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MODERN HISTORY THROUGH CANADIAN EYES

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever heard someone say they hate history - that history is boring? If you talk to them long enough you will probably discover the reason: They were made to memorize lengthy lists of names and dates which held no meaning for them other than as a place in a list, and the teacher called it "history." It is a sad death history has died for these unfortunate students. History, however, is not a list of faceless names. History is people and the lives they lived, sometimes not so different from our own. When we study history properly, we get to know these people. We imagine what life was like for them just as we do when reading a good work of fiction. With some knowledge of history, however, we can do more than imagine!

On a recent visit to my parents I had the chance to do this as I held a piece of history in my hands. My mother, knowing of my love of "old things," showed me a pocket size Bible she had found among my grandmother's belongings. Printed in 1854, most exciting to me was the inscription in faint but still readable beautiful Victorian script:

John T. (we couldn't quite make out the last name)
From Mother
September 26, 1857
"Search the Scriptures,,

(Notice the quotation marks, which I assume are according to 1857 convention.)

My heart skipped a few beats as I held that book in my hands and imagined the mother who had lovingly penned those words in this gift for her son. I wondered how much John T. read his gift. Did he know its Author? Was it given to him when he left home? Was he going off to war; or to find work; or was he getting married? Perhaps the Bible was given on the occasion of his graduation from university, or on his birthday, celebrating his passage into adulthood. Did he treasure the Book because it was a gift from his mother?

Ok, so I am an incurable romantic! But to hold a piece of history in my hands and to read words penned by a woman - probably a relative - nearly 150 years ago is a rare treat, indeed. I am not likely to receive answers to any of my questions about John T. and his mother, but it is enough to hold their book and think of whom they might have been. I had a similar feeling when I stood on the step of the Parliament Building in Ottawa, and thought of the great men who had stood there before me – on that very spot! I touched the words from Psalm 72:8 inscribed in the pillar, "He shall have dominion from sea to sea." Ah...history.

UNIT 7 – CONFEDERATION

Unit 7 covers an exciting time in Canada's history: The days of Confederation! There was a lot going on in the world during this time period, and a lot going on in Canada. You could easily spend more than a month on this unit if you want to study it in more detail.

While Canada was becoming a brand new nation, her neighbour to the south, nearly a century old already, was at war with herself. Canada played an important role in the freeing of slaves during that time, and I think it deserves a deeper look than that given in The Story of Canada.

Therefore, I have devoted one part of this unit to the Underground Railroad. This is a time when Canada shone as a hero. Canada was far from perfect, but she offered freedom to those willing to make the long trek to the north to find her safe haven. The CBC has broadcast a special on this topic, called "Freedom's Land: Canada and the Underground Railroad." It was part of a series called, "The Canadian Experience."



(<http://www.cbc.ca/canadianexperience/freedomsland/>) It did not treat Canada in as positive a light as I would have liked, but it was very informative and worth watching with older students if you can find a copy. (Due to the beatings and other sensitive subject matter shown plainly in the video, I would not recommend it for younger students.)

This is also an ideal time to begin a study of Canadian Government. As you study the BNA Act and read about the difficulties of joining such a vast area into one nation, trace the beginnings of our parliamentary system. In future units watch how the democratic process is adapted as the country changes and grows, new parties are begun, old ones die, until you reach, at the end of the study, the political landscape we see before us today. Look at how world events and domestic difficulties and prosperities affected the way the government looked and the way it functioned. A whole study could be made of this one aspect of Canadian History. For most of us, however, it will be enough to follow it as a sideline to our study of the major events in Canada's history. Some resources for this project are listed in the projects section for this unit. There is also a more detailed list of resources for studying Canadian Government at the end of this guide.

Part 1 - CONFEDERATION

Canadian Events/People

John A. McDonald
George Brown
D'Arcy McGee
Charles Tupper, Premier of NS
George Coles
Joseph Howe

World Events/People

Queen Victoria
David Livingston
Tolstoy (War and Peace, 1864)
Lewis Carroll (Alice in Wonderland, 1865)
The International Red Cross is founded in Switzerland (1865)
Dostoyevsky (Crime & Punishment, 1866)
US buys Alaska from Russia (1867)
Louisa M. Alcott (Little Women, 1868)
Renoir
Strauss
Verdi
Jules Verne (20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, 1869)

Core Resources

The Story of Canada

Chapter 7, pages 162-165 – Confederation Days
Pages 165-166 – Breaking the Deadlock
Pages 166-169 – The Idea of Confederation
Pages 170-171 – From Charlottetown to Quebec
Pages 172-178 – The Battle for Confederation

My First History of Canada

Chapter 17 – The Provinces United to Make Our Canada (1850-1885)
Part 1 – The provinces were growing up.
Part 2 – The provinces all built schools and colleges.
Part 3 – The Assemblies made the Governors and Councils do what the people wanted.
Part 4 – Four of the provinces united to form the Dominion of Canada.

The Spirit of Canada

The First of July, 1867, p. 115
Anti-Confederation Song, p. 117

Spotlight Canada

Chapter 1 – The Road to Confederation

Canadian History for Dummies

Chapter 13 – The Confederation Waltz

Concise Historical Atlas of Canada

Plate 9 – Exploration and Assessment to 1981

Plate 13 – Population in the Canadas and the Atlantic Region to 1857

Plate 29 – 19th Century Images of Canada

Plate 52 – Timber Production and Trade to 1850

Plate 53 – A New Agriculture: Upper Canada to 1856

Plate 54 – Trade to the Middle of the 19th Century

Plate 55 – By Hand and by Water: Manufacturing to 1854

Plate 61 – Homesteading and Agriculture in the West, 1872-1891

World Atlas of the Past

Volume 4, p. 8-11 – The World by 1850

Canada: A People's History

Episode 8 – The Great Enterprise (1850-1867)

(John A. McDonald, American Civil War)

“I Am a French Canadian” (George Etienne Cartier)

“A Sly Fox” (John A. McDonald)

“We Have Two Countries” (George Brown, “Rep by Pop”)

The People of British North America

Hope Gate (Irish Immigrants, D’Arcy McGee)

“City of Wealth”

A Winter of Utter Misery

“To Have the Power” (George Brown)

Strangers in Charlottetown (Charlottetown Conference)

Three Weeks in Quebec

“Let Their Memory Be Dark” (Opposition in Quebec)

“Good Management and Means” (Charles Tupper, Joseph Howe, Fenian Uprising)

“A Great Revolution” (Delegates to London, BNA Act passed)

July 1, 1867

Additional Reading

Kids' Book of Canadian History, p. 38-44
Kids' Book of Canadian Prime Ministers, p. 8-14
Footprints in the Snow, p. 60 (Sir John A. MacDonald)
Footprints in the Snow, p. 58 (Dr. James Barry)
Footprints in the Snow, p. 63 (The St. John 4)
Footprints in the Snow, p. 66 (D'Arcy McGee)
Footprints in the Snow, p. 69 (Joseph Howe)
Footprints in the Snow, p. 71 (Amor de Cosmos)
A Truly Loyal Subject: George Brown and Confederation (Marquis, Vince)
The Last 500 Years, p. 56-57 (The Scramble for Africa)
Louisa May Alcott: Author, Nurse, Suffragate (Greene, Carol)
Government: Participating in Canada (Quinlan, Don)
Invitation to the Classics – George Eliot (p. 271-274)
Invitation to the Classics – Gerard Manley Hopkins (p. 275-278)
Invitation to the Classics – Leo Tolstoy (p. 279-282)
The Book of Rule: How the World is Governed (Dorling Kindersley Limited)

Part 2 – UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Canadian Events/People

Underground Railroad to Canada

World Events/People

U.S. Civil War (1861-1865)

Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)

Mark Twain (The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, 1876)

Core Resources

The Story of Canada

Page 164 – Follow the Drinking Gourd

The Spirit of Canada

Follow the Drinking Gourd, p. 67

The Underground Railroad, p. 69

A Visit from the Slave Catcher, p. 71

A First Book in American History

Chapter 29 – Early Life of Abraham Lincoln

Chapter 30 – Lincoln in Public Life

Chapter 31 – Something About the Great Civil War

Canada: A People's History

Episode 8 – The Great Enterprise

The Underground Railroad

Additional Reading

The Last 500 Years, p. 58-61 (The American Civil War)

Brady (Fritz, Jean)

The Last Safe House (Greenwood, Barbara)

Listen for the Whippoorwill (Jackson, Dave & Neta)

Go Free or Die: Harriet Tubman (Lerner Biography available from Tree of Life)

If You Traveled on the Underground Railroad (Levine, Ellen)

Underground to Canada (Smucker, Barbara)

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (Twain, Mark)

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (Twain, Mark)

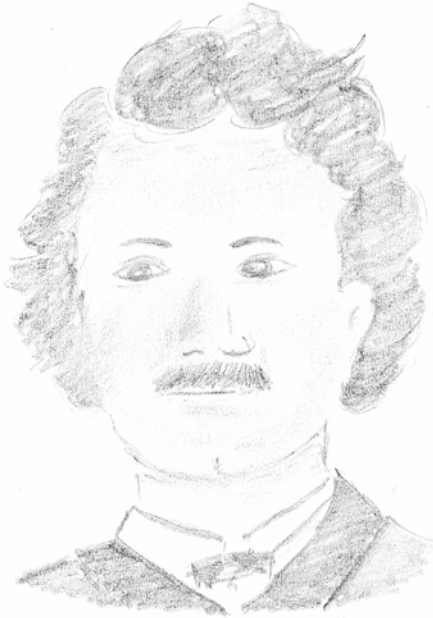
Abraham Lincoln (D'Aulaire)

Invitation to the Classics – Mark Twain (p. 291-294)

The American Civil War – History of Warfare Series

Part 3 – RIEL REBELLION

Canadian Events/People



Red River Uprising (1869)
William McDougall
Louis Riel
Thomas Scott
PEI Joins Canada (1873)
James Pope
Cypress Hills Massacre (1873)
Indian Act (1876)
Crowfoot's Treaty (1877)

World Events/People

Franco-Prussian War (1870-1871)
Brahms
Monet
Bizet
Alexander Graham Bell invents the telephone (1876)

Russo-Turkish War (1876-1878)
Thomas Edison invents the phonograph (1877)
William Booth and the Salvation Army (1878)

Core Resources

The Story of Canada

Pages 178-185 – Into the West

My First History of Canada

Chapter 17, Part 5 – Red River made her choice.

Part 6 – The Metis rebellion.

Part 7 – Gold! Gold on the Fraser! (We studied in the gold rush in the last unit. This section could be read then or saved to read in order as a review now.)

The Spirit of Canada

The Ballad of Crowfoot, p. 109

Address to the Jury, p. 119

Song of Louis Riel, p. 120

Spotlight Canada

Chapter 2 – The Nation Expands

Canadian History for Dummies
Chapter 14 – From Sea to Sea

Canada: A People's History

Episode 9 – From Sea to Sea (1867-1873)

(D'Arcy McGee's murder)

"If We Are Rebels" (Louis Riel, Metis take Ft. Garry)

"War is Upon Us" (William McDougall, Thomas Scott)

"A Single Act of Severity" (Scott's execution, Manitoba Act, Riel in exile)

Episode 10 – Taking the West (1873-1896)

NOTE: This volume includes some information regarding the completion of the railway, but it is a small amount mixed in with the Riel events. I have chosen to include the entire volume here, but the few railway sections could be also saved for part 4 of this unit.)

(John McDougall, James McCleod, North West Mounted Police)

Pulling Up Stakes (Depression, settlers move west)

The Newcomers (Winnipeg)

Pieces of Pemmican (Treaty with natives, Poundmaker, Crowfoot, Indian Act)

Fancy Paper City (Winnipeg, Railway)

That Little Wooden Box (Prairie Settlers)

The Land of Discontent (Big Bear, Gabriel DuMont recalls Riel, Duck Lake)

The Siege (Crowfoot, Frog Lake)

Batoche

The Trial

"They Hanged Him"

Ocean to Ocean (Railway completed)

Additional Reading

Kids' Book of Canadian History, p. 45-46

Kids' Book of Canadian Prime Ministers, p. 10-11

Buckskin Brigadier (McCourt, Edward)

The Bold Heart (Phelan, Josephine)

Reil's People ("How They Lived in Canada" Series)

Part 4 – CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILROAD

Canadian Events/People

Railway Finished Nov. 7, 1885

Louis Riel hanged Nov. 1885

World Events/People

Louis Pasteur

War of the Pacific (Chili, Bolivia,

Peru) (1881-1884)

Tchaikovsky (1812 Overture

1882)

Robert Louis Stevenson

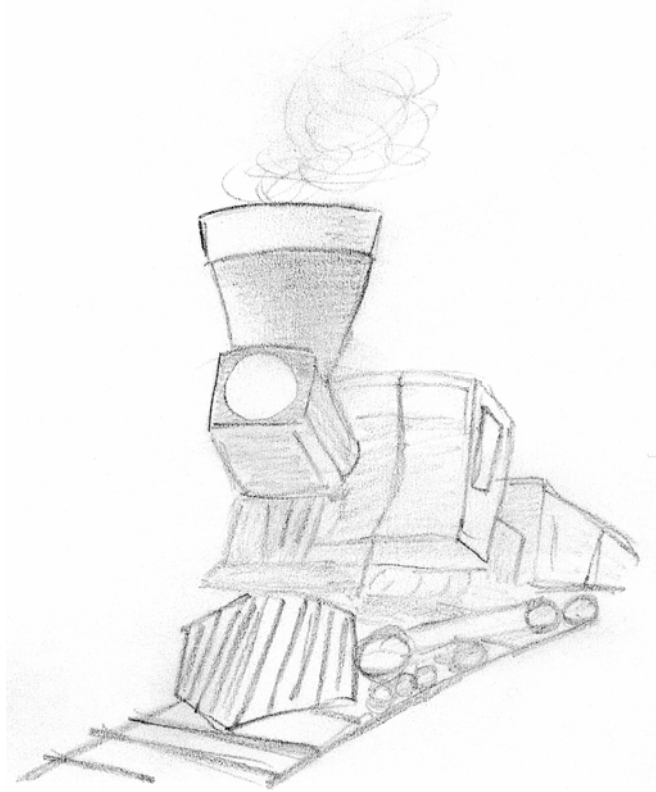
(Treasure Island, 1882)

Nietzsche

Karl Marx (Das Kapital vol. 2,

1885)

Van Gogh



Core Resources

The Story of Canada

Pages 185-186 – The Whole

Nation Minus One

Pages 187-193 – The Great Railway

My First History of Canada

Chapter 18 – The Eastern Provinces Went Into New Industries (1850-1895)

Part 1 – Nova Scotia went into coal and steel.

Part 2 – Quebec led the way in mining.

Part 3 – New Brunswick made new uses of her timber.

Part 4 – Prince Edward Island invented fox farming.

Part 5 – Newfoundland found an iron mine and built a railway.

Part 6 – Ontario had the first oil wells in Canada.

Discovering Canada: The Railways (Livesey, Robert)

The Spirit of Canada

Canadian Railroad Trilogy, p. 123

Spirits of the Railway, p. 126

The Lady and the Cowcatcher, p. 130

Concise Historical Atlas of Canada

Plate 20 – Linking Canada, 1867-1891

Canada: A People's History

Episode 9 – From Sea to Sea

“Tie the Oceans Together (Amour de Cosmos, Railway promised to BC)

“For the Good of the Dominion” (CPR Scandal, Cartier dies)

Additional Reading

Kids' Book of Canadian History, p. 47-50

Kids' Book of Canada's Railway

Louis Pasteur: Enemy of Disease (Greene, Carol)

A Child's Garden of Verses (Stevenson, Robert Louis)

Invitation to the Classics – Fyodor Dostoyevsky (p. 283-286)

Invitation to the Classics – Henry James (p. 287-290)

Invitation to the Classics – Friedrich Nietzsche (p. 299-302)

Project Ideas

- ❖ Research the history of Canadian Government and/or how our government works today. Some resources to get you started:
 - Government: Participating in Canada, by Don Quinlan
 - Canada Votes: How We Elect Our Government, by Linda Granfield
 - A CD-ROM, which can be received free from the Government by requesting it at this site www.tinyurl.com/2149b, is an excellent introduction to the electoral system. It is set up in the form of a map, and children can go to any building on the map to get information about that part of the system. Once they have discovered all they can, a quiz game can be played alone or with a second player. Lots of fun, and lots of information!

- ❖ Older children, particularly those interested in the political history of Canada, might appreciate reading the actual BNA Act. It can be found on-line at http://www.solon.org/Constitutions/Canada/English/ca_1867.html
Many other interesting historical documents (such as the Charter of Hudson's Bay, the Quebec Act of 1774, and many others) can be found at <http://www.solon.org/Constitutions/Canada/English/index.html>

- ❖ Draw a map of the eastern US and Canada (or find an outline map online), and draw in the routes taken by the slaves on the underground railroad to Canada.

- ❖ As the provinces join confederation in your studies, do some research on the geography and culture of each province. Some books to start with:
 - The Big Book of Canada, by Christopher Moore (Lots of neat facts about all facets of life in each province, including a recipe and local song or story.)
 - Kids' Book of Canada, by Barbara Greenwood
- ❖ The completion of the cross-Canada railway was of major importance to the formation of the country. Research the invention of the steam engine and the history of rail travel around the world. Alternatively, write a paper explaining why the railway was so important to the formation of Canada.
- ❖ If you live in the west, visit the site of the last spike at Craigellachi, British Columbia (south-west of Revelstoke on Hwy 1) (<http://www.revelstokecc.bc.ca/vacation/lspike.htm>)
- ❖ If you live in Alberta or Saskatchewan, visit Fort Battleford where you will see where the North West Mounted Police lived, and hear the story of Louis Riel. The official website is http://www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/sk/battleford/index_E.asp. This Saskatchewan website also had good information on the history of the site: http://www.virtualsk.com/current_issue/fort_battleford.html.
- ❖ Fort Garry in Manitoba is another great site to visit. Learn more about it at http://www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/mb/fortgarry/index_e.asp

World Connection

- ❖ Do a more in-depth study of the American Civil War, including the beginning of slavery in North America, what perpetuated it, and how it ended. Read Uncle Tom's Cabin, by Harriet Beecher Stowe, Up from Slavery, by Booker T. Washington, and other books on the subject. Write an essay on the ethics of slavery.
- ❖ Listen to the works of the composers of this time period. How does their music differ from that of the earlier composers? How did the changes in thought through exploration, invention, and other modern ideas affect the changes in music during this time? Some books on music history that might help you in understanding the development of music:
 - The Gift of Music, by Jane Stuart and Betty Carlson
 - Lives of the Musicians (Good Times, Bad Times and What the Neighbours Thought), by Kathleen Krull
 - Books from the "Masters of Music" series
 - The Enjoyment of Music, by Joseph Machlis

- ❖ Art has also been changing throughout history. Compare the changes in art during the Victorian era with the changes in music at the same time. For a historical look at art, try The Annotated Mona Lisa, by Carol Strickland, or other books on art history.
- ❖ Literature, like art and music, has evolved over time, affected by world events and popular thought. Compare its evolution with that of music and/or art. Look for any anthology of literature to help with this. My favourite book, because of its accessibility to those of us who are not well educated in literature, is Invitation to the Classics, by Louise Cowan and Os Guinness.
- ❖ The time Queen Victoria reigned in England (1837-1901) is known as the Victorian Era. Compare life in Victorian England with life in Canada during this time.
- ❖ Research the life of any of the people associated with this time period