

Pre-Confederation Timeline

Grade 7 Humanities (2017-2018)

1497 - 1854 The Search for the Northwest Passage

1497-1854 The Search for the Northwest Passage was important because they were looking for a route to Asia but discovered Canada which they didn't even know was there. Christopher Columbus discovered the U.S. It took 400 years for them to get across the Arctic Ocean because they would run into icebergs. They had to travel during spring or summer.

1534 Jacques Cartier's Expedition/First Contact

Cartier explored and mapped the area of New France and also worked with the Iroquois but the relationship eventually turned sour. Tea, spices, fabrics are some of the reasons why they wanted to get through to explore this area.

Decline of the Huron-Wendat Confederacy 1600 - 1650

The Wendat confederacy had 25 000 people at one time but after 16 000 people died of the flu or smallpox, the group became extinct in 1650.

The Hudson's Bay Company Founded 1670

The Hudson's Bay Company was founded in 1670 by two French fur traders and the French didn't accept them but the English did and they are still in business today. Their agreement involved exclusive rights to trade with the *Indigenous* people and access to all the rivers in Rupert's Land. The Hudson's Bay Company is the longest running company in North America.

1755 *Expulsion* of the Acadians

The Acadians (French) were being forced off their land, their homes destroyed and many died of disease. The Brits didn't trust the French because they were worried that the French would rebel.

1759 Battle on the Plains of Abraham

In 1759 the British attacked the French then the French never got any of their colonies back. The Plains of Abraham are located in Quebec City. The

French were inside the fort and the leader was General Montcalm. The leader of the English forces was General Wolfe. (The big bad wolf blew the French fort down.) Why was this battle important to Canadian history? It was the beginning of the end for the French and the beginning of all the winning for English Canada.

1763 Pontiac's War

The leader of the Odawa formed *alliances* to defeat the British and the war ended in 1766 with the British promising peace.

Royal Proclamation

1763 Britain had to control the population but they didn't know how. They had three options: evict, *assimilation* and accommodation. The British chose to "assimilate" and as a result New France became Quebec and was significantly smaller.

The Quebec Act 1774

The British Canadians were worried about the French Canadians who lost their land and rights in the Royal *Proclamation* so they created the Quebec Act which gave them what they wanted.

1775 Rebellion in the 13 Colonies

The colonists in the thirteen colonies were angry about the way Britain was treating them. They all planned to rebel against Britain. They captured Montreal and attacked Quebec.

1793 Alexander Mackenzie Reaches the Pacific Ocean

Alexander Mackenzie, a Nor'Wester found the way to crossing the rocky mountains. His team were the first Europeans to cross the continent.

The War of 1812

War of 1812 was between France and Britain eventually involving Canada but Canada was joined by the First Nations and the 49th parallel divided the two countries.

1815 - 1850 The Great Migration

After the War of 1812, Britain needed a plan to protect the colonies in North America from hunger, high population, low employment and poverty. Over 800 000 immigrants from Scotland, England, Ireland and Wales arrived to

British North America and were given free land and a new chance at life.

1829 Beothuck Extinction

The Beothuk lived in what is now Newfoundland before Europeans arrived. They were the first North Americans the Europeans met. They were known as the “Red Indians” because they painted with red ochre. became extinct in 1829. They eventually died out due to disease, shrinking territory and murder.

1834 Abolition of Slavery

Slavery existed in Canada before the Europeans arrived. Slaves usually worked as servants or in fishing. It was *abolished* in 1834 although it didn't go away completely and many African American slaves came to Canada for freedom.

Rebellions of 1837 - 1838

During the Rebellions of 1837-1838 in Upper and Lower Canada, many Canadians were unhappy with the political system because the rich held most of the power and the average people had little to no say in government. There was a lot of violence as a result.

1841 Act of Union

The Act of Union in 1841 made English the only official language and aimed to assimilate the French Canadians. Lord Dunham from the British government said that the troubles were the blame of Lower Canada (the French).

1855 Fraser Gold Rush

The 1855 Fraser Gold Rush is when miners from California found gold and led to the creation of the West Coast. Conflict between the First Nations over fishing and disease led to the decline of the First Nations populations.

1867 Confederation

The process in which the British colonies, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick united into one Dominion of Canada on July 1, 1867.

Extra info: the last province to join Confederation was Newfoundland and Labrador in 1949. Nunavet was created from land in the Northwest Territories in 1999.

1870 Purchase of Rupert's Land

From 1670 to 1870, Rupert's Land was owned and controlled by the Hudson's Bay Company. It took up to one third of what Canada is now. It was a lot for one company to take on so in 1870, the Canadian government bought Rupert's land for \$1.5 million dollars.

1885 The Last Spike

This was the introduction of the railways and it allowed for *industrialization*, opened new markets for trade and connected regions that were far apart.

Vocabulary:

Assimilate - to absorb and integrate people, ideas or culture.

Immigrant - a person who moves into a new country.

Indigenous - The original inhabitants of a particular place.

Monopoly - When only 1 company or group is allowed to sell or trade.

Expulsion - Forcing someone to leave a place, especially a country.

Proclamation - A public or official announcement.

Abolished - formally put an end to.

Industrialization - the development of industries on a large scale in a country or region.

Alliances - a union to formed for mutual benefit especially between countries.

Entrepreneur - a person who starts a business on their own.