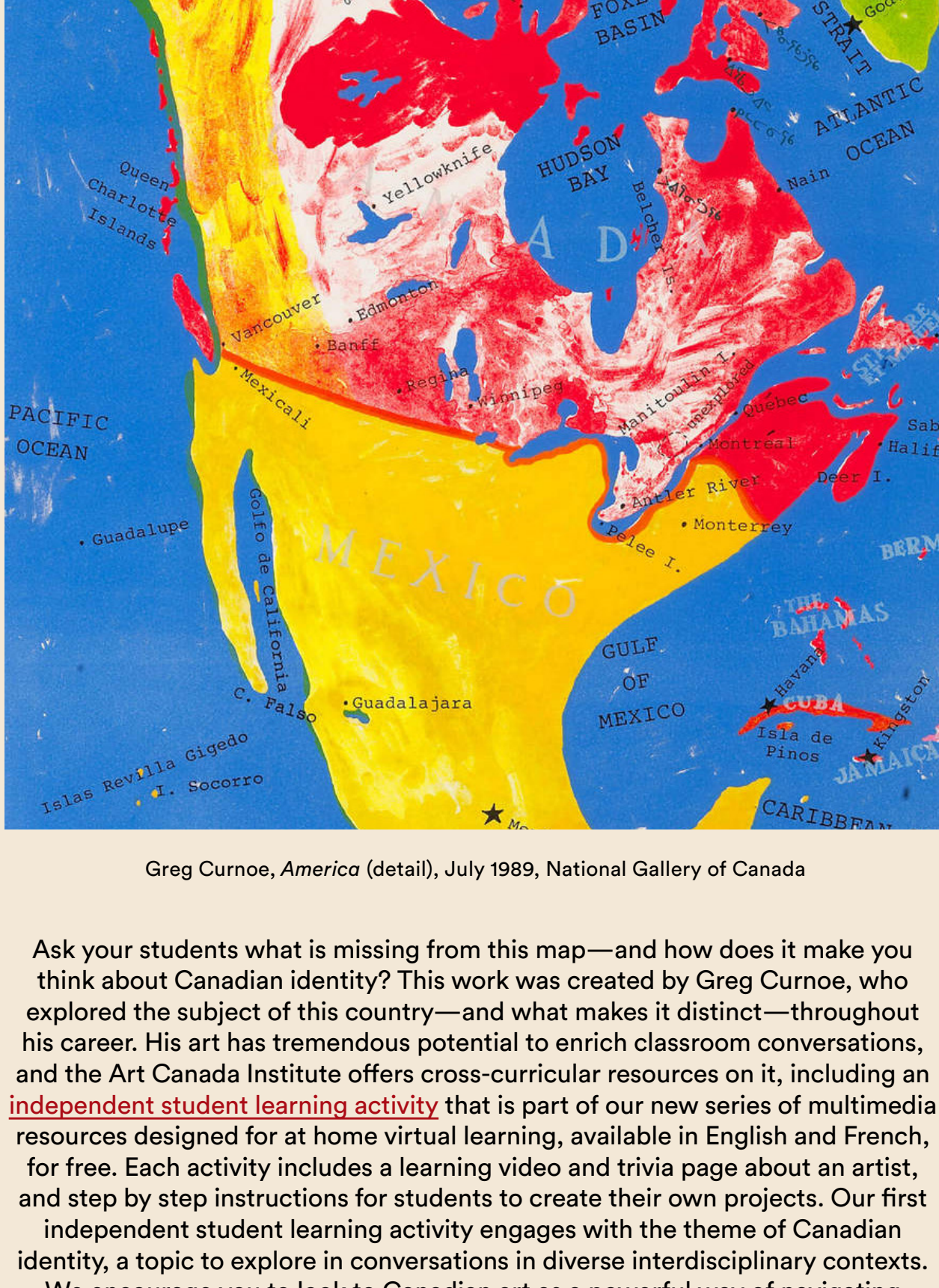


EXPLORING NATIONAL IDENTITY CRITICAL QUESTIONS FOR CANADIAN CLASSROOMS

*Learn about multiculturalism, nationhood, and identities
through the work of four Canadian artists*



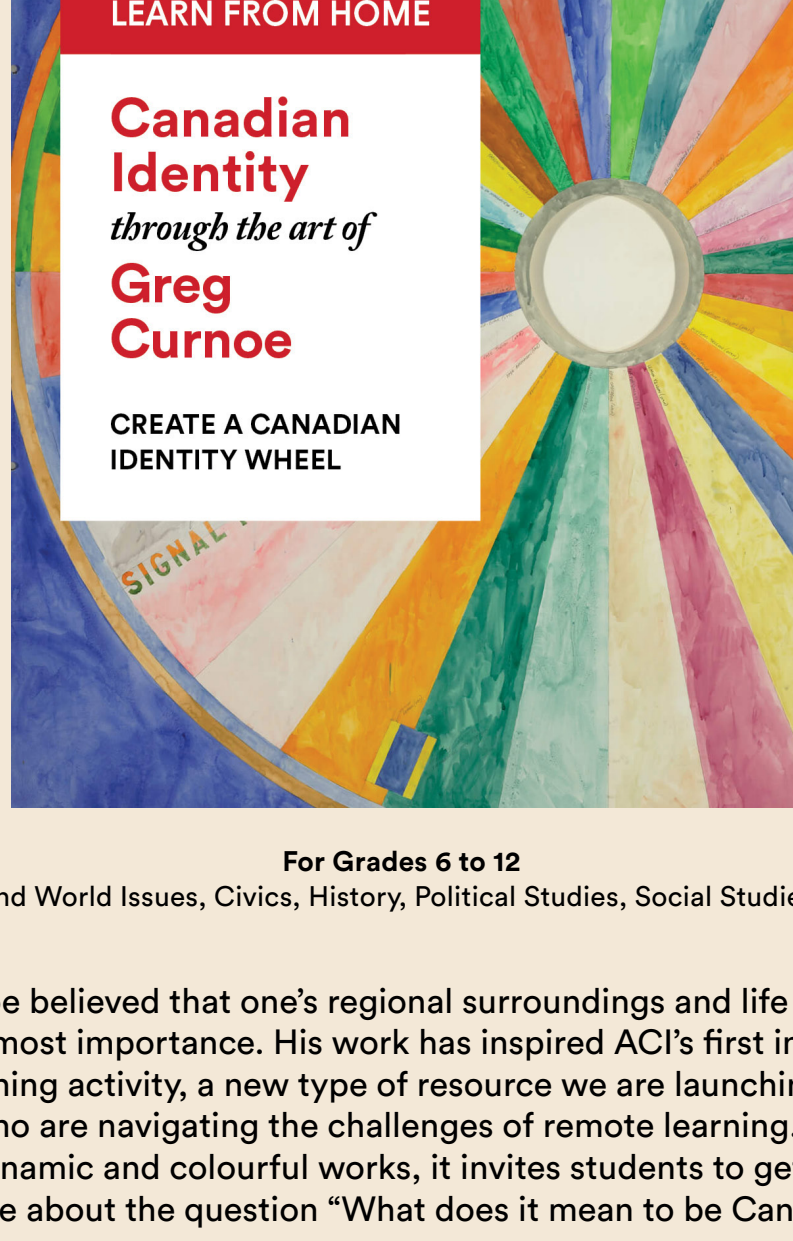
Greg Curnoe, *America* (detail), July 1989, National Gallery of Canada

Ask your students what is missing from this map—and how does it make you think about Canadian identity? This work was created by Greg Curnoe, who explored the subject of this country—and what makes it distinct—throughout his career. His art has tremendous potential to enrich classroom conversations, and the Art Canada Institute offers cross-curricular resources on it, including an [independent student learning activity](#) that is part of our new series of multimedia resources designed for at home virtual learning, available in English and French, for free. Each activity includes a learning video and trivia page about an artist, and step by step instructions for students to create their own projects. Our first independent student learning activity engages with the theme of Canadian identity, a topic to explore in conversations in diverse interdisciplinary contexts.

We encourage you to look to Canadian art as a powerful way of navigating your students through numerous perspectives on this theme – read on for resources and ideas.

— The Art Canada Institute Education Team

PASSIONATELY CANADIAN



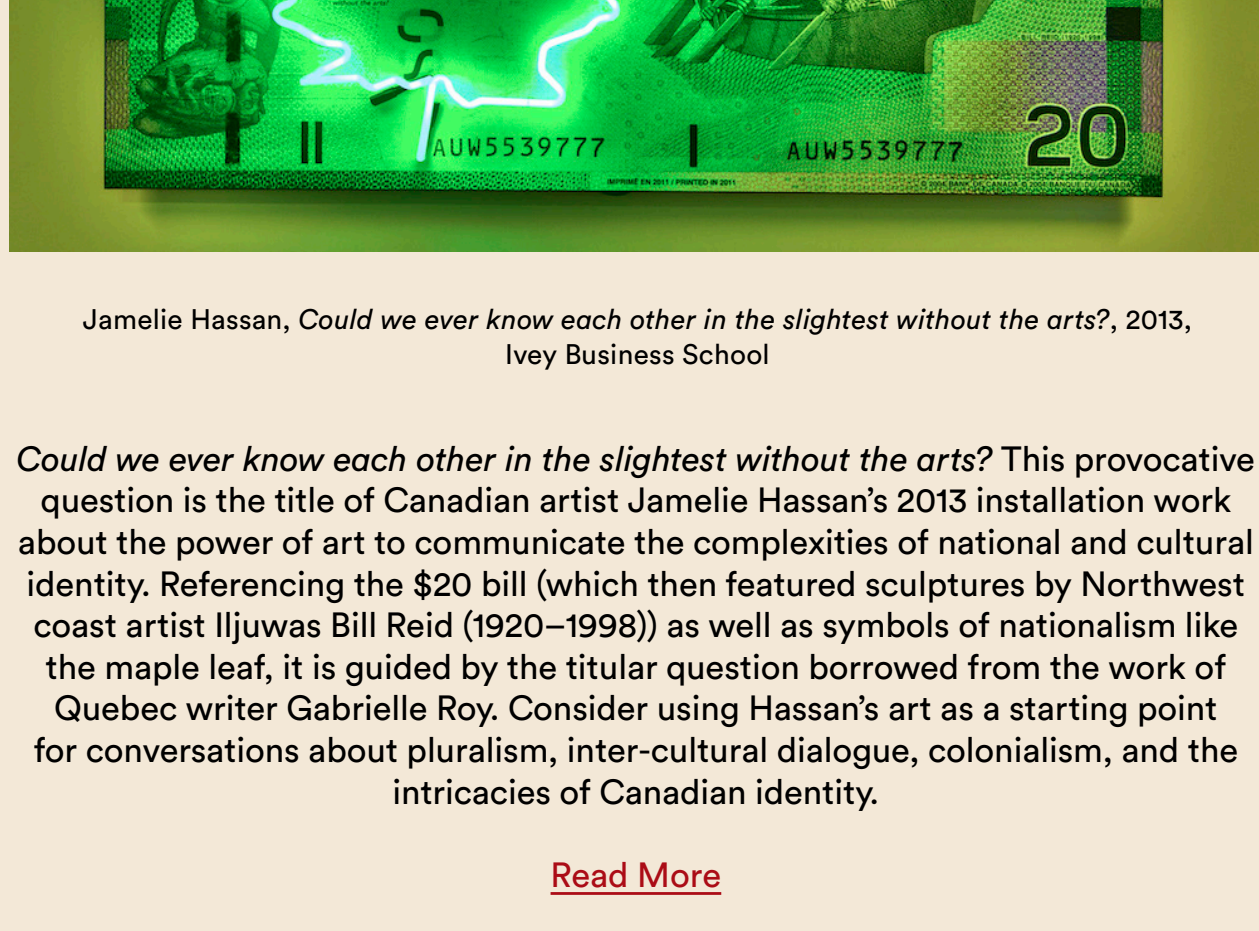
For Grades 6 to 12

Canadian and World Issues, Civics, History, Political Studies, Social Studies, and more

Greg Curnoe believed that one's regional surroundings and life experiences were of utmost importance. His work has inspired ACI's first independent student learning activity, a new type of resource we are launching to support teachers who are navigating the challenges of remote learning. Building on Curnoe's dynamic and colourful works, it invites students to get critical and creative about the question "What does it mean to be Canadian?"

[Download the Independent Student Learning Activity Here](#)

GET TO KNOW JAMELIE HASSAN



Jamelie Hassan, *Could we ever know each other in the slightest without the arts?*, 2013, Ivey Business School

Could we ever know each other in the slightest without the arts? This provocative question is the title of Canadian artist Jamelie Hassan's 2013 installation work about the power of art to communicate the complexities of national and cultural identity. Referencing the \$20 bill (which then featured sculptures by Northwest coast artist Iljuwas Bill Reid (1920–1998)) as well as symbols of nationalism like the maple leaf, it is guided by the titular question borrowed from the work of Quebec writer Gabrielle Roy. Consider using Hassan's art as a starting point for conversations about pluralism, inter-cultural dialogue, colonialism, and the intricacies of Canadian identity.

[Read More](#)

CELEBRATE OUR CULTURAL MOSAIC



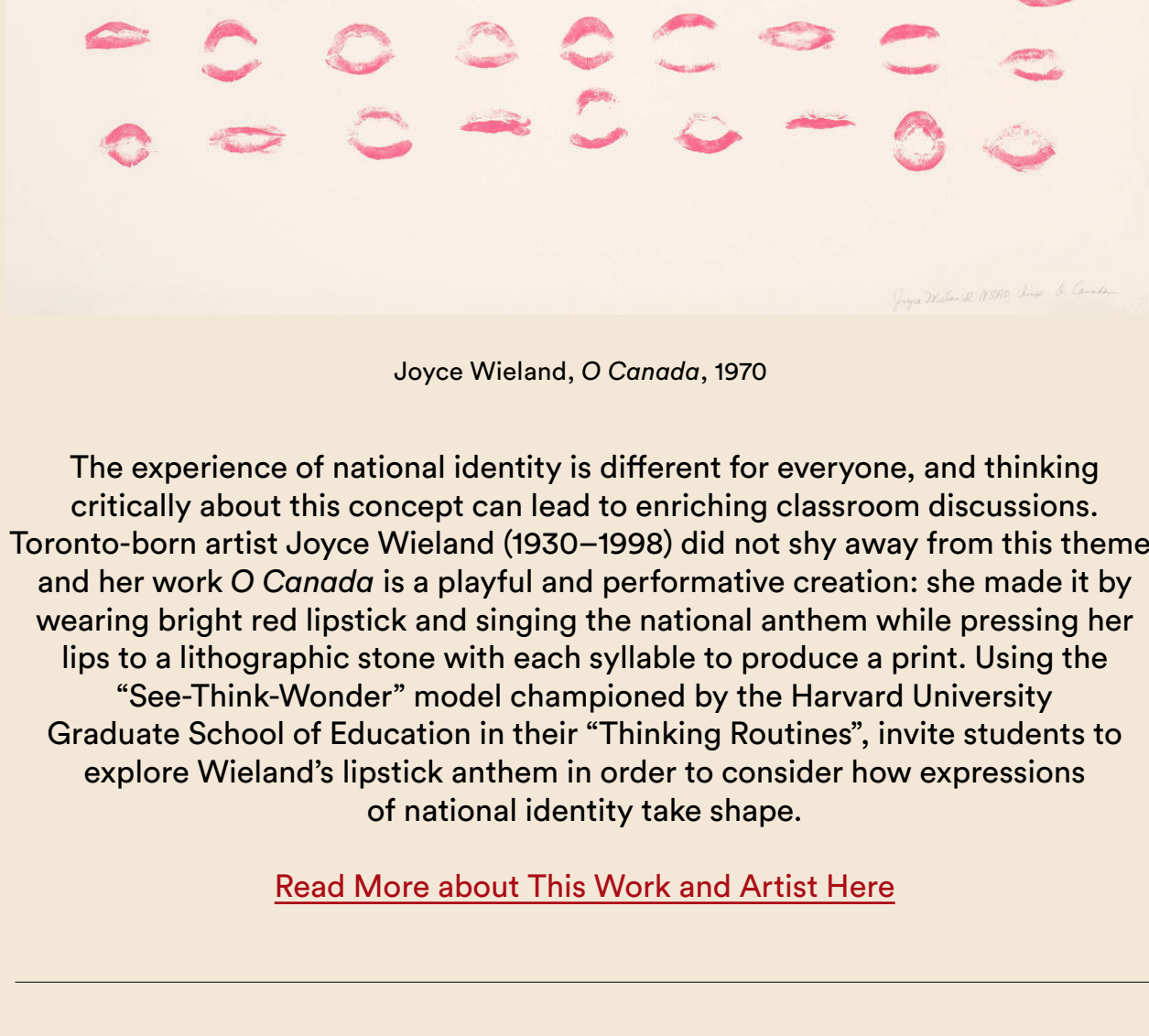
For Grades K to 12

History, Social Studies, Visual Arts, and more

Multiculturalism continues to be an important and debated term that lies at the heart of Canadian discourse. For William Kurelek (1927–1977), a second-generation Canadian of Ukrainian descent, learning about his own cultural roots was the beginning of an inspiring journey that took him across Canada to capture the diversity of the cultural practices, celebrations, and communities that make up our country. Our teacher resource guide entitled "Learn about Multiculturalism through the art of William Kurelek" encourages students to take inspiration from his vibrant images to explore immigration and cultural traditions.

[Download the Guide Here](#)

NATIONAL ANTHEM LIP SYNC



Joyce Wieland, *O Canada*, 1970

The experience of national identity is different for everyone, and thinking critically about this concept can lead to enriching classroom discussions. Toronto-born artist Joyce Wieland (1930–1998) did not shy away from this theme, and her work *O Canada* is a playful and performative creation: she made it by wearing bright red lipstick and singing the national anthem while pressing her lips to a lithographic stone with each syllable to produce a print. Using the "See-Think-Wonder" model championed by the Harvard University Graduate School of Education in their "Thinking Routines", invite students to explore Wieland's lipstick anthem in order to consider how expressions of national identity take shape.

[Read More about This Work and Artist Here](#)

IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER...



Many educators across the country are engaging in strategies to integrate more Indigenous perspectives, approaches, and stories into their classrooms. With this in mind, we are delighted to be presenting a series of teaching and learning resources that we have developed in consultation with Indigenous cultural advisers that centralize the work of Indigenous artists in Canada. Our upcoming independent student learning activity on "Decolonization through the art of Robert Houle" is a great place to start – stay posted for more information on this resource in our next newsletter!

As a bilingual organization, we are proud to offer our materials in both French and English, including this newsletter. Use the sign up links below to receive emails in your preferred language.

SIGN UP

S'INSCRIRE

If you enjoyed this newsletter, please share it.

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ABOUT THE ART CANADA INSTITUTE

Launched in 2013, the Art Canada Institute is the only national institution whose mandate is to promote the study of an inclusive multi-vocal Canadian art history to as broad an audience as possible, in both English and French, within Canada and internationally. The ACI works with more than fifty of Canada's leading art historians, curators, and visual culture experts who are dedicated to the creation of authoritative original content on the people, themes, and topics that have defined Canadian art history.

We are creating a central digital resource to tell the world about Canada's most important works and where they are located. By functioning as an online art museum, a [digital library](#), and an interactive Canadian art encyclopedia, the ACI is an indispensable resource on Canada's visual heritage.

Visit us at aci-iac.ca

THANK YOU TO OUR BENEFACTORS

We gratefully acknowledge the Founding Sponsors of
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