote and encourage students’ computer skills

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See: [www.libreoffice.org/discover/libreoffice/](http://www.libreoffice.org/discover/libreoffice/) [www.openoffice.org](http://www.openoffice.org)

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<https://support.google.com/docs/answer/187189?hl=en&co=GENIE.Platform=Desktop>

**The Risky Business of Gambling ADS**



Theodore Oliver of Saskatoon began **gambling** seriously at the age of 23. He quickly became addicted to online betting. He **prioritized** it over everything else. That included food, bills, and even relationships.

“I’d be down hundreds of dollars, my eyes burning and bloodshot from staring at the screen,” Mr. Oliver recalls. “I desperately needed a win. I hadn’t paid my rent in more than three months. In my twisted way of thinking, [I believed] winning would fix everything.”

Now 26, he’s been recovering from this destructive behaviour. But he’s still haunted by how he felt when he was addicted. And he still has to control the urge to bet, he says. The reason? Every day he sees ads encouraging him to try his luck at beating near‑impossible **odds**.

“I find myself constantly reminded of that darker time by the stream of gambling ads,” he says.“But the temptations are loosening their hold on me.”

**Bombarded!**

Avoiding those ads is an uphill battle for people like Mr. Oliver. That's especially the case for those who watch sports on TV. They’re exposed to nearly three gambling ads every minute during a typical sportscast.

How do we know? A recent study looked at five NHL and two NBA games played over a five-day period in October 2023. CBC Marketplace and England’s University of Bristol did the research. They found that gambling ads took up nearly 40 minutes of a three-hour game.

These pro-gambling messages took many forms. They included betting company logos, commercials, sponsored segments, and information about odds. Less than three percent of the ads talked about age restrictions or where to get help with a gambling addiction.

**All bets are on!**

There’s a reason pro-gambling ads are everywhere now. It has to do with the Safe and Regulated Sports Betting Act that became law in August 2021.

The new law made it legal for people to bet money on individual games like the Grey Cup. Up until then Canadians could lawfully bet only on lotteries or on multi-sport contests called parlays.

All four federal parties backed this change to Canada’s **Criminal Code**. Their logic? Canadians were already betting billions of dollars on single games anyway. They were doing so illegally or via the so-called **grey market**. By removing the ban, lawmakers hoped to keep that money out of criminal hands. What’s more, the taxes the government could collect from these betting purchases could be used to pay for social programs.

The law left it up to the provinces and territories to decide how to handle this change. Each of them promptly launched single-game gambling products, available through their provincial lottery setups.

**Competing for bettors**

Ontario went further. It let private companies get into the act. It formed an agency, iGaming Ontario, to oversee gambling operators who quickly began competing for a piece of the pie. Gambling sites and businesses boomed. Between October 1 and December 31, 2023, 49 operators and 72 gaming websites sprang up.

Ontarians responded big time. They bet $3.1 billion on sports and e-sports. That was more than one and a half times what they had spent on this kind of gambling in the preceding three months.

Private companies became more eager than ever to cash in. To gain more customers, they began filling the airwaves with ads. And many ads used high-profile athletes to make gambling more enticing.

**A positive first step**

That set off alarm bells. Experts say people **susceptible** to risky gambling behaviour shouldn't have to deal with big-name stars urging them to bet.

“Using hockey stars like Wayne Gretzky and Connor McDavid makes betting look like a surefire money-maker, and fun,” says health journalist André Picard. “The reality is, losing is the norm. Multimillionaire athletes peddling sports betting are [like] the doctors who were featured in smoking ads prior to the 1950s. History won’t be kind to them.”

The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) regulates the province’s gambling sector. Last August, it ordered the industry to stop using athletes and other celebrities in ads. Still, many people want all gambling ads outlawed.

“[They] hurt people,” says expert Bruce Kidd. “We want to minimize, if not eliminate, that harm.”

**Did You Know?**

About $15 billion was bet on sports in Canada in 2020 but only three percent, or about $500 million, was done legally.

**A Bad Bet**

Problem gambling affects all ages. But young people are especially vulnerable. Gambling, Gaming and Technology Use (GGTU) is a mental health and addiction group in Ontario. It says that teen gambling can lead to an adult addiction.

The GGTU reports that one‑third of Ontario students surveyed in 2019 had gambled. Worse, some four percent of high school students reported symptoms of low- to moderately-severe gambling problems. And two percent had severe symptoms.

People under 19 can’t legally gamble. However, they may learn the habit through video games that award prizes with black market cash value or through betting on organized e-sport video games. The best advice? Don’t start. But if you have already, ask an adult for resources to help you quit

**Criminal Code**: a federal law that defines most criminal offences

**gambling**: the activity of betting money, for example in a game or on a horse race

**grey market**: an unofficial but not illegal system of selling goods or services

**odds**: the connection between two numbers that shows how much money someone will receive if they win a bet

**prioritize**: to treat something as being more important than other things

**susceptible**: likely to be influenced or harmed by something

**Comprehension Questions**

1. When a person bets money on the result of a sports contest this is called:

2. How much money did Canadians gamble on sports in 2020?

3. Name the law that was enacted in August 2021. Which other law did it change?

4. How did this new law change gambling across Canada? Explain.

5. Why did Parliament pass this law?

6. Describe how this new betting opportunity was applied across Canada.

7. How did Ontario's approach differ from other jurisdictions? What businesses were set up?

8. How much money did Ontario residents wager on sports betting from October 1 to December 31, 2023?

9. How did many of the for-profit betting companies respond to this large increase?

10. What changes to sports betting ads featuring athletes were introduced last August?

**Questions For Further Thought**

1. The article begins by sharing the story of Theodore Oliver, a recovering gambler. What was your initial reaction after reading Mr. Oliver's story? What questions would you like to ask him about his experience?

2. The article tells us that the federal government removed the ban on single-game gambling to keep money out of the hands of criminal betting organizations. It also states that the taxes the government has collected from these betting purchases could be used for social programs. Do you believe that the government's decision to legalize single-game gambling has had more of a positive or negative impact on Canadians as a whole? Provide examples to support your ideas.

3. The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) recently changed the rules for sports betting advertising in the province. Professional athletes can no longer appear in these ads unless they are promoting responsible gambling. The AGCO also restricted certain characters and figures from appearing in sports betting ads because they may be more appealing to minors. As you see it, what impact will these restrictions have on the gambling habits of the viewers who watch these ads? Support your ideas with reasons.

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**Questions For Online Exploration**

*Note*: The links below are listed at **www.lesplan.com/links** for easy access.

1. What is the impact of sports betting, iGaming, youth gambling, and addiction?  
**https://whereparentstalk.com/profiles-category/the-impact-of-sports-betting-igaming-youth-gambling-and-addiction/** [11:36] (interview) & [25:43] (podcast)[**https://www.sportsnet.ca/more/article/agco-prohibits-use-of-pro-athletes-to-advertise-market-internet-gaming-in-ontario/**](https://www.sportsnet.ca/more/article/agco-prohibits-use-of-pro-athletes-to-advertise-market-internet-gaming-in-ontario/)

2. Check out these infographics about sports betting in Canada:  
**https://www.statista.com/chart/29943/online-sports-betting-users-and-penetration-canada-uk/   
https://www.ipsos.com/en-ca/sports-betting-everywhere**

What did you learn from the data?

3. Are you worried about someone who might be gambling too much? These sites might be helpful:  
**https://aidejeu.ca/en/   
https://kidshelpphone.ca/get-info/against-odds-how-cope-gambling-problem/**[**https://www.camh.ca/en/health-info/mental-illness-and-addiction-index/problem-gambling**](https://www.camh.ca/en/health-info/mental-illness-and-addiction-index/problem-gambling)

4. Read about Bill C-218 and how it has changed sports betting in Canada:  
**https://www.cbc.ca/sports/single-event-sport-gambling-to-become-legal-as-bill-c218-passes-in-senate-1.6075816**

What questions do you have?

5. Watch the CBC Marketplace investigative report on the effects of winning and how it leads to riskier betting: **https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=CMCzarex0zI** [22:11]

Why do you think this type of research is important?

6. Visit the GGTU (Gambling, Gaming and Technology Use) website to learn about the organization's work in supporting those affected by problem gambling: **https://kmb.camh.ca/ggtu/**

What kinds of resources are available?

**Putting It All Together**

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

**\_\_\_\_\_\_ 1. How much money did Canadians bet on sports in 2020?**  a) $500 million b) $3.1 billion  
 c) $10 billion d) $15 billion

**\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Which federal law did the Safe and Regulated Sports Betting Act amend?** a) Criminal Code b) Food and Drugs Act  
 c) Income Tax Act d) Charter of Rights and Freedoms

**\_\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Which jurisdiction allowed private gambling operators to set up businesses?** a) Saskatchewan b) Nunavut  
 c) Ontario d) New Brunswick

**B. Mark the statements T (True) or F (False). If a statement is** True**, write one important fact to support it on the line below. If a statement is** False**, write the words that make it true on the line below.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_ 4. True** or **False?** Most Canadians who bet money in 2020 did so legally.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_ 5. True** or **False**? All provinces and territories now accept single-game betting.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_ 6. True** or **False**? Famous athletes can no longer appear in Quebec sports gambling ads.

**C. Fill in the blanks to complete each sentence.**

7. The legal age for gambling in Canada is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years.

8. An unofficial but not strictly illegal system set up to sell goods or services is called the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ market.

9. Research showed that an average sports event on TV has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ minutes of ads.

**D. Respond to the following question in paragraph form. *(Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary.)***

10. Overall, are you more in favour of or more opposed to gambling ads? Give reasons to support your response.

**Let the Summer Games Begin!**

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Excitement is building as the world gears up for the 2024 Summer Olympics. The Games – the XXXIII Olympiad – will take place in Paris, France, from July 26 to August 11.

Some 10,500 athletes on 206 teams will stream into the city. They will compete in 329 medal events in 32 sports.

**Ready to shine**

Some 15 million visitors will descend on the French capital to watch. Canada plans to give them their money’s worth. We’re scheduled to send 210 athletes to the Summer Games – 83 men and 127 women. They will compete in 23 sports as varied as archery, table tennis, and wrestling. We’ll even take part in a new competition this year – breaking, also known as breakdancing.

Team Canada is expected to do well. Neilsen Gracenote is a data-crunching company. It predicts that Canada will win 22 medals – six gold, seven silver, and nine bronze. That would be our second-highest Summer Games total ever. It would equal what we earned at the Atlanta Summer Games in 1996 and the Rio de Janeiro Summer Olympics in 2016. Our biggest haul? The 24 medals we collected at the Tokyo Games in 2021.

**Podium prospects**

So who are we pinning our hopes on? Fans are keeping a keen eye on 17-year-old swimmer Summer McIntosh. She is a four‑time World Aquatics champion and two‑time Commonwealth Games gold medalist.

Sprint canoeist Katie Vincent is another athlete to watch. She could take silver in the women’s singles and doubles events.

Also expected to make the podium are 800-metre runner Marco Arop; decathlete Pierce LePage; judo contender Christa Deguchi; and breaker Phil Wizard.

**Historic sites**

The Stade de France, an arena in a northern suburb of Paris, will host the main sports competitions. Events will also take place at historic sites in and around the capital.

For example, a beach volleyball playing field has been built near the Eiffel Tower, one of Paris’s best-loved landmarks. As well, 19 kilometres outside Paris, the Château de Versailles will host **equestrian** and **modern pentathlon** competitions. It is the former residence of King Louis XIV. The venue for surfing will be some 15,000 kilometres away in Tahiti.

**Keeping it safe**

Keeping everyone safe is a top priority for France. The nation is on the highest security alert level in the lead-up to the Games. Some 45,000 French police, 18,000 soldiers, and 20,000 security guards are on tap to be deployed. Police from other countries are also helping.

President Macron pledged to take all necessary measures to ensure a safe and successful Games. The goal, he said, was "to show that [France] can do extraordinary things."

**A symbol of optimism**

For their part, the athletes and spectators are looking forward to cooperation and healthy competition.

“The Olympics are a wonderful **metaphor** for world cooperation,” said musician John Williams, who has composed many Olympic themes. “[It’s] the kind of competition that’s wholesome and healthy, an interplay between countries that represents the best in all of us.

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**The Paralympics**

Between August 28 and September 8, Paris will also host the Paralympic Games.

These Games are a multi-sport international event for athletes with physical disabilities. They started in the United Kingdom in 1948 with a wheelchair archery competition organized for injured soldiers.

An estimated 4400 Paralympic athletes will compete this summer in Paris in 549 events. Team Canada plans to send 43 athletes who will participate in nine sports. Medal hopes are high for para cyclist Charles Moreau, among others.

**Olympic History**

The Olympics originated some 3500 years ago in Greece, but were **abolished** by the Roman Emperor in 394 A.D. Why? Because he felt that a **pagan** festival should not be held in a Christian empire. However, the Games were reintroduced to the modern world in 1894 by 24-year-old Baron Pierre de Coubertin. He believed that sport benefits humankind and encourages world peace.

The Olympic rings are the official symbol of the Olympic movement. The five interlacing blue, yellow, black, green, and red rings set upon a white background represent the union of five continents – Australia, Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. The colours were chosen because at least one of them is found on the flag of every country.

The most revered symbol of the competition is the Olympic flame. According to Greek mythology, Prometheus stole sacred fire from the gods and brought it to Earth, where it became the symbol of human reason, freedom, and creativity.

For each Olympics, a new flame is started in the ancient Olympic stadium in Olympia, Greece. The flame then lights a torch that is passed from runner to runner in a relay – first around Greece, then in the country where the Games will be held.

The Olympic Torch Relay left Olympia on April 16 and arrived in Marseille, France on May 8. The flame sailed to the host country on an historic 19th-century French tall ship. The plan was for some 10,000 torchbearers to visit 400 towns and cities, including six French overseas territories – French Guiana, New Caledonia, Réunion Island, French Polynesia, Guadeloupe, and Martinique. One place where it won’t go? Saint-Pierre and Miquelon, the small French islands 20 kilometres off the island of Newfoundland. Organizers likely thought the islands were too remote – and its population of 6000 too small – to merit a visit by the relayers.

**abolish:** to officially end something, especially a law or system

**equestrian:** to do with riding horses as a sport

**metaphor:** a way of describing something by comparing it with something else that has some of the same qualities

**modern pentathlon**: a sport that includes swimming, fencing, showjumping, and cross-country running/shooting

**pagan:** connected with religious beliefs that are not part of any of the world’s main religions

**Comprehension Questions**

1. When and where did the Olympics originate?

2. What happened to the Olympic Games in 394 A.D.?

3. Explain what Baron Pierre de Coubertin did in 1894. What were his reasons for doing this?

4. Where will the 2024 Summer Olympics take place? When will the Games start and finish?

5. How many teams and how many athletes will compete in the Games?

6. How many athletes will represent Canada at these Games?

7. What sporting event will occur after the Summer Olympics have finished?

8. List at least two important facts about these Games.

9. What is the most revered symbol of the Olympics? Explain the historical meaning of this symbol.

10. Explain what happens in Greece to launch every Olympic Games. What happens after the flame is lit?

**Questions for Further Thought**

1. The history of the Olympic Games dates back to ancient Greece about 3500 years ago, but the Olympics were abolished by the Roman Emperor in 394 A.D. Baron Pierre de Coubertin reintroduced the Games to the modern world in 1894, saying that he believed that sport benefits humankind and encourages world peace. Do you agree or disagree with his perspective? Support your opinion with reasons.

2. Despite the atmosphere of international cooperation at the Olympic Games, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has announced that Russian and Belarusian athletes will not take part in the Opening Ceremony at the 2024 Olympics in Paris. Athletes from both countries were banned following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Do you agree or disagree with this decision? Give reasons to support your response.

3. Andre de Grasse, a Canadian sprinter and six-time Olympic medalist who will be competing for Canada in Paris, had this to say: "***Never let your success go to your head. Never let your failures get in your heart.***" As you see it, what does he mean by this statement? In your opinion, how do Olympic athletes like Andre De Grasse inspire youth? Give examples to support your thinking.

**Questions For Online Exploration**

*Note*: The links below are listed at **www.lesplan.com/links** for easy access.

1. Visit the official Olympic Games websites for all of your general questions about the 2024 Paris Games: **https://olympics.com/en/**

2. Visit the official Canadian Olympic team site to learn about who will be representing Canada in Paris this summer:  
**https://olympic.ca/  
https://olympic.ca/athletes/**[**https://paralympic.ca/paris**](https://paralympic.ca/paris)

3. Explore all of the Summer Olympic sports that will be contested in this year's Games:  
**https://olympics.com/en/sports/  
https://www.sportico.com/leagues/olympics/2024/new-olympic-sports-2024-paris-1234775913/  
https://paralympic.ca/paralympic-sports**

Which sport is new to this year's Games?

4. Learn about the venues where some events will take place, some of which will be overseas departments of France:  
**https://olympics.com/en/paris-2024/venues  
https://www.worlddata.info/europe/france/index.php**

Which of these locations would you like to visit the most? Why?

5. Learn why French President Macron is considering reorganizing the Opening Ceremony:  
**https://www.cbc.ca/sports/olympics/paris-olympic-opening-ceremony-seine-river-stadium-security-1.7173801**

6. Who should Canadians be watching to bring home medals for Canada at the 2024 Paris Games?  
**https://www.cbc.ca/sports/the-buzzer-newsletter-canada-medal-predictions-paris-2024-1.7176812  
https://solutionsmedia.cbcrc.ca/en/paris-2024/paralympic-athletes-to-keep-an-eye-on-at-paris-2024  
https://www.cbc.ca/kidsnews/post/100-day-countdown-to-2024-paris-olympics-starts-now**

Who will you be cheering for in Paris? Why?

**Putting It All Together**

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

**\_\_\_\_\_\_ 1. The five interlacing Olympic rings represent:** a) the five senses b) the ancient pentathlon  
 c) five continents d) the original five events at the Olympics

**\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2. What is the newest sport at the Summer Olympics?** a) surfing b) breaking  
 c) skateboarding d) curling

**\_\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Which French territory will not be included in the Olympic Torch Relay?** a) Martinique b) French Guiana  
 c) Saint-Pierre and Miquelon d) Réunion Island

**B. Mark the statements T (True) or F (False). If a statement is** True**, write one important fact to support it on the line below. If a statement is** False**, write the words that make it true on the line below.**

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 4. **True** or **False**? Baron Pierre de Coubertin re-introduced the Olympics to the modern world.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 5. **True** or **False**? The Olympic Torch relay started in Paris.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 6. **True** or **False**? The Paralympics began in 1948 after an archery event for injured veterans.

**C. Fill in the blanks to complete each sentence.**

7. About \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ athletes will compete at the Olympic Summer Games.

8. The French government is worried about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ during the Olympics.

9. Olympic surfers will compete in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

**D. Respond to the following question in paragraph form. *(Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary.)***

10. As you see it, what is the significance of international sporting competitions like the Olympic Games? Give reasons to support your response.

**Tensions Rise Between Iran and Israel**



The Middle East was on high alert in April. The reason? Israel and Iran, long-time enemies, were angrily exchanging drone and missile attacks.

The conflict sparked fears that the ongoing **shadow war** between these two nations could escalate. It could even spread to involve Syria, Yemen, and the United States (U.S.).

**Onslaught in the air**

The display of hostility began on April 1. That was when Israeli missiles struck Iran's **consulate** in Damascus, the capital of neighbouring Syria. The attack killed 12 people. Two top Iranian generals were among the dead.

Israel didn't claim responsibility for the raid. However, Iran and other countries say the Jewish state carried out the attack. So Iran vowed revenge. And on April 13 it launched a **barrage** of over 300 armed drones and missiles at Israel.

With help from other countries, Israel's air defences fended off Iran's **retaliation**. No one was killed. But the attack was significant. It was the first time that Iran had attacked Israel directly from its own territory.

Then, on April 18, Israel struck back. This time, explosions occurred near the Iranian cities of Isfahan and Tabriz. These sites are close to a nuclear facility and a military base. A long-range air defence system was destroyed. However, this response was relatively mild. Analysts say that it wasn't meant to do great harm. Its purpose was to show Iran that Israel can penetrate its defenses. If it wanted to, it could hit sensitive, precise targets. However, it didn't want to provoke a war.

For its part, Iran downplayed the incident. It insisted that no damage had resulted. Iranian officials claimed that Israeli drones had been shot down and that no missiles had landed.

**Decades of animosity**

Israel and Iran were not always bitter enemies. For most of the 20th century, they were allies. But relationsbetween the two nations deteriorated after the 1979 Iranian Revolution. The ruler of Iran, Mohammed Reza Shah, was removed from power. The Shah’s **autocratic** pro‑Western **monarchy** was replaced by an Islamist republic. It was headed by Ayatollah Khomeini.

Iran's new **theocratic** regime became hostile towards Israel. It strongly opposed Israel on **ideological** grounds. It believed that the Jewish state had no right to exist.

**Shadow war actors**

During this time, a dispute between Israel and hostile forces in neighbouring Lebanon boiled over. That led to a three-month war in 1982.

Iran and Lebanon both have large **Shia** **Muslim** populations. They are also allies. So Iran helped establish Hezbollah in Lebanon. It is a highly influential political and **paramilitary** organization. The group has an armed wing comprised of thousands of fighters. It also has a huge arsenal of weapons. The West considers it a terrorist organization. Hezbollah has fought against Israeli soldiers on many occasions. It often launches rocket attacks against Israel from southern Lebanon.

In its quest to **eradicate** Israel, Iran has also strongly backed Hamas. Hamas is the militant group that has governed Gaza, a Palestinian territory within Israel, since 2007. The U.S., Canada, and many other nations say that Hamas is a terrorist organization as well. U.S. officials believe that Iran has financed, armed, and trained Hamas for decades.

Other anti-Israel terrorist groups that are backed by Iran? The Houthis of Yemen, Palestine Islamic Jihad, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

**Nuclear tensions**

Adding to the tensions in the region, Iran has been working to develop nuclear weapons since the 1980s. Many western countries object to Iran's efforts to establish nuclear capability. Israel in particular sees Iran's nuclear plans as a grave threat to its national security.

Various countries have tried diplomacy and **sanctions** to try to convince Iran to abandon its nuclear plans. Israel has also carried out cyberattacks against Iran's nuclear facilities and assassinated Iranian nuclear scientists.

In 2015, Iran agreed to a United Nations proposal to restrict its nuclear program. In return, crippling economic sanctions that had been in place since 1995 would be lifted. However, the agreement fell apart in 2018 and sanctions were once again imposed on Iran. Then in November 2020, Israeli agents assassinated Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, the chief of Iran's nuclear program.

Israel is also suspected of conducting an organized effort to assassinate top Iranian officials. Iran claims that in 2022 alone, Israel killed seven members of Iran’s military Revolutionary Guard.

**A ray of hope**

So what's next? By late April, there were signs that the tension between Israel and Iran wasn't going to continue increasing. Both countries sent quiet signals to allies and diplomats that they didn't want to take their dispute to the next level, preventing a wider regional war.

Will this fragile arrangement last? The world can only hope so.

**autocratic:** describing a person or group with complete power that makes decisions without asking anyone else's advice

**barrage:** concentrated artillery bombardment over a wide are

**consulate:** an office that helps citizens of one country who are living in a foreign country

**eradicate:** to destroy or get rid of something completely

**ideology:** a set of beliefs, especially one held by a particular group, that influences the way people behave

**monarchy:** a form of government with a monarch as the head

**paramilitary:** organized like an army, but not belonging to an official army

**retaliation:** the act of doing something harmful to someone because they have done or said something harmful to you

**sanctions:** a threatened penalty for disobeying a law or rule

**shadow war:** a form of armed conflict, conducted secretly in the nexus between war and peace where different actors utilize different means to obtain their goals

**Shia Muslim:** one of the two main branches of Islam (the other being Sunni Muslim)

**theocracy:** government of a country by religious leaders

**Comprehension Questions**

1. What happened in Iran in 1979? Describe the government that took power after this occurred.

2. Describe Israeli-Iranian relations before this overthrow. How did things change after 1979?

3. What happened between Israel and Lebanon in 1982?

4. How did Iran become involved in Lebanon? Describe the new military organization that was created.

5. Which other group has Iran supported that is also hostile to Israel?

6. Describe what happened on April 1 in Syria's capital.

7. How did Iran respond to this attack on April 13?

8. How successful was this attack? Explain.

9. How did Israel respond five days later? What did Iran say happened?

10. Describe the extent of Israel's response and the 'message' that was sent.

**Questions For Further Thought**

1. There are a number of regional and international allies who have expressed their official condemnation or support of Iran and Israel. Many have said nothing. Based on what you have learned about the history of these tensions, what might be some of the considerations or concerns about taking sides in such a conflict? Give reasons to support your ideas.

2. What predictions can you make for the future of this conflict? Give reasons to support your response.

**Questions For Online Exploration**

*Note:* The links below are listed at **www.lesplan.com/links** for easy access*.*

1. Watch this summary of the recent tensions between Israel and Iran:  
**https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.7179670** [9:30]

What did you learn?

2. How did Israel’s defence systems manage to intercept the onslaught of drones and missiles from Iran?  
**https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.7175499 [**11:18]

What new information did you learn?

3. Learn more about Israel's response to the April 13 attack, which took place on April 18 near a nuclear plant and military base in Iran:   
**https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/israel-iran-missiles-1.7178447** [0:48] [2:22] [2:06]

What details stood out to you?

4. According to CBC war correspondent Chris Brown, Iran and Israel have shown signs that they have taken a step back from a catastrophic regional war. Hear his analysis of the current situation:  
**https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/chris-brown-analysis-israel-iran-1.7178527 [**8:13]

Do you agree or disagree with his report? Explain.

5. Where do Israel and Iran go from here? Learn more about the complicated history between the two countries and what might come next: **https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/audio/1.7181786** [26:32] (podcast)

What do you believe is the most important consideration in this conflict? Explain.

6. Learn more about the international and regional alliances with Iran and Israel:  
**https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/israel-iran-saudi-arabia-jordan-1.7176154**

What do you believe is the role of these other nations in this conflict? Explain.

**Putting It All Together**

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

**\_\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Who was the first leader of Iran after the Islamic Revolution?** a) Mohammed Reza Shah b) Ayatollah Khomeini  
 c) Bashar al-Assad d) Benjamin Netanyahu

**\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Which militant terrorist group supported by Iran is based in Lebanon?** a) Hamas b) the Houthis  
 c) Hezbollah d) ISIS

**\_\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Israel attacked Iran's consulate in:** a) Baghdad b) Tel Aviv  
 c) Damascus d) Tehran

**B. Mark the statements T (True) or F (False). If a statement is** True**, write one important fact to support it on the line below. If a statement is** False**, write the words that make it true on the line below.**

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 4. **True** or **False**? Israel and Iran have been enemies for over 100 years.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 5. **True** or **False**? Most of the drones and missiles fired by Iran against Israel were destroyed.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 6. **True** or **False**? Israel launched a large revenge attack against Iran in mid-April.

**C. Fill in the blanks to complete each sentence.**

7. Iran and Israel have conducted a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ war against each other for years.

8. Iran and Lebanon both have large Shia \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ populations.

9. Iran has worked to develop \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ weapons since the 1980s.

**D. Respond to the following question in paragraph form. *(Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary.)***

10. As you see it, what is the significance of this story? Give reasons to support your response.

**Hacking Decoded**



London Drugs is a pharmacy chain in Western Canada. On April 28, the company was the victim of a cyberattack. All 79 stores closed for a week. Experts worked around the clock to repair the damage.

Company President Clint Mahlman apologized to customers. He said there was one bit of good news. It appeared that customer information hadn't been compromised.

**Not an isolated problem**

Cyberattacks aren’t limited to retailers. On February 25, the City of Hamilton was hit. In early May, the B.C. government was a victim.

So far in 2024, other Canadian targets have included hospitals, libraries, the RCMP, banks, and even the Toronto Zoo.

**Hard to prevent**

Hackers are behind these cyberattacks. They use **illicit** means to gain unauthorized access to a digital device, computer system, or computer network. That makes hacking a crime, because in Canada it is illegal to access, use, control, interfere or intercept computer data without permission.

Cybercrime is rising across the planet. But it's harder for police to catch hackers than other criminals. It takes much more skill, time, and resources – especially if the hackers are part of a network outside Canada.

**What do they want?**

Money is hackers' biggest motive. In a ransomware attack, for instance, the hacker locks and encrypts the victim's data and important files, and then demands a payment to unlock and decrypt the data.

Sometimes, though, hackers spy for companies or nations that hire them. Others commit a cyberattack because they're angry at someone, or for the attention. Their motives could also be political – they leak sensitive information to let the public know about their concerns.

**Stopping the hackers**

Canada has pretty good cybersecurity. In 2021 we ranked 13th out of 75 countries. But this didn't stop many attacks.

That year, 85 percent of Canadian companies were victims of successful cyberattacks. Two percent of Canadian organizations were hit by ransomware attacks, and many paid the ransom. The average cost for lost business and ransom payments was just under $2 million. Canadians also lost about $100 million in 2021 to online fraud, mainly to investment and romance scams.

Governments are prime targets for hackers. Canada's electronic spy agency is the Communications Security Establishment. In 2021 it blocked 6.3 billion attacks a day against the federal government. This amounts to 2.3 trillion "malicious actions" during the year.

**Many ways in**

Hackers use many techniques. Social engineering is one. It involves tricking someone into giving up data. You might get an email from “tech support,” asking for a password. You might get a call. Your credit card was "stolen" and you have to give the number.

Or a new “friend” might trick you into entering your phone password while they watch. Later, they steal the phone, enter your password, and get your personal information.

Hackers also use a brute force attack. That means using a computer to find a password by going through every possible combination of numbers, symbols, and letters. A dictionary attack using common words is similar.

Sometimes hackers' targets help them out by installing malware. This is downloadable content with a secret code that lets hackers access a device. You think you’re getting a free app, but it costs you your privacy.

Another way? Some hackers look for an unsecured **router**. Once they connect, it’s easy to access all devices on that network.

More advanced hacking relies on glitches in software code that allow hackers to install code on computers that secretly steals data, intercepts emails, or logs keystrokes. They can even take over a target’s computer and use it to commit crimes.

Of course, this isn't a complete list – and there will be new hacking techniques to be aware of in the future.

“The more we rely on technologies, the more we will have these attacks,” said Dr. Saqib Hakak, a New Brunswick computer science professor. “With more automation, with generative AI, [there will be] much more in coming years.”

**Did You Know?**

Not all hackers are bad. **Ethical** hackers identify problems with software code so companies can fix them before bad hackers can exploit them.

**Improving your Odds**

How can you make it harder for a hacker to access your information? Cyber security experts recommend using multifactor authentication. This technique combines “a thing you know and a thing you have.”

Here's how it works: Imagine that you want to log into a website. You enter your password, but that’s not enough. The website generates a code that is sent to your cell phone. You then have to enter the code.

Other tips? Choose passwords carefully. Use a new one for each service that you use. A strong password has a mix of upper- and lower-case letters, numbers, and special characters. Random words separated by hyphens or spaces creates a longer password. That is tougher for a computer to crack.

Always be careful about what you download. Sometimes hackers will set up websites that look very similar to what you’re expecting. Delete old accounts, keep your software up to date, and don't share personal data when you’re using public Wi-Fi.

**ethical:** operating or behaving in a way that tries not to cause social or environmental harm

**illicit:** not legally permitted or authorized; unlicensed; unlawful

**router:** a device that connects computer networks to each other, and sends information between networks

**Comprehension Questions**

1. Using illicit methods to gain unauthorized access to a computer system or a cell phone is called:

2. Why is this activity against the law?

3. Why do hackers do what they do? List at least three reasons why hackers hack.

4. Why is hacking becoming more common? Explain.

5. What do the statistics from 2021 show about cybercrime in Canada?

6. What target do hackers specifically focus on?

7. Explain how a person can access a cell phone or computer without programming skills.

8. List at least three other common techniques hackers use to access data.

**Questions For Further Thought**

1. Saqib Hakak, a professor at the University of New Brunswick who works with the Canadian Institute for Cybersecurity, agrees that with more automation and generative AI, we will see many more data breaches in coming years. As you see it, how might hackers use the capabilities of generative AI to make it easier for them to breach security systems? Give examples to support your ideas.

2. We hear about people or companies being hacked or almost hacked daily. Describe a scam that has happened to you, to someone you know, or that you heard about. What did you learn from this example? Have you ever shared this information with someone else to warn them? Explain.

3. After reading the article, describe some actions that you could take to make your personal devices more secure and your personal information more difficult to obtain.

**Questions For On Line Exploration**

*Note:* The links below are listed at **www.lesplan.com/links** for easy access.

1. Learn why ransomware attacks are increasing and what ransomware hackers do with the data they steal:  
**https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/audio/1.7136692** [7:16] (podcast) **https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/cybersecurity-measures-ransomware-attacks-1.6934486  
https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/ransomware-hackers-data-extort-1.7016157**

What did you learn?

2. Explore the different strategies that hackers use to access data and ways that you can protect your personal information:  
Social Engineering: **https://www.cyber.gc.ca/en/guidance/social-engineering-itsap00166**Glossary of hack types and protection suggestions: **https://www.kaspersky.com/resource-center/definitions/brute-force-attack**Two-factor authentication: **https://www.getcybersafe.gc.ca/en/resources/video-two-factor-authentication**

What type of hack do you think is the most common? Why?

3. Visit these sites to learn how to protect your personal information:  
**a**) Canadian Institute for Cybersecurity (CIC) : **https://www.unb.ca/cic/  
b)** Canadian Centre for Cybersecurity (The Cyber Centre): **https://www.cyber.gc.ca/en   
c**) GetCyberSafe:[**https://www.getcybersafe.gc.ca/en**](https://www.getcybersafe.gc.ca/en)

**Putting It All Together**

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

**\_\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Which Canadian company shut down for a week after a recent cyberattack?** a) Canadian Tire b) London Drugs  
 c) Walmart d) Tim Hortons

**\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Content that is downloaded with secret code that allows a hacker access to a computer is called:** a) malware b) open source  
 c) beta d) bot

**\_\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Cracking a password by trying combinations of letters, numbers, and symbols is called:** a) ransomware b) a dictionary attack  
 c) phishing d) a brute force attack

**B. Mark the statements T (True) or F (False). If a statement is** True**, write one important fact to support it on the line below. If a statement is** False**, write the words that make it true on the line below.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_** 4. **True** or **False**? There are only three ways hackers can access a computer or cell phone.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 5. **True** or **False**? Authorities say its easy to catch and punish hackers located outside Canada.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 6. **True** or **False**? There are more than six billion cyberattack attempts on the federal government every day.

**C. Fill in the blanks to complete each sentence.**

7. Hacking in Canada is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

8. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ engineering involves tricking someone to reveal sensitive information.

9. Computer and cell phone users should choose \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ very carefully.

**D. Respond to the following question in paragraph form. *(Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary.)***

10. What advice would you give to someone who wants to know how to protect their personal information online? Give reasons to support your response.

**Assessment Rubric**

This rubric may be helpful in providing students with formative, strength-based feedback and/or assessing students’ responses holistically. This easy-to-modify activity is included in the doc file which you can download from:   
**www.lesplan.com/subscribers**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Emerging** | **Developing** | **Proficient** | **Extending** |
| **Supports thinking** | Answers or reflections are brief and include obvious facts/details/ evidence. | Answers or reflections are general and supported with some relevant facts/details/evidence. | Answers or reflections are clearly supported with specific, relevant facts/details/evidence. | Answers or reflections are insightful and supported with specific, relevant facts/details/evidence. |
| **Shows understanding** | Responses show a basic understanding of the text, topic, issue or message. | Responses are thoughtful and show a general understanding of the text, topic, issue or message. | Responses are thoughtful and show a complete understanding of the text, topic, issue or message. | Responses are insightful and show a deep understanding the text, topic, issue or message. May synthesize ideas or explain the ‘so what’. |
| **Thinks  critically** | Makes straightforward connections or inferences. Focuses on retelling. | Makes logical connections to self (T:S) and/or background knowledge (T:S). Inferences are logical | Makes meaningful connections to self. Considers ideas between texts (T:T).  Inferences are plausible. | Makes powerful connections that go between texts and/or beyond the text (T:W).  Inferences are plausible and insightful. |

