



LESSON PLAN

Level:	Grades 9 to 11
About the Author:	Adapted, with permission, from a unit developed by Mark Zamparo, and Ottawa-based media educator

Crime Perceptions Quiz

Overview

This lesson helps students understand the difference between real-life crime and criminal activities portrayed in crime shows by having them compare their perceptions about crime to actual crime statistics.

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- understand how crime shows construct reality
- appreciate the differences between the constructed reality of crime dramas and crime in real life

Preparation and Materials

- Photocopy *Crime Quiz*
- Download *Quiz Solutions*
- Reproduce *Canadian Crime Statistics* as a transparency or be prepared to show it using a smartboard.

Procedure

Ask your students:

- What is crime?
- How many types of crime can you think of?
- What do you think is the most prevalent type of crime in Canada: For adult offenders? For youth offenders?

Administer the *Crime Quiz*.

- Assign four students the task of summarizing the results.
- While awaiting the results, share the official answers to the quiz with the class and discuss their reactions.
- Have the four students present the results of their tabulation.
- Discuss the quiz results with the class.



Instigate a discussion of crime in the community.

- Is there any?
- What kind of crime is it? (Shoplifting, vandalism, robbery, armed robbery, assault?)
- Why do people commit crimes?

Place the *Canadian Crime Statistics* transparency onto the overhead or project using a smartboard and discuss these statistics with your class.

Activity

Journal Entry

- Have students complete a journal entry reflecting on their feelings and beliefs about crime in the community.
- Were they surprised by any of the statistics? Which ones?
- What factors influence their attitudes and perceptions?

Ask students to consider the types of crime experienced in their daily lives and neighborhoods.

- When it comes to portrayals of crime in society on TV, which television shows (if any) portray crime in a manner that is closest to their life experiences?
- Which crime drama(s) least reflects the types of crimes that might be encountered in the students' neighbourhoods?

Evaluation

Completed journal entries



Crime Perceptions Quiz

Answer the following questions:

1. How many murders were committed in Canada in 2013?
2. Is a murder victim more likely to be murdered by a stranger or by someone he or she already knows?
3. Which section of Canada has the lowest violent crime rates: B.C., the Prairie Provinces, Ontario and Quebec, the Atlantic Provinces, or the three territories?
4. Which province has the lowest violent crime rate?
5. Match the correct number of individuals charged with violent crimes for each of the following groups:

Men	3,646
Women	371
Young Offenders	1,460
6. "Violent Crime is higher in Canada than in the United States."
 - a. True
 - b. False
7. "Property crime is higher in Canada than in the United States."
 - a. True
 - b. False
8. Which of the following crimes increased in 2012? Major sexual assaults, violent firearm offences, robbery, terrorism-related incidents, homicide, assaults on a peace officer .



9. Fill in the blank:
"In 2012 the crime rate in Canada was _____ the crime rate in 1990."
a. Less than
b. The same as
c. Greater than
10. Fill in the blank:
"Robberies committed with a firearm have _____ since 1991."
a. Increased
b. Decreased
11. Which province has the lowest property crime rate in Canada?
12. Which type of property crimes are youth most likely to be charged with?
a. Theft
b. Drug possession
c. Common assault
d. Breaking and entering
13. List the following criminal acts in order of frequency, from those reported *most* often, to those reported *least* often.
Drug offences
Homicide
Uttering threats
Break-ins
Theft under \$5000
Robberies
Sexual assault
Impaired driving



Crime Perceptions Quiz: Answers

Answers

1. There were 505 murders in Canada in 2013 – the lowest point since 1966.
2. It is the people known to the victims who commit the most murders – in settings of accounts between gangs and drug dealers, or within the family.
3. Among the provinces, Saskatchewan and Manitoba reported the highest violent crime rates in 2013 (1,971 and 1,836 violent acts per 100,000 population respectively). However, per capita, it was the three territories – Yukon at 4,111, Northwest Territories at 7,425 and Nunavut at 8,659 violent acts per 100,000 population – that had the highest violent crime rates in the country.
4. Ontario and Prince Edward Island report the lowest violent crime rates – 833 and 951 violent acts per 100,000 population respectively.
5. According to the most recent available data (2009), charges for violent crime per 100,000 people were 1,460 for men, 371 for women and 3,646 for young offenders.
6. Answer: b. False. According to Statistics Canada, Canada's homicide rate in 2012 was about one-third that of the United States (1.56 per 100,000 people, versus 4.67). But our homicide rate is still higher than many European nations and we were more than four times the Japanese rate (0.35).
7. Answer: b. False. In 2012 in Canada the rate of victimization by theft of personal property was 108 incidents per 1,000 people. In the United States, it was 155 per 1,000 people.
8. Of the crimes listed, only violent firearm offences and terrorism-related incidents increased in 2012.
9. Answer: a. Less than. Canada's national crime rate has been falling steadily since the early 1990s and reached, in 2012, its lowest level since 1972: 5,588 incidents per 100,000 people.
10. Answer: b. Decreased. "Robberies committed with a firearm have decreased since 1991."
11. Quebec has the lowest property crime rate in Canada, at 2,342 per 100,000 population. Northwest Territories, which has Canada's highest property crime rate, is over 10 times higher, at 24,193 per 100,000 population.
12. Answer: a. Theft. In 2012, 6,577 youth were charged with theft. Next was common assault (4,026) followed by breaking and entering (3,738) and drug possession (2734).
13. The correct order of criminal acts by frequency is:

Theft under \$5000	130,000 charges
Drug offences	96,400 charges
Impaired driving	90,277 charges
Uttering threats	45,474 charges
Break-ins	42,254 charges
Robberies	14,500 charges
Sexual assault	10,695 charges
Homicide	530 charges



Canadian Crime Statistics

Police-reported crime statistics in Canada, 2013: highlights

- In 2013, the police-reported crime rate reached 5,190 per 100,000 population, its lowest point since 1969.
- There were about 1.8 million criminal incidents reported by police in 2013, approximately 132,000 fewer incidents than the previous year.
- While most *Criminal Code* offences decreased in 2013, police reported increases for extortion (+32%), counterfeiting (+30%), child pornography (+21%), aggravated sexual assault (level 3) (+9%), sexual violations against children (+6%) and identity fraud (+6%).
- The decline in both the severity of incidences and the crime rate occurred across most of the country in 2013. The only exceptions were Yukon, where the crime severity index increased 6% and the crime rate increased 14%, and Newfoundland and Labrador, where the severity index increased 1%.
- For the first time since 1998, the earliest year the crime severity index was available, none of Canada's census metropolitan areas (CMAs) recorded an increase in their crime severity index. Edmonton, where this remained stable in 2013, was the only CMA that did not report a decrease.
- The violent crime severity index fell 10% between 2012 and 2013, driven largely by a decrease in robbery. This drop marked the seventh consecutive decline.
- Police reported 505 homicides in 2013, 38 fewer than the previous year. There were also 23 fewer attempted murders in 2013. The homicide rate of 1.44 per 100,000 population was the lowest since 1966, while the attempted murder rate was the lowest recorded since 1971.
- The non-violent crime severity index for 2013 was 66.8, 8% lower than the previous year. The decrease was largely the result of fewer reported incidents of breaking and entering, theft of \$5,000 or under and mischief.
- While most drug-related offences decreased between 2012 and 2013, the overall possession of drugs other than cannabis or cocaine increased by 4% and possession of cannabis increased 1%. The majority (67%) of drug-related offences in Canada continued to involve cannabis in 2013.
- The severity of police-reported crime involving youth accused was down 16% from the previous year and was primarily due to considerable declines in the number of youth accused of robbery and breaking and entering. In contrast, the number of youth accused of homicide increased from 35 in 2012 to 40 in 2013.
- There were approximately 104,000 youth accused of a *Criminal Code* offence in 2013, about 22,000 fewer than in 2012. Of the youth accused in 2013, 55% were dealt with through the use of extrajudicial measures, while the remaining 45% were formally charged by police.

Adapted from Statistics Canada, *Police-Reported Crime Statistics in Canada 2013*, 2014-07-23. This does not constitute an endorsement by Statistics Canada of this product.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2014001/article/14040/hl-fs-eng.htm>

