

CAT TALES™

Fall 2005



The maple leaf is part of our history

The maple leaf is recognized around the world as a symbol of Canada, from the simplified maple leaf that is used on our flag to the realistic version that is on the one side of our penny (you can colour both versions →).

Even before Europeans came to Canada the aboriginal people of Canada recognized maple trees that gave a rich sap that could be brewed into sweet syrup by the distinctive shape of their leaves.

The maple leaf has been used as an emblem for about 200 years, long before Canada was an independent country. In 1836, *Le Canadien*, a newspaper in Lower Canada (an area that is now Quebec and the Maritime provinces), proposed using the maple leaf as a national symbol for Canada.

In the mid-1800s, the maple leaf was



incorporated into the badge of the Royal Canadians Regiment, and in 1860 it was used in decorations for a visit to Canada by the Prince of Wales.

The song, *The Maple Leaf Forever*, was written in 1867 by Alexander Muir as Canada's Confederation Song, and in 1868 it was included in the coats of arms for both Ontario and Quebec. From 1876 to 1901, the maple leaf was on all Canadian coins, and today it still appears on our penny in a design that has changed very little since 1937.

In 1921, the Royal Arms of Canada was redesigned to include a cluster of three maple leaves, and in 1957, they were changed from green to red on the coat of arms because red is one of Canada's official colours. Still, it wasn't until 1965 that Canada officially changed its flag to the red maple leaf flag we have today.

Maple facts:

- There are seven species of maple trees in Ontario, but the most commonly used for maple syrup production is the sugar (or rock) maple.
- Maple trees take from 20 to 80 years to grow to a size that can be tapped for sap.
- 92% (24.4 million litres) of Canada's maple syrup is produced in Quebec.



FAT CAT® RIDDLES

1. What do you call a duck who gets all A's in school?
2. Where were English kings usually crowned?
3. What did the pirate pay for earrings?
4. What's the best way to prevent infection from biting insects?
5. What animal can fly higher than a house?

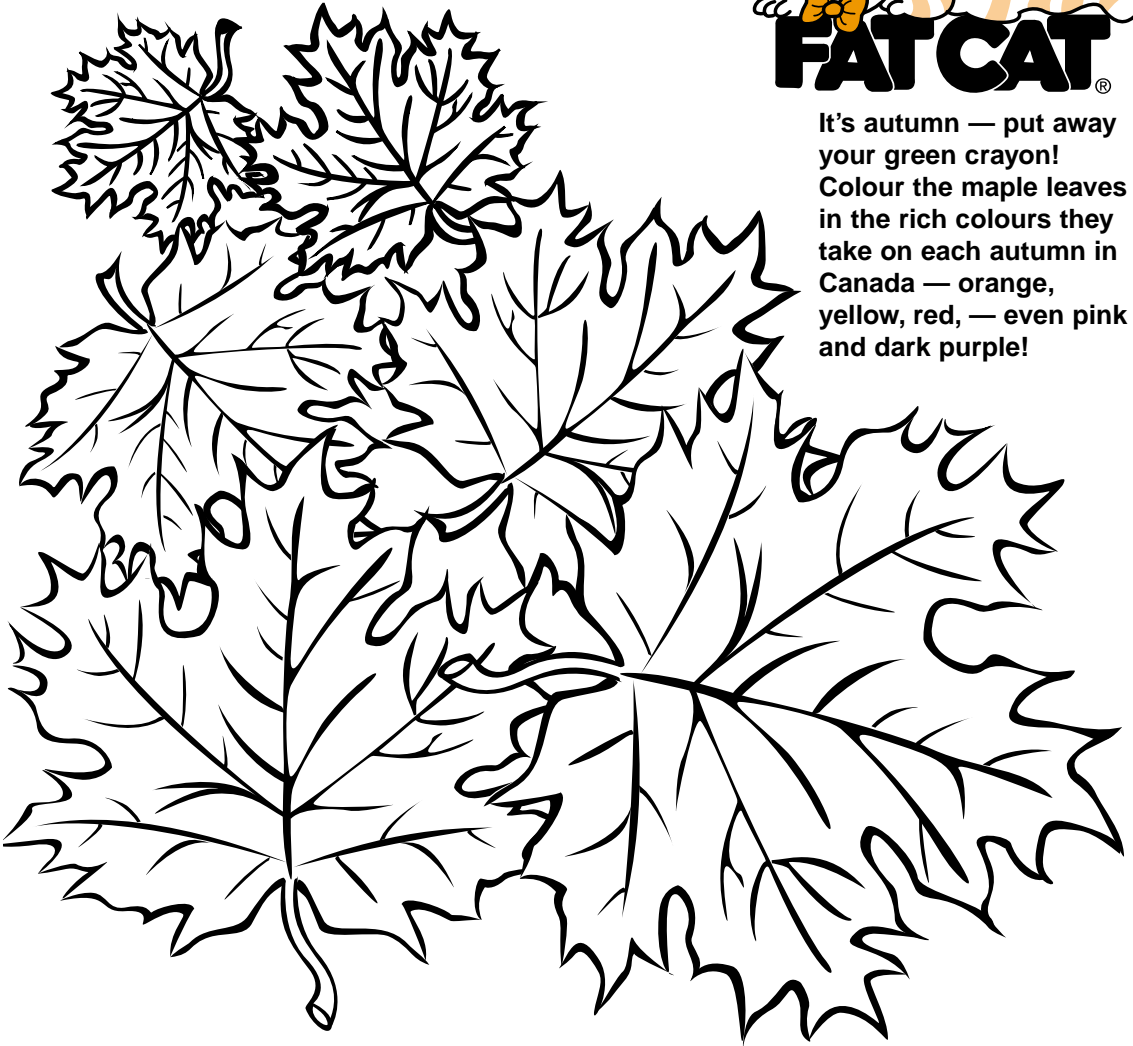
ANSWERS

1. A wise quacker.
2. On their heads.
3. About a buck-an-ear.
4. Don't bite them!
5. Any animal that flies, houses don't fly.

FAT CAT® Colouring Page



It's autumn — put away your green crayon! Colour the maple leaves in the rich colours they take on each autumn in Canada — orange, yellow, red, — even pink and dark purple!



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