

Suggested Internet Resources

Periodically, Internet Resources are updated on our web site at www.LibraryVideo.com

- www.nlc-bnc.ca/2/3/index-e.html
“Passageways: True Tales of Adventure for Young Explorers” is a wonderful resource sponsored by the National Library of Canada that presents a clear time line of the history of exploration in Canada.
- www.nlc-bnc.ca/confederation/kids/index-e.html
This site from the National Library of Canada is called “Confederation for Kids” and provides details about how Canada became a country.
- www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ks/index_e.html
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada sponsors this “Kids’ Stop” site that offers information about the history of Canada’s native people.

Suggested Print Resources

- Bowers, Vivien. *Only in Canada!: From the Colossal to the Kooky*. Owl Books, Toronto, ON; 2002.
- Lunn, Janet. *Laura Secord: A Story of Courage*. Tundra Books, Toronto, ON; 2001.
- West, Delno C. and Jean M. West. *Braving the North Atlantic: The Vikings, the Cabots, and Jacques Cartier Voyage to America*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, New York, NY; 1996.

TEACHER'S GUIDE

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TITLES

- **The Culture of Canada**
- **The Geography of Canada**
- **The History of Canada**

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The History of Canada

Grades K–4

Canada is America's neighbor to the north, and the second largest nation in the world in size! This special country is characterized by a unique blend of people and events that defines the Canadian spirit. Canada's history reflects many interesting phases, as it developed from small settlements to a nation with many provinces and territories. Canadian geography is defined by a beautiful balance of mountains, prairies, tundra and coastal regions. The culture of this country is shaped by many people, from First Nations groups to the many immigrants who make Canada the diverse nation it is today. These are some of the reasons why Canadians are proud to call this nation home!

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Program Summary

Canada has a unique history, influenced by the various people who have settled there, including the First Nations, Inuit, French, British and many others! Before European exploration, First Nations and Inuit groups developed languages, traditions and lifestyles that were appropriate for life in Canada. The influence of France and Great Britain in North America sparked Canada's expansion and resulted in further exploration and settlement. Canada officially became a country in 1867 with Confederation of four colonies into provinces. Over time, the nation of Canada expanded to include ten provinces and three territories, each with its own history and character. Canadians continue to make contributions to the development of their nation and the world, ensuring that the history of Canada will continue to change and grow in the years to come.

Vocabulary

First Nations — Native people living in Canada before and since the arrival of Europeans.

Inuit — Native people who live primarily in northern Canada.

Vikings — The first Europeans to come to Canada, around the year 1000 CE.

coureurs de bois — French term meaning “runners of the woods”; they were French fur traders in the Canadian wilderness.

Hudson's Bay Company — British fur trading company.

voyageurs — French word meaning “travelers”; the fur traders who traveled far into the northwestern region of Canada.

Loyalists — People from the American colonies, loyal to the British, who came to settle in Canada after the American Revolution.

Underground Railroad — The secret route used to help slaves escape from the United States to Canada.

Confederation — The coming together of colonies to form Canada. Confederation took place on July 1, 1867.

Prime Minister — The top political leader of the government of Canada. John A. Macdonald was Canada's first Prime Minister.

Métis — People with native and European ancestors.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police — The Canadian police, the “Mounties,” founded in 1873. They were originally called the North West Mounted Police.

bilingual — Speaking two languages. Canada is a bilingual country because both French and English are official languages.

Pre-viewing Discussion

- Discuss what you know about the history of Canada. Who were the people and what were the events that make Canada's history unique?
- Based upon what you know about the history of Canada, discuss similarities and differences between its history and the history of the United States.
- Speculate about how life in Canada has changed over time. What do you think the most significant changes have been? Why?

Focus Questions

1. Why was the fur trade important to the history of Canada?
2. How did the American Revolution affect the growth of Canada?
3. Describe the Underground Railroad. Why is the Underground Railroad part of Canada's history as well as that of the United States?
4. What is Confederation? What role did John A. Macdonald play in Confederation?
5. Who are the Métis? Why was Louis Riel an important person to this group?

Follow-up Discussion & Activities

- First Nations and Inuit groups were the first residents of Canada. Students can conduct research about the lifestyles of different native groups before the arrival of Europeans. Encourage students to discuss how life changed for native people in Canada after explorers and settlers arrived. Do students think the changes were positive or negative? Why?
- Laura Secord is an important heroine in the history of Canada. Students can select heroes or heroines from American history and create Venn diagrams that compare Laura Secord with their selected people. Students can also research other Canadian heroes and heroines. (See the following web site for an excellent start: www.nlc-bnc.ca/heroes/h6-209-e.html)
- Divide your class into small groups and assign each group a period of Canadian history. Groups can each create illustrated time lines of their segments of history. Then all segments can be united to make one time line of Canadian history for display in the classroom. (See the following web site as a sample time line: history.cbc.ca/histicons/index.html)
- Share *A Dog Came Too: A True Story* by Ainslie Manson (Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1993) with your students. This story tells about Alexander Mackenzie's canine companion on his trip across Canada to the Pacific Ocean. Students can write their own fictional stories from the point of view of an animal who tagged along with another famous Canadian explorer.
- *Voyageurs* were important to the fur trade and the early history of Canada. Students can write job postings for a *voyageur*, making sure to include details about the characteristics that would be necessary to fulfill this challenging and often dangerous position. (See www.lafete.org/new/v_ger/indexE.htm for a helpful resource about *voyageurs* in Canada.)
- Students can read segments from diary accounts of Canadian history, such as Maryanne Caswell's *Pioneer Girl* (Tundra Books, 2001) and *Flying Free* by Sharon Dennis Wyeth (Scholastic, 2002). Students can then select periods of time during Canada's history and write diary entries that reflect what life would have been like during those times.
- The development of railroads was essential for Canada's growth into the nation it is today. Students can learn more about the history of Canada's railroads and then write a radio or television advertisement that advocates the importance of railroads in Canada's history. (See www.nlc-bnc.ca/trains/kids/index-e.html for a helpful resource.)