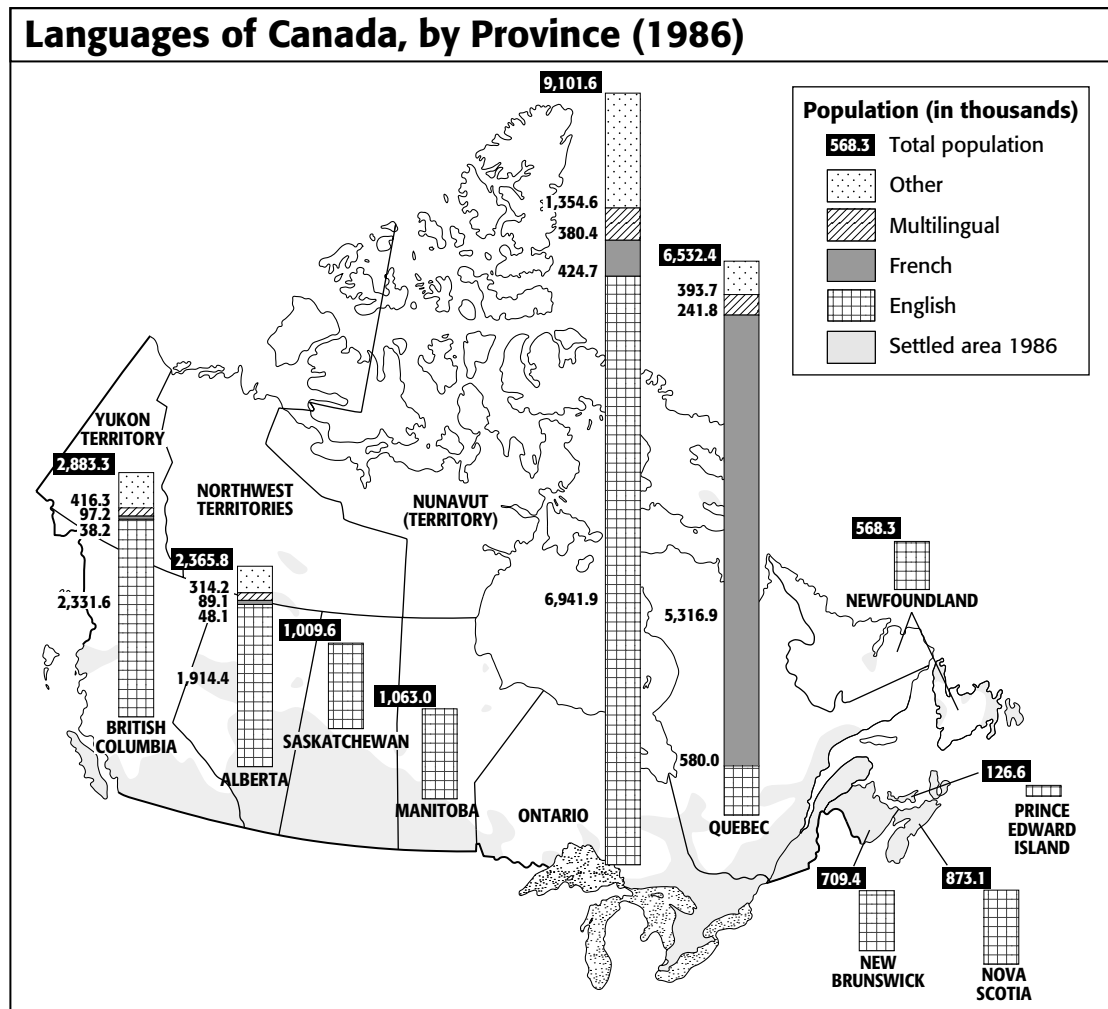


CHAPTER 9

Map Activity

Canada's Languages

Canada is officially a bilingual country, but many of its citizens speak languages other than French and English. The distribution of languages also varies throughout the country. The map below shows the numbers of speakers of various languages by province, and also indicates the settled portions of Canada. Examine the map, then answer the questions on the following page.



Chapter 9, Map Activity, continued

1. Which province has the largest population? How large was it in 1986?

2. How does the usage of French and English compare in Ontario and Quebec?

3. How do the populations of the western provinces compare to those of Ontario and Quebec? What language or languages are most commonly spoken in the western provinces?

4. **Critical Thinking: Place** Ontario has the largest number of speakers of “Other” languages. What do you think is included in the “Other” category? What do the figures for language usage in Ontario indicate about that province compared to the rest of Canada?

ACTIVITY Some Canadians support Canada’s official bilingual, French-English policy, while others oppose it. What arguments do Canadians make for and against bilingualism? Write a newspaper editorial favoring one position or the other, and provide evidence or reasoned arguments to support your view.