

Is Canada the Best Place to Live

Every nation in the world has defining characteristics that make it and its citizens unique. Although many of the things that distinguish countries from one another are difficult to quantify, there is a universal recognition of an acceptable standard of living and human rights, which can be measured quantitatively. Every country has statistically measurable aspects such as health, education, demographics, and economics. Each year the United Nations compiles data regarding several of these indicators for 177 nations from around the world. Analyzing every indicator and creating indices, the United Nations releases the Human Development Report, which ranks all of the nations with respect to their maintenance of a high standard of living and commitment to human rights. This project analyzes where Canada stands amongst the top ten nations and addresses why it is not the best country in the world.

Each year since 1990 this report has published a human development index (HDI) that looks beyond GDP to a broader definition of wellbeing. The HDI provides a composite measure of three dimensions of human development: living a long and healthy life (measured by life expectancy), being educated (measured by adult literacy and enrolment at the primary, secondary and tertiary level) and having a decent standard of living (measured by purchasing power parity, PPP, income). The index is not in any sense a comprehensive measure of human development. It does not, for example, include important indicators such as respect for human rights, democracy and inequality. What it does provide is a broadened prism for viewing human progress and the complex relationship between income and well-being.

Is there an objective way to determine *quality of life*? This assignment will focus on various characteristics used to measure quality of life. Your task will be to analyze eighteen countries according to how they rank to a set of six factors. Geographers and other social scientists use both *Quantitative* and *Qualitative* methods to complete their analysis of data.

- ***Quantitative methods are those that use numbers to analyze information.***
- ***Qualitative methods are those that use non-numerical, descriptive means of analyzing information.*** involves analysis of data such as words (e.g., from interviews), pictures (e.g., video), or objects (e.g., an artifact)..

This study will look at both methods of analysis. Before you begin ranking each of the criteria's make sure that you understand the measures given in the data chart below.

Fig. 1

	GDP per Capita (US\$), PPP, 2004	Natural Increase Rate (per 1000), 2005	Undernourished People as % of Total, 1998–2000	Literacy Level (%), 2003	Doctors per 100 000 People, 2004
Australia	30 700	4.8	neg.	100	240
Bangladesh	2 000	21.6	35	43	23
Brazil	8 100	10.7	10	86	206
Canada	31 500	3.1	neg.	97	209
Chile	10 700	9.7	4	96	109
China	5 600	6.2	9	86	164
Congo, Dem. Rep.	700	29.9	73	66	7
Germany	28 700	−2.2	neg.	99	362
Iran	7 700	11.3	5	79	105
Japan	29 400	0.5	neg.	99	201
Kenya	1 100	25.5	44	85	13
Mexico	9 600	16.2	5	92	171
Nigeria	1 000	23.5	7	68	27
Papua–New Guinea	2 200	22.6	27	66	5
Singapore	27 800	5.3	neg.	93	140
Thailand	8 100	8.7	18	95	30
United States	40 100	5.9	neg.	97	549
Zimbabwe	1 900	5.1	38	91	6

Task:

- Use **Fig. 1** and rank order each country by placing a number one (1) beside the best rank, number two (2) beside the second best and so on to number eighteen (18) the last place ranking.
- Once you have ranked all the countries according to the six criteria, the next step is to add up all the ranking's for each country and come up with a total score for each individual country. Place this number under the Total score column.
- Using the total score, now rank the scores. Assign a number one (1) ranking to the country with the lowest total score, a number two (2) ranking to the country with the second lowest score and so on the number eighteen (18).
- Write an *information paragraph* by identifying the best country according to the six criteria used in this study. Your topic sentence will be *quality of life and the best place to live (country)*. Use three supporting details from the chart. These details must be the three best rankings from the six criteria.
- Your final task will be to develop a title page which depicts the concept of *Quality of Life*. The title page should identify the six criteria in the study and what Quality of Life means to you! Make it colourful and yes you can use the internet of draw it freehand.

Category of Achievement	Item	LEVEL 1 (50 – 59)	LEVEL 2 (60 – 69)	LEVEL 3 (70 – 79)	LEVEL 4 (80 – 100)	Mark Assigned
Knowledge/ Understanding	Chart/Data Collection	Mostly inaccurate supporting information	Some accurate information	Mostly accurate information	Accurate supporting information	____/10
Thinking/ Inquiry	Chart & Data Interpretation	Analysis and interpretation of Chart/Data is weak	Analysis and interpretation of Chart/Data is satisfactory	Analysis and interpretation of Chart/Data is sound	Analysis and interpretation of Chart/Data is strong	____/10
Application	Title Page	Makes connections with limited effectiveness	Make connections with moderate effectiveness	Make connections with considerable effectiveness	Make connections with a high degree of effectiveness	____/10
Communication	Paragraph Structure	* no clear introduction/conclusion * three supporting details with minimal support * minimal logical plan & sequence	* no clear introduction/conclusion * three supporting details are weak * Overall logical plan & sequence present but weak	introduction/conclusion are good * three supporting details are good * Adequate overall logical plan & sequence	introduction/conclusion are strong & effective * three supporting details are very strong * Very good overall logical plan & sequence	____/10

Quality of Life Chart

Country	Life Expectancy (yrs)	GDP per Capita (\$US)	Natural Increase %	Food Supply (% of need)	Literacy Level (%)	# of People per Doctor	TOTAL SCORE (points)	FINAL RANKING
Australia								
Bangladesh								
Brazil								
Canada								
Chile								
China								
Congo								
Germany								
Iran								
Japan								
Kenya								
Mexico								
Nigeria								
Papua-New Guinea								
Singapore								
Thailand								
United States								
Zimbabwe								