



Adopt a Country Program



Adopt a Country is a school-based program where schools or classrooms “adopt” one of the countries participating in the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 will learn about global citizenship by: engaging in research and discussion of economic, environmental and cultural topics; connecting with related local cultural organizations to learn about their

adopted country and to potentially make connections with students in the adopted country; displaying their learning to the community; and cheering for their adopted country during the 2010 Winter Games. To get started, visit www.sharingthedream.gov.bc.ca, download the Adopt a Country guide, have your school or classroom adopt a country, and register your choice on the Sharing the Dream interactive map.

The 2010 Winter Games provide a valuable opportunity for students to develop an awareness of global issues. Educating for global citizenship is not just about teaching geography; it is an opportunity to develop important skills and values. Understanding global citizenship teaches students to respect differences of opinion, overcome stereotypes, think critically and empathize with others – skills that will allow them to become well-rounded individuals. Learning about other cultures provides an excellent opportunity to reflect on Canadian identity, our multicultural background, and also to examine Canada’s place in the world. The Adopt a Country program introduces all of these topics to students.

Schools are encouraged to register their adopted country on the Sharing the Dream website. The first 100 B.C. schools to register will receive a webcam to connect with a school in their adopted country. Schools that register will receive periodic news updates via email, and teachers will be invited to share stories about the interesting events and activities in their classrooms.

The Adopt a Country school program has been expanded so that schools right across Canada are now able to register on the interactive map. If you have questions about Adopt a Country, please e-mail us at sharingthedream@gov.bc.ca and include the subject line, “Adopt a Country.”