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

Access Data

There are two main ways to access the data in this Word file:

1) Open the **Word** file and select the data you wish to **Copy.** Then **Paste** the data it into any word processing or email program. Use **Select All** to copy the entire document.

2) Most word processing programs will open **Word** files. You can use **LibreOffice** or **Open Office** (or another similar free program) to open and save **.doc** Word files.

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

What Else Can You Do With The Word File?

#1) You can easily upload the file to Google Drive and share it with students or other teachers. **See how here:**

<https://support.google.com/drive/answer/2424368?hl=en>

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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 developed a dangerous habit. He became so addicted to online betting that he **prioritized** it over everything else – food, bills, and even relationships.

“By early morning 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 didn’t have to stop gambling; I just needed to come up with the right strategy. Winning would fix everything.”

Now 26, he’s been steadily recovering from this destructive behaviour. But he’s still haunted by memories of how he felt when he was in the **throes** of his addiction. And he still has to control the urge to bet, he says, because every day he encounters a slew of 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 and billboards,” he says, “but the temptations are loosening their hold on me.”

**Bombarded!**

Avoiding those ads has become an uphill battle for people like Mr. Oliver – especially for those who watch sports on TV. The difficulty they face? They’re exposed to nearly three gambling ads every single 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. The research, conducted by CBC Marketplace and England’s University of Bristol, found that gambling ads consumed more than 20 percent – or nearly 40 minutes – of a three-hour game.

These pro-gambling messages took many forms, the analysts noted, including betting company logos, commercials, sponsored segments, and information about odds that was flashed onscreen. Meanwhile, less than three percent of the ads talked about where to get help with gambling addiction or noted that a bettor has to be 19 years or older to play.

**All bets are on!**

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

This new legislation made it legal for the first time for people to place 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 – either 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, they reasoned that the taxes the government stood to collect from these betting purchases could be used for social programs.

The law left it up to the provinces and territories to determine how they would handle this new development. In response, every **jurisdiction** promptly launched single-game gambling products that they made available through their existing provincial lottery setups.

**Competing for bettors**

Ontario went further than the others, however, also allowing private companies to get into the act. It created a special agency, iGaming Ontario, to set rules and to oversee gambling operators.

Not surprisingly, for-profit enterprises quickly began competing for a piece of the pie as soon as iGaming Ontario was established. Gambling sites and businesses boomed and between October 1 and December 31, 2023, 49 operators and 72 gaming websites sprang up.

Ontarians responded big time, placing $3.1 billion in bets on sports and e-sports. That was more than one and a half times the tally of $1.9 billion that they had spent on such gambling in the preceding three months.

That made private firms more eager than ever to cash in. As they clamored for attention and **market share**, they began **inundating** the airwaves with ads. And with so much money at stake, they frequently turned to high-profile athletes, hoping to make the gambling pitch more enticing.

**A positive first step**

That set off alarm bells for many critics. Addiction experts and others argue that people like Mr. Oliver – people **susceptible** to risky gambling behaviour – should not have to put up with a tsunami of ads featuring big‑name spokespeople tempting them to put their money on the line.

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

Last August, the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) agreed. The organization, which regulates the province’s gambling sector, ordered the industry to stop using athletes in their ads unless they are promoting responsible gambling. Also restricted are “cartoon figures, symbols, role models, social media influencers, celebrities, or entertainers” appealing to minors.

It's a good first move, say those who have seen the damage that gambling can do. But they are demanding that similar restrictions be put in place across the country. And many, like retired University of Toronto professor Bruce Kidd, want all gambling ads outlawed.

“Our campaign is for banning ads for gambling in the same way that Canada banned ads for tobacco a generation ago,” he said. “These products and practices hurt people. We want to minimize, if not eliminate, that harm.”

**Did You Know?**

The Canadian Gaming Association (CGA) estimates that about $15 billion was bet on sports in Canada in 2020 but only three percent, or about $500 million, was done legally.

**Placing Bad Bets On The Future**

Problem gambling affects all ages. But young people, who are more prone to risky behaviour, are particularly vulnerable. That’s the word from Gambling, Gaming and Technology Use (GGTU), an Ontario mental health and addiction group. The GGTU stresses that adolescent gambling can form the basis of an adult addiction.

The organization reports that one-third of Ontario students surveyed in 2019 had gambled.   
Even more troubling, some four percent of high school students reported symptoms of low- to moderately-severe gambling problems, while two percent reported severe symptoms. Figures are likely similar across the nation.

People under 19 can’t legally gamble using regulated channels. 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 game competitions. 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 includes definitions of most of the criminal offences that Parliament has enacted

**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

**inundate:** to give or send somebody so many things that they cannot deal with them all

**jurisdiction:** an area or a country in which a particular system of laws has authority

**market share:** the portion of a market controlled by a particular company or product

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

**prevalent:** something that exists or is very common at a particular time or in a particular place

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

**susceptible:** very likely to be influenced, harmed, or affected by something

**throes:** in the middle of an activity, especially a difficult or complicated one

**Comprehension Questions**

1. Explain what **gambling** is.

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

3. Name the federal 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 and how were they regulated?

8. How much money did Ontario residents wager on sports betting from July 1 to September 30, 2023? How much did Ontario residents wager during the next three months?

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

10. What does **AGCO** stand for? What is the purpose of this agency?

11. What changes did the AGCO require to sports gambling advertising in Ontario?

**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. Learn more about the popularity of sports betting and why its advertising is everywhere:  
**https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=euLb60GD-P8** [44:11]  
**https://globalnews.ca/news/10253537/sports-betting-gambling-ads-youth-risks/**

What did you learn?

2. 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/**

3. 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?

4. 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**

5. 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?

6. 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?

7. 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?

8. Several organizations have developed pedagogical resources to support youth and adult gambling awareness:  
**https://www.ymcagta.org/youth-programs/youth-gambling-awareness-program**[**https://www.uvic.ca/research/centres/cisur/publications/helping-schools/iminds/index.php**](https://www.uvic.ca/research/centres/cisur/publications/helping-schools/iminds/index.php)[**https://mediasmarts.ca/teacher-resources/online-gambling-and-youth**](https://mediasmarts.ca/teacher-resources/online-gambling-and-youth)

**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) $1.9 billion  
 c) $3.1 billion d) $10 billion  
 e) $15 billion

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

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

**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?** All provinces and territories now allow single-game wagers.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 5. **True** or **False?** Famous athletes can no longer appear in Quebec sports gambling ads.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 6. **True** or **False?** The money Ontario residents wagered on sports betting from October 1 to December 31, 2023  
 was about the same as in the previous three months.

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

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

8. AGCO = Alcohol and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Commission of Ontario.

9. Recent research showed that an average televised sporting event 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.

This is the third time the French **metropolis**, nicknamed the City of Lights, will host the globe’s most celebrated sports competition. Some 10,500 athletes on 206 teams will stream into the city, eager to compete in 329 medal events in 32 sports.

**Team Canada’s athletes**

Over 15 million visitors are expected to descend on the French capital, too, many of whom are coming to watch the competitions.

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 – who will go head to head in teams and as individuals 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).

Prospects are looking promising for our national team. We’re on course to win 22 medals – six gold, seven silver, and nine bronze, according to Neilsen Gracenote, a data-crunching company. That would be our second-highest Summer Games total ever and would equal what we earned at the Atlanta Summer Games in 1996 and the Rio de Janeiro Summer Olympics in 2016. But it would just fall short of our biggest haul – the 24 medals we collected at the Tokyo Games in 2021.

**Aiming for the podium**

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

Sprint canoeist Katie Vincent is another athlete to watch. Neilsen Gracenote projects that she could take two silvers – one each in the women’s singles and doubles events.

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

**Historic sites and venues**

The Stade de France, an arena in a northern suburb of Paris, will host the main sports competitions, but there will also be historic sites throughout the capital and environs where events will take place.

For example, a beach volleyball playing field has been built near the Eiffel Tower, one of Paris’s best-loved landmarks. As well, the Château de Versailles, the former residence of King Louis XIV that’s 19 kilometres outside Paris, will host **equestrian** and **modern** **pentathlon** competitions.

The venue for surfing, however, will be much farther from Paris: the events for this sport will take place over 15,000 kilometres away in Tahiti.

**Security concerns**

Keeping athletes and fans safe is a top concern for France, and the nation was on the highest security alert level during the lead-up to the Olympics. Some 45,000 French police, 18,000 soldiers, and 20,000 security guards were expected to be deployed during the event, along with police from other countries, including Poland and Germany.

Originally, the plan for the Opening Ceremony was for all the teams to form a boat parade along a six-kilometre stretch of the Seine, the river that runs through the French capital. Organizers were set to give out 600,000 free tickets so observers could watch the event from along the Seine’s banks. French President Emmanuel Macron hoped the display would be a “moment of beauty, art, celebration of sports and our values.”

However, a terrorist shooting in Moscow and Russian-backed cyberattacks in France in March highlighted the need for tighter security for the Summer Games, and in April, French officials indicated that they were reconsidering how the Opening Ceremony would unfold, given the challenges involved in keeping a large waterway in the middle of a dense city secure.

**A symbol of optimism**

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."

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.

**The Paralympics**

After the Olympics, between August 28 and September 8, Paris will host the Paralympic Games.

These Games are a multi-sport international event for athletes with physical disabilities. They originated in the United Kingdom in 1948, when a wheelchair archery competition was organized for injured World War II 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.

**A Huge Torch Relay – And A Snub!**

The Olympics originated some 3500 years ago in Greece, but were **abolished** by the Roman Emperor in 394 A.D. 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, who 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 – and the meeting of athletes throughout the world. The colours were chosen because at least one of these shades 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, using a parabolic mirror to focus the rays of the Sun. 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. That has upset many of the people who live on these islands.

“People don’t understand why, because we are French,” said Sophie Jalton, a dance teacher living on Saint-Pierre. “I feel it’s strange because it goes everywhere except Saint-Pierre. That’s not exactly normal.”

**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

**metropolis:** a very large city, often the capital of a country or region

**modern pentathalon:** 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 who Baron Pierre de Coubertin was. What he did do in 1894?

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 three 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**

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. What is a chef de mission and who is taking on this role for Team Canada?  
**https://olympic.ca/2022/05/06/bruny-surin-excited-to-be-named-team-canadas-chef-de-mission-for-paris-2024/**

7. 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) the original five events at the Olympics d) five continents  
 e) the five classical elements

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

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 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  
 e) New Caledonia

**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?** Paris is known around the world as the City of Museums.

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

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

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

8. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ River flows through Paris.

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 after Israel and Iran, long-time bitter **adversaries**, angrily exchanged drone and missile attacks.

The aggression sparked fears that the ongoing **shadow war** between these two nations could escalate and even spread to involve other countries such as Syria, Yemen, and the United States (U.S.), prompting another global conflict in an already troubled world.

**An onslaught in the air**

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

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

With help from the U.S., the United Kingdom, France, Jordan, and other nations, Israel's multilayered air defenses, including the Iron Dome anti-missile system, managed to fend off Iran's expected **retaliation**. Just five **ballistic missiles** struck Israeli territory, and no one was killed. Still, the Iranian bombardment was unprecedented – it was the first time that Iran had attacked Israel directly from its own territory – and fears escalated that a full-blown war between Israel and Iran could occur.

On April 18, Israel struck back. This time, explosions occurred near the Iranian cities of Isfahan and Tabriz, sites close to a nuclear facility and a military base, and a long-range air defence system was destroyed. However, this response was relatively restrained, and analysts suggested that the purpose of the counterattack was to send Iran the message that Israel can penetrate its defenses and hit sensitive, precise targets if needed – but that it didn't want to provoke a war.

For its part, Iran downplayed the incident, insisting that no damage had resulted. Iranian officials claimed the explosions occurred when Israeli drones were shot down, and that no missiles had landed.

**Decades of animosity**

Israel and Iran were not always bitter enemies. For most of the 2oth century, they were allies. But relationsbetween the two nations deteriorated after the 1979 Iranian Revolution which ousted Mohammed Reza Shah. The Shah’s **repressive** and **autocratic** pro‑Western **monarchy** was replaced by an Islamist republic headed by Ayatollah Khomeini. Iran's new **theocratic** regime became hostile towards Israel. It strongly opposed Israel on **ideological** grounds and believed that the Jewish state had no right to exist.

**Shadow war actors**

During this time, a dispute between Israel and its neighbour Lebanon was boiling over into violence, leading to a three-month war in 1982.

Iran and Lebanon, which both have large **Shia** **Muslim** populations, were allies. So Iran helped establish Hezbollah, which has grown to become a highly influential political and **paramilitary** organization in Lebanon. The group has an armed wing comprised of thousands of fighters, as well as a huge arsenal of weapons. Considered a terrorist organization by the West, Hezbollah has fought against Israeli soldiers on many occasions and 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 – also considered by the West to be a terrorist organization – that has governed Gaza, a Palestinian territory within Israel, since 2007. U.S. officials say that Iran has financed, armed, and trained Hamas for decades.

Another anti-Israel terrorist group, the Houthis of Yemen, gets political encouragement – and very likely, sophisticated weaponry – from Iran, too. Additional organizations backed by Iran that the U.S. considers to be terrorist include Palestine Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine‑General Command.

**Iran’s nuclear program**

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 this 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 a number of covert operations, including cyberattacks against Iran's nuclear facilities and the assassination of Iranian nuclear scientists by **Mossad**.

In 2015, Iran agreed to a United Nations proposal to restrict its nuclear program and to allow inspectors to verify compliance in return for the lifting of crippling economic **sanctions** that had been in place since 1995. However, the agreement fell apart in 2018 and sanctions were once again imposed on Iran. 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.

**Is there a path forward?**

While Middle East tensions have the world on edge, some observers say there is hope that the situation won’t deteriorate.

The reason? Both Israel and Iran have sent quiet signals to allies and diplomats that they have no intention of taking their dispute to the next level.

“It appears – for the moment, anyway – that both adversaries are signalling they want to end a worrying spiral of strike and counter strike,” CBC war correspondent Chris Brown reports. “[They seem to want to] re-establish some guardrails in their intensely adversarial relationship that has threatened to engulf the Middle East in a wider regional war.”

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

**Did You know?**

Israel is widely believed to possess nuclear weapons, but it neither acknowledges nor denies the existence of a nuclear arsenal. Analysts believe that Israel has about 90 nuclear warheads and enough plutonium for 100-200 weapons. Israel's policy appears focused on deterrence and it does not seek to threaten other states.

**adversary:** a person that somebody is opposed to and competing with in an argument or a battle

**autocratic:** describing a person or organization has complete power and makes decisions without asking anyone else's advice

**ballistic missile:** a weapon that is powered in flight but that continues and falls towards its target without power

**barrage:** a continuous attack

**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

**Mossad:** Israel's foreign intelligence service

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

**repressive:** controlling what people do, especially by using force

**retaliation:** the act of hurting someone or 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:** the Muslims of the branch of Islam comprising sects believing in Ali and the Imams as the only rightful successors of Muhammad

**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. Describe 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. List the two other militant groups that Iran has supported in the Middle East that are hostile to Israel.

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

7. How did Iran respond to this attack?

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. For years, Iran has backed Hamas, Hezbollah, and Houthis, all anti-Israel terrorist groups, to carry out proxy attacks on Israel. This time, Iran provided Israel with advance notice of the attack. As you see it, why might Iran have changed its military tactics and decided to announce its intentions, to attack Israel directly, and to publicly claim responsibility for doing so? Give reasons to support your response.

3. 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. Learn more about the 300 drones and missiles lobbed at Israel by Iran on April 13:  
**https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/israel-iran-attacks-reckoning-1.7173374** [0:59] [2:02]  
**https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/iran-israel-drone-attack-1.7173115**  **https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/audio/1.7173486** [17:14] (podcast)

What questions do you have?

3. 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?

4. 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?

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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  
 e) Ali Khamenei

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

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

**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 does not have nuclear weapons.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 5. **True** or **False?** Israel's national intelligence agency is called Mossad.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 6. **True** or **False?** Most of the armed drones and missiles launched by Iran against Israel hit their targets.

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

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

8. Israel's anti-missile system is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Dome.

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**



On April 28, London Drugs, a well-known pharmacy chain in Western Canada, discovered it was the victim of a cyberattack. All 79 stores closed for a week while experts worked around the clock to identify and repair the damage. Company President Clint Mahlman apologized for the inconvenience and stated that it appeared that no customer information had been compromised.

“It’s not a matter of did London Drugs do anything bad or were they ill-prepared,” says David Ian Gray of Dig360 Consulting. “For every retailer, it’s a matter of when, not if.”

Cyberattacks aren’t limited to retailers. On February 25, a ransomware attack hit the City of Hamilton. Dozens of services were disabled, including phone lines. First responders used Google Maps to travel to emergencies.

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

**Illegal but hard to stop**

Hacking is the use of unconventional or **illicit** means to gain unauthorized access to a digital device, computer system, or computer network. It is usually associated with illegal activity and data theft by cyber criminals.

Hacking is a crime in Canada. Under the **Criminal Code**, it is illegal to **fraudulently** obtain, access, use, control, interfere, or intercept computer data or functions.

But it's harder for police to catch hackers than car thieves or robbers. It takes much more skill, time, and resources for authorities to investigate, arrest, and prosecute hackers – especially if they are part of a network located outside Canada.

Despite the efforts to stop hackers, cybercrime is rising worldwide and it affects governments, businesses, and individuals. During the pandemic, increased Internet activity due to online shopping and working from home resulted in a corresponding spike in cybercrime.

**Stopping the hackers?**

Canada gets decent marks for cybersecurity. In 2021 we ranked 13th out of 75 countries. But this was not enough to stop many attacks.

Statistics from 2021 show that 85 percent of Canadian companies were affected by successful cyberattacks. In addition, two percent of Canadian organizations were hit by ransomware that year and 11 percent 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 – mostly to investment and romance scams.

Governments are prime targets for hackers. The Communications Security Establishment (Canada's electronic spy agency) says that 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.

Natalia Stakhanova, the Canada Security and Privacy Council Research Chair, warned that the number and severity of cyberattacks was rising.

“We see more data breaches, we see larger data breaches happening more often,” she stated.

Dr. Saqib Hakak, a New Brunswick computer science professor who works with the Canadian Institute for Cybersecurity, agrees.

“The more we rely on technologies, the more we will have these attacks,” he said. “With more automation, with generative AI, it’s going to be much more in coming years.”

**Many ways in**

Hackers use many techniques. One of the easiest doesn’t even require programming. Social engineering involves tricking someone into giving up sensitive data. It might be an email from “tech support,” asking for a password. It might be a call warning that your credit card was stolen and asking to confirm the number.

Social engineering can happen in person. A new “friend” might trick you into entering your password on your phone while they watch. Later, they steal the phone, enter your password, and access your personal information.

Hackers can also use a brute force attack. That means finding a password by going through every possible combination of numbers, symbols, and letters. This would take a long time for a human, but computer programs can do it faster. A dictionary attack is a similar approach using common words.

Sometimes hackers rely on their targets to help them out by installing malware. This is downloadable content that contains secret code, giving the hackers access to a device. You think you’re downloading a free app, but that freeware costs you your privacy.

Another way is through an unsecured wireless network. Some hackers look for an unsecured **router**. Once they connect, it’s easy to access the devices connected to that network.

More advanced hacking relies on vulnerabilities in software code.

“Those flaws are almost always in there, because it’s really, really difficult to write perfect code,” says Toronto‑area software developer Aaron Vegh.

Once inside, hackers can install code that steals data, intercepts emails, or logs keystrokes without the user noticing. A hacker can even take over a target’s computer and use it to commit crimes.

**What do they want?**

Money is the biggest motivator. Sometimes, though, hackers work in an official capacity, spying for the companies or nations that hire them. Other times, it’s personal—maybe a disgruntled employee was fired and wants revenge. Some hackers hope to gain notoriety or respect for their skills, and some are politically motivated. Their goal is to focus public attention on an issue by leaking sensitive information.

**Ethical** hackers test for vulnerable code or security issues but do not steal data or encrypt information. Instead, they disclose the vulnerabilities they find to the company or product owner so the issues can be resolved before they are exploited by bad hackers.

As we become more reliant on technology, we become increasingly vulnerable to cyber-attacks. The best defense? Information

**Improving Your Odds**

How can you make it more difficult for a hacker to access your information? Brennen Schmidt, a Regina-based cyber security expert, recommends using multifactor authentication instead of relying on usernames and passwords. Multifactor authentication usually combines “a thing you know and a thing you have.”

Imagine that you want to log into a website on your computer. 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. You have to have both the computer and the phone.

More advice? Choose passwords carefully. Use a different and unique password for each service that you use. A strong password contains many characters and mixes of upper- and lower-case letters, numbers, and special characters. Some experts recommend using a string of random words separated by hyphens or spaces. This creates a longer password, which is tougher for a computer to crack.

Always be careful about what you download. Make sure you know what you’re getting and where it’s coming from. Double-check the URL. Sometimes hackers will set up websites that look very similar to what you’re expecting.

There are many other tips, including deleting old accounts, keeping your software up to date, and not sharing personal or financial data when you’re using public Wi-Fi.

**Criminal Code:** a federal law that includes definitions of most of the criminal offences that Parliament has enacted

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

**fraudulent:** something that is intentionally false and meant to harm or deceive.

**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. Explain what **hacking** is.

2. Is hacking against the law? Explain. Why is it harder to catch hackers than many other criminals?

3. Why do hackers do what they do?

4. Why is hacking becoming more common? Explain.

5. How did Canada rank in 2021 regarding cybersecurity?

6. What do the statistics from 2021 reveal about cybercrime in Canada?

7. What target do hackers specifically focus on?

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

9. 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 more about the recent cyberattacks at some of the Canadian businesses, institutions, and organizations mentioned in the article:  
a) London Drugs: **https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.4221655** [7:54]  
b) BMO (Bank of Montreal): **https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/audio/1.7171812** [10:11] (podcast)  
c) City of Hamilton: **https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/audio/1.7138526** [9:26] (This podcast includes an interview with Jayson E. Street, who companies pay to try to hack into their security systems.)  
d)Toronto Libraries: **https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/toronto-public-library-ransomware-employee-data-1.7028982**  
e) RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police): **https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/cybersecurity-breach-rcmp-1.7123787**f) Five Ontario hospitals: **https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/ransomware-hackers-data-extort-1.7016157**

What questions do you have?

2. 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?

3. 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?

4. 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  
 e) Loblaws

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 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  
 e) prototype

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 3. **Cracking a password by trying many combinations of letters, numbers, and symbols is called:** a) social engineering b) a dictionary attack  
 c) phishing d) a DoS attack  
 e) 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?** All hacking in Canada is illegal.

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

\_\_\_\_\_\_ 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. Cybercrime increased during the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because more people shopped online and more employees worked from home.

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

9. Multi-factor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sends a code to a phone to allow a person to log in.

**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. |

