

Canadian English uses some words, pronunciations, and spellings that differ from those used in the United States. For example, Canadians say *taps* and *serviettes* when people in the United States say *about* and *boos*. Many Canadians write *colour* for *color*, *theatre* for *theater*, and *cheque* for *check*. The nation's first prime minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, ordered that all official Canadian documents be written using standards set by dictionaries written in England.

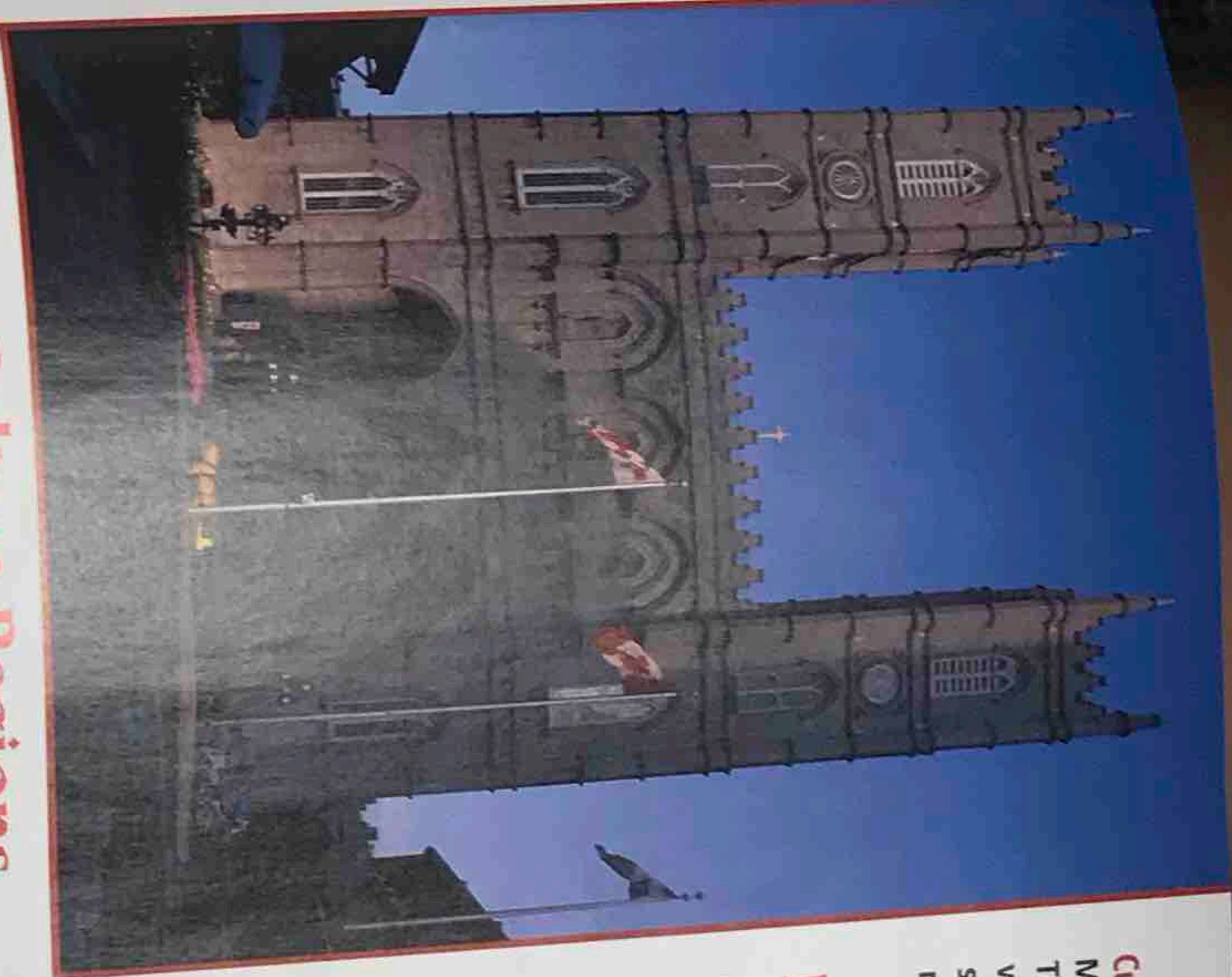
## Arts and Entertainment

Canada has rich traditions in the arts, actively supported by government funding. For example, the Canada Council for the Arts gives money to more than 8,400 artists and art organizations each year. Provincial governments also support regional arts programs. Canadians read many of the same newspapers and magazines, and watch many of the same television shows and movies as do people in the United States. Canadian musicians, such as Neil Young, Joni Mitchell, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Céline Dion, and Shania Twain, are popular in both countries. Comedian-actors Dan Aykroyd and Jim Carrey are also from Canada.

**Reading Social Studies**  
A Synthesizing Skill  
Why does Canada have two official languages?

**Vocabulary**  
provincial:  
of, or relating to a province

**Culture** • The National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa is a visual arts museum that exhibits works by both Canadian and international artists. ▶



**Culture** • Notre-Dame was built in Montreal between 1824 and 1829. The architecture of the church—as well as the paintings, sculptures, and stained-glass windows inside—attracts many thousands of visitors each year. ▶

## Religion

Christianity is widely practiced in Canada, but many other religions are followed as well, including Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism. Some religions are grounded in a spirituality based on respect for Earth and all forms of life. People of every cultural group are free to worship as they choose.

## Culture Regions

Most Canadian immigrants during the 1600s, 1700s, and 1800s were European. Recently, more people have arrived from Asia and South America. People who share the same language and background often settle in the same area. As a result, Canada has various culture regions, or areas where many people belonging to one cultural group live together.

Culture regions exist in different parts of Canada. Quebec is home to many French-speaking Canadians. In Nunavut more than 50 percent of the people are Inuit. Almost 16 percent of the population of Vancouver are Chinese, mostly from Hong Kong.

### BACKGROUND

Inuit culture has been greatly affected by contact with the modern world. However, some Inuit traditions have been preserved in their arts and crafts, dialects, and ways of living in Arctic Canada.

## Connections to History

**Raising the Maple Leaf** A country's flag is an important national symbol. After 1763, when the United Kingdom won the French and Indian War, the British Royal Union Flag, or Union Jack, became Canada's flag. Efforts to design a new flag for Canada began in 1925. The Red Ensign, which had the Union Jack in its upper left

corner and the Canadian coat of arms on its right side, was raised 20 years later.

In 1965, the Houses of Parliament adopted the Maple Leaf, which remains the flag of Canada today. The red background is a connection to the Red Ensign, and the maple leaf is Canada's national symbol.

