

Fast Facts and Mission Posts

North American Division for third quarter 2021

Canada

1. In Canada, there are 391 churches, 80 companies, and 72,289 members. In a population of 37,419,000, that's one church member for every 518 people.
2. The first union conference in Canada, made up of eastern Canada only, was formed late in 1901.
3. The work of the church in Canada was extended beyond the official provinces for the first time in September 1969 when David Bartsch was sent to the Northwest Territories.
4. In 1973, 150 volunteers, sponsored by Maranatha Flights International, flew to the Northwest Territories and built a multipurpose complex to provide a sanctuary, a youth center, and a pastor's home in Yellowknife, the capital. A plane was also provided to serve the needs of outlying communities.
5. Canada is secular and post-Christian but religious freedom is protected by the constitution. Sixty-seven percent of Canadians identify as Christian; nearly 40% of the population is Roman Catholic, with Protestants making up around 27%. Almost a quarter of Canadians claim no religious affiliation.
6. Canada is a country in North America, sharing its southern and part of its western borders with the United States. In fact, its border with the United States is the world's longest land border, at 5,525 miles (8,891 km). Canada stretches from the Pacific Ocean in the west, to the Atlantic Ocean in the east, and up into the Arctic Ocean in the north. It is the second-largest country, by area, in the world, after Russia.
7. Canada has ten provinces and three territories. Its capital is Ottawa, which is located on the border of Ontario and Quebec provinces, and has a population of nearly 1 million.
8. English and French are the official languages in Canada, with about 50% speaking mostly English and 25% speaking mostly French. Most of the French-speaking population is located in Quebec, a large province in the east of the country.
9. Canada has hosted the Olympics three times: the 1976 Summer Olympics were held in Montreal, the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary, and the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.
10. The most popular sport (and the official winter sport) in Canada is ice hockey. Coming a near second (and the official summer sport) is lacrosse, whose origins lie in a game played by various tribes of indigenous peoples of North America.
11. Canada can get pretty cold in the winter: the average daily temperatures in the interior regions are around 5°F (-15°C) but can drop to below -40°F (-40°C). However, on February 3, 1947, in a small village called Snag, in the northern territory of Yukon, a temperature of -81.4°F (-63°C) was recorded.
12. The world's farthest-north settlement is in Canada: Canadian Forces Station Alert is located on the northern tip of Ellesmere Island, at a latitude 82.5°N, and only 508 miles (817 km) from the North Pole.
13. Canada has the longest coastline in the world, at 151,019 miles (243,042 km) long.
14. Poutine, a dish consisting of French fries covered in cheese curds and gravy that originated in Quebec, is now considered one of Canada's national dishes.

15. The Canadian one-dollar coin features Queen Elizabeth of England on the front and a common loon (a bird found throughout Canada) on the back and is popularly known as a “loonie.”
16. The Canadian national anthem, “O Canada,” was commissioned to celebrate the 1880 Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day ceremony. Originally written in French, it was translated to English in 1906. It was officially adopted as the national anthem in 1980, one hundred years after it was written.

Marshall Islands

1. The Marshall Islands are part of the Guam-Micronesia Mission, which also includes Guam and Wake Island, the Northern Mariana Islands, Micronesia, and Palau. The mission has 22 churches and 15 companies, with a membership of 5,805. The population of the countries in the Guam-Micronesia Mission totals 414,000 and there are 71 people for each Seventh-day Adventist.
2. Delap Seventh-day Adventist School, also known as Majuro Seventh-day Adventist School, is a K-12 school run by the Guam-Micronesia Mission. It is located in Delap, on the island of Majuro, directly beside the Pacific Ocean, and is within 1,600 feet (500 meters) of the capitol building.
3. Delap Seventh-day Adventist School was founded in 1978 and has been operated by student missionaries, mainly from North America, Brazil, and the Philippines. Classes are taught in English.
4. Most people in the Marshall Islands are Christian, with the largest group being the United Church of Christ at 52% of the population. The Assemblies of God make up nearly one-fourth, and the Catholic Church around 8%. The rest is a mix of other Christian denominations, with a small community of Muslims based in Majuro.
5. The Republic of the Marshall Islands is located in Micronesia (which literally means “small islands”), a group of islands and atolls in the North Pacific Ocean, half-way between Hawaii and Australia.
6. It is one of only four atoll nations in the world and is made up of twenty-nine low-lying coral atolls, remnants from nearby volcanic systems, with a total of 1,225 islands, 870 reef systems, and 160 species of coral.
7. The Marshall Islands is one of the world’s youngest countries; it has only been independent since 1986.
8. The currency of the Marshall Islands is the U.S. dollar.
9. The official languages are English and Marshallese, which has two dialects: Rālik (western) and Ratak (eastern).
10. Until the end of World War II, when new technologies made navigation easier, the Marshallese used stick charts to navigate the islands and atolls in canoes. These were a matrix of sticks (made from the ribs of coconut fronds), shells, and string; the shells represented islands, the sticks were ocean swell patterns, and the threads, wave crests. Sailors made them individually, based on their own experience, and they varied enough in form and representation that only their creators could really interpret and use them.
11. Industry in the Marshalls is focused mainly on tuna processing, and copra, the dried meat of coconuts, which is used to make coconut oil. Some entrepreneurs have been experimenting with using coconut oil as an alternative to diesel oil for engines.

12. The largest concentration of Marshall Islanders outside their homeland is located in Springdale, Arkansas, where about 4,300 have immigrated.
13. There are about seventy species of birds on the Marshall Islands, but the only land bird is the house sparrow, which was introduced by man.
14. In 2011, the Marshallese government created the world's largest shark sanctuary, an area covering nearly 772,000 square miles (2,000,000 km²).

United States

1. While there is a total of 1,172,700 members in the United States, the Arizona Conference, where the Holbrook Indian School is located, has 78 churches and 20,692 members. With a population of 7,052,954 in the state, there is one Adventist for every 341 people in Arizona.
2. The North American Division is made up of eight union conferences, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, and the Guam-Micronesia Mission.
3. Oakwood University, in the state of Alabama, is the only educational institution attached directly to the North American Division.
4. Holbrook Indian School was opened in 1946 in Holbrook, Arizona. As well as teaching the regular curriculum of English, history, math, and science, classes are held in vocational subjects such as auto mechanics, horsemanship, welding, and woodworking. The school also works to preserve Native American culture by teaching the traditions of pottery making, Navajo language, and government. Currently the school is funded 20% by the Pacific Union Conference and 80% through donations.
5. There is no official language of the United States. Almost everyone speaks English, and almost all government, education, and business is carried out in English. Spanish is the second most widely spoken language and is the most widely taught second language.
6. The United States of America is the world's third-largest country in size (after Russia and Canada) and the third largest in terms of population (after China and India).
7. In geographical terms, the United States is made up of the forty-eight contiguous states, the state of Alaska (which is separated from the rest of the U.S. by the west coast of Canada), the island state of Hawaii (which is about 2,500 miles, or 4,000 km, west of California), and the five island territories of American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as a few minor outlying possessions.

Arizona

8. Arizona is the sixth-largest U.S. state in terms of territory and the fourteenth in terms of population. It is located in the southwestern United States, and it borders the states of Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, California, and Colorado.
9. Arizona, along with California, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah, was originally a part of Mexico. After the U.S. won the Mexican-American War in 1848, Arizona became a territory of the U.S., but it didn't become the forty-eighth state until February 14, 1912.
10. Arizona is famous for the Grand Canyon, which is more than a mile (1.6 km) deep, 227 miles (365 km) long, and up to 18 miles (29 km) wide.

11. If you cut down a cactus in Arizona you could end up in jail for 25 years. The saguaro cactus can grow up to 50 feet (15 meters) tall, but it grows very slowly, and it can live for up to 200 years.
12. The Gila monster is the largest — and only venomous — lizard native to the United States. It can grow up to two feet (60 cm) long, and is heavy and slow moving, so it is rarely a danger to humans. It is named after the Gila River Basin in Arizona and New Mexico, where it was once plentiful.

Navajo Nation

13. The name Navajo is derived through Spanish from the Tewa (spoken by the Pueblo people) word *navahū*, which means “fields adjoining a ravine.” The Navajos call themselves Diné.
14. The Navajo Nation is located in parts of the states of Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah, and is comprised of over 16 million acres/27,000 square miles (71,000 km²) — larger than ten of the fifty states in the U.S.
15. In the mid-nineteenth century, the Navajo people were forced from their traditional lands in Arizona by the U.S. government and were brutally marched 400 miles (640 km) (known as The Long Walk) to imprisonment in Bosque Redondo, an internment camp near Fort Sumner in the New Mexico Territory. The Treaty of 1868 established the “Navajo Indian Reservation” and the Navajos were able to leave Bosque Redondo and return to their traditional land. Over the years, the Navajo Nation has persuaded the U.S. government to add land to the reservation, increasing it from the original size of 3.5 million acres (14,000 km²).
16. Many Navajo families raise sheep and goats, processing the wool to sell, or turning it into yarn to produce woven blankets and rugs for sale. Navajo artists are also known for their turquoise and silver jewelry, sculpture, and pottery.
17. After The Long Walk, the government tried to compel the Navajo to enroll their children in Western-style education, in particular boarding schools, which were designed to not only educate but to “Americanize” them, which some have subsequently called “cultural genocide.”
18. The traditional structure of Navajo society is matrilineal — the women’s family owned houses, livestock, and grazing and planting areas. When married, a man would move to live with his wife in her home and near her family. Their children were born to the mother’s clan and the daughters would inherit.

Recipe

Marshall Islands

Sweet Potatoes and Fried Bananas

Ingredients

1 1/2 lb (0.7 kg) sweet potatoes
2 bananas
2 Tbsp (30 ml) butter or coconut oil
A pinch of salt

Instructions

Boil the sweet potatoes until tender. When cool enough to handle, peel and cut into cubes about 1-inch (2 cm) square.

While the sweet potatoes are boiling, cut the bananas into thick slices and gently fry in the butter or coconut oil until lightly browned.

Toss the bananas with the cubed sweet potatoes and a pinch of salt.

Game

North America (Native American)

The Hand Game (Stick Game)

This game was played by nearly all the tribes that made up the people of the Plateau (the inland areas of the Pacific Northwest in North America) and is still played today. The game pieces can be any objects you find lying around: originally sticks and bones or stones were used. The prizes would be something of value — a knife, a mat, a basket, a fishing spear.

What You Need

11 sticks or similar objects to keep score

4 pebbles, two each of two different colors, small enough to hide in a fist

A small gift from each player to add to the prize pile

How to Play

Each player puts in a gift: a small toy, a piece of candy, chewing gum, etc. The players are divided into two teams with the same number of players. Each side is given two of the pebbles, one of each color. Each side makes their hands into fists and hidden inside a fist is one of the pebbles.

To play, one person from each team guesses which pebble is in which hand on the other team. If they guess right, their team gets a stick. If they are wrong, the other team gets a stick. Then it's the opposing team's turn to guess.

The winning team is the one who ends up with all the sticks and gets all the gifts brought by both sides.

Song

Canada (French)

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

<p>C'est un rempart que notre Dieu, Une invincible armure, Un défenseur victorieux, Une aide prompte et sûre. L'Ennemi, contre nous, Redouble de courroux: Vaine colère! Que pourrait l'Adversaire? L'Eternel détourne ses coups.</p>	<p>A mighty Fortress is our God, A Bulwark never failing; Our Helper He amid the flood Of mortal ills prevailing: For still our ancient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and power are great, And, armed with cruel hate, On earth is not his equal.</p>
<p>Seuls, nous bronchons à chaque pas Quand l'Ennemi nous presse. Mais un héros pour nous combat Et nous soutient sans cesse. Quel est ce défenseur? C'est toi, divin Sauveur, Dieu des armées! Tes tribus opprimées Connaissent leur libérateur.</p>	<p>Did we in our own strength confide, Our striving would be losing; Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God's own choosing: Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He; Lord Sabaoth His Name, From age to age the same, And He must win the battle.</p>
<p>Que les démons, forgeant des fers, Menacent ton Eglise, Ta Sion brave les enfers, Sur le rocher assise. Constant dans son effort, En vain, avec la mort, Satan conspire. Pour briser son empire, Il suffit d'un mot du Dieu fort.</p>	<p>And though this world, with devils filled, Should threaten to undo us, We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us: The Prince of Darkness grim, We tremble not for him; His rage we can endure, For lo! his doom is sure, One little word shall fell him.</p>
<p>Dis-le, ce mot victorieux Dans toutes nos détresses, Et donne-nous, du haut des cieux, Ta force et ta sagesse. Qu'on nous ôte nos biens, Qu'on serre nos liens, Que nous importe! Ta grâce est la plus forte, Et ton royaume est pour les tiens.</p>	<p>That word above all earthly powers, No thanks to them, abideth; The Spirit and the gifts are ours Through Him who with us sideth: Let goods and kindred go, This mortal life also; The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still, His Kingdom is forever.</p>