



Road to the Charter

Student worksheet

Use this worksheet to guide your thinking before, during, and after the video that you will watch. As you watch, focus on how historical events, political decisions, and court rulings contributed to the creation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Before you watch

Mind map: My rights

In the centre of the space below, write “Rights I have in Canada.” Around it, add as many examples as you can think of (these may include legal rights, human rights, and even rights that protect you).

Diving deeper

Look at the rights you brainstormed above. Reflect on whether every Canadian has these rights. How do you know? Who is responsible for protecting these rights?

While you watch

As you watch the video, answer the questions below in the order the ideas appear. Focus on how rights protection in Canada evolved and why change was difficult.

1. What document did Canada use to protect rights before the Charter existed?

2. Why did many people believe this document did not provide strong enough protection for rights?

3. What does it mean to “patriate” the Constitution?

4. What kinds of disagreements made it difficult for the federal government and the provinces to agree on constitutional change?

5. What role did the Supreme Court of Canada play when governments could not agree?

6. What compromise allowed the Charter to move forward in 1982?

7. According to the video, how did the Charter change the role of the Supreme Court of Canada?

After you watch

Place the following events in the correct order based on the video:

_____ Canadian Bill of Rights

_____ Patriation of the Constitution/Charter of Rights and Freedoms is adopted

_____ Supreme Court becomes guardian of the Charter

_____ Provinces and federal government disagree on reform

Which event do you think was the most important step toward protecting rights? Why?
