

Canadian History



How did the French and English influence Canada?
How did Canada become independent?
Why does Quebec seek independence from Canada?

Language and Religion in Canada

- Standard: Describe the influence of the French and the English on the language and religion of Canada.
- Essential Question: How did the French and English influence the language and religion of Canada?

Language in Canada

- Canada has two official languages: English (59.3%) and French (23.2%)



Religion in Canada

- The religions of Canada are also influenced by the British and French
- 42.6% of Canadians are Roman Catholic (French influence)
- 23.3% are Protestant Christians (English influence)



Why does Canada have both French and English influences?



... Let's find out!!!!

History of Canada

- Standard: Explain how Canada became an independent nation
- Essential Question: How did Canada become an independent nation?

First People in Canada

- The first inhabitants of Canada came from Asia across the Bering Strait Land Bridge about 15,000 years ago



Europeans Arrive

- Around 1500, explorers from England and France arrived in Canada.
- The English established Newfoundland and the French called their settlement New France.
- In the 1600s, the first permanent settlement, Quebec, was established.



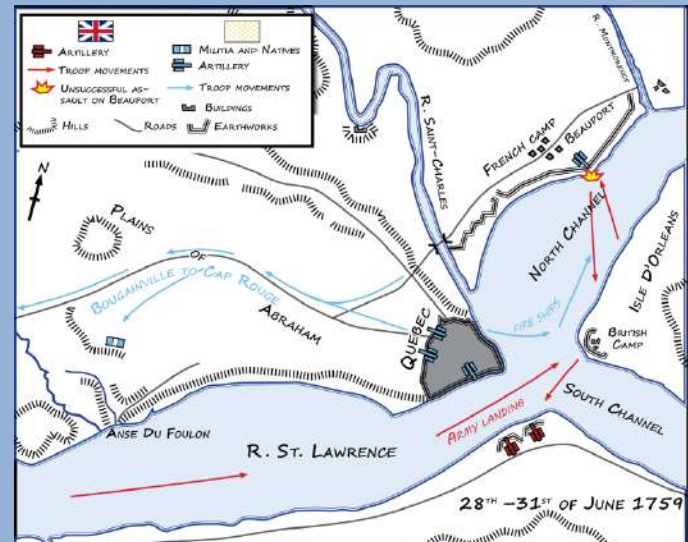
Quebec and New France

- The French were mostly fur traders, but there were also some Catholic missionaries there who wanted to convert the Native Americans to Christianity.



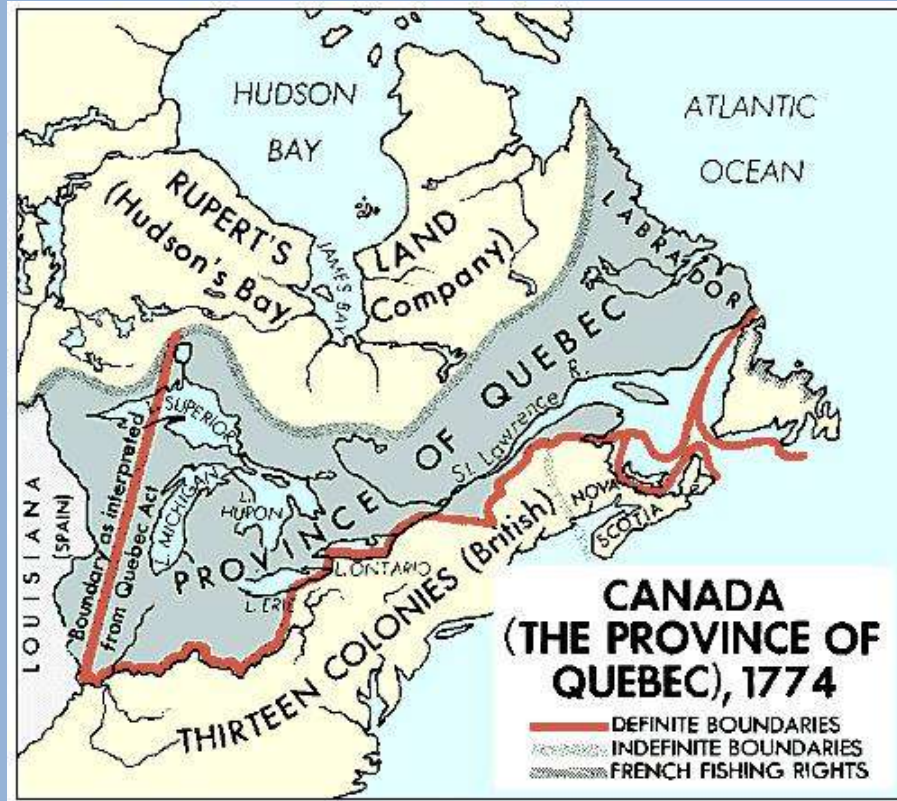
So, how did Canada come under British control?

- The British won the French and Indian War and in 1763 took control of French territory.
- Some French speaking settlers were forced to leave (many moved to Louisiana).
- French settlers were allowed to stay in Quebec, but the British controlled the area.



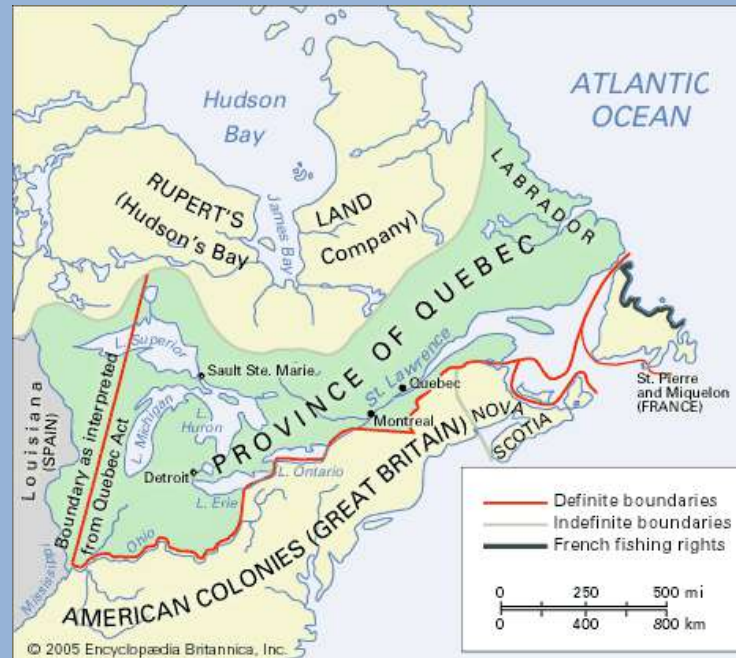
Quebec Act

- In 1774, the British passed the Quebec Act, which allowed the French settlers there to maintain their culture (religion, language and traditions).



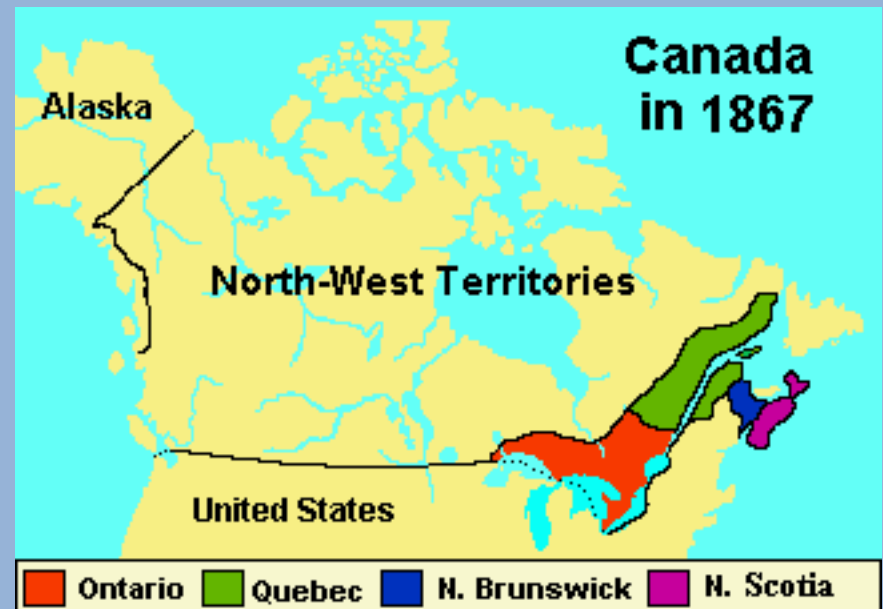
Issues in Quebec

- The Quebec Act allowed the French Canadians to live the way they wanted to, but it caused tension between the French and English settlers



Division of Canada

- The differences between these two groups led to the division of Canada
- Eventually, however, Canada would be divided into provinces

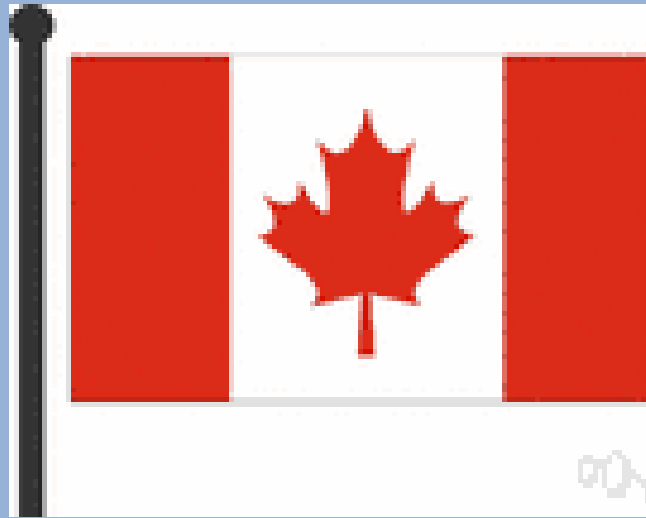


So, how did Canada become independent?

- Over time, Canada became independent from Great Britain through negotiations and did not have to fight for independence (unlike the United States)
- Great Britain was willing to allow Canada to be divided into provinces with their own unifying constitution because they would not have the expense of protecting a colony

What does it mean to be a sovereign state?

- A sovereign state has control over its own affairs
- In other words, it is not controlled by another country



What does it mean to be a commonwealth?

- As a member of a commonwealth, Canada is independent (became official in 1931), but Canada is still loosely connected to Great Britain.
- For example, members of the Commonwealth of Nations are made up of some of the former British Empire and share some English influences

What evidence remains of British influence in Canadian government?

- Canada still recognizes the Queen of England, but Canadian leaders are not bound to the monarchy
- Parliament in Canada is also based on the British Parliament.



Discussion Question

- Why do you think that some countries gain independence from foreign rule peacefully, while others have to go to war to gain freedom?



Quebec

- Standard: Describe Quebec's independence movement
- Essential Question: Why does Quebec seek independence from Canada?



Stop and Think!

- What have you learned about the relationship between the French and English citizens in Canada that could lead to problems between them?



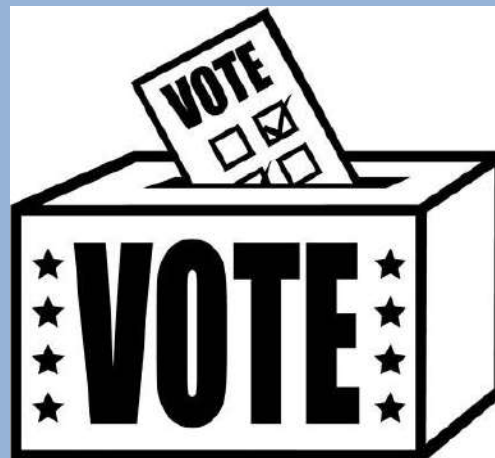
Why did French citizens in Quebec want independence?

- French Canadians were afraid that their culture and language could disappear because Canadian culture was overwhelmed by English
- They were tired of feeling like “Second Class Citizens” in their own country
- Many wanted Quebec to secede from Canada (leave and be independent)
- These people are called Separatists ... they want Quebec to “separate” from Canada



How have the French used government, rather than violence, to work towards independence?

- In 1980 and 1995, the people of Quebec voted on whether to become independent or remain a part of Canada.
- Both votes were in favor of staying a part of Canada BUT it was very close (49.4 % to 50.6%)



Quiet Revolution

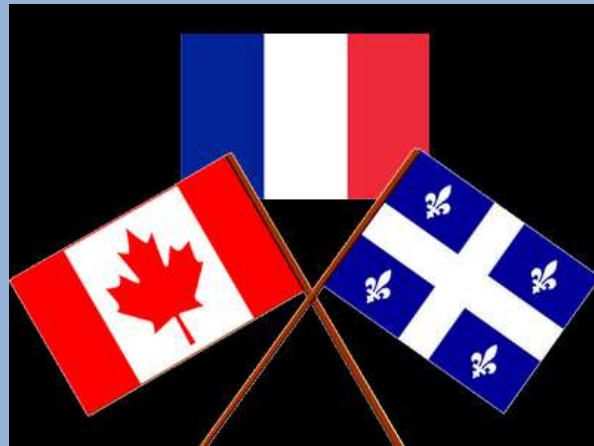
What strides have the French made in achieving equality?

- The Canadian government has passed laws to help them preserve their French culture and language
- In 1982, the Constitution Act made Canada bilingual. All government documents have to be in both French and English



What strides have the French made in achieving equality?

- French is the official language in Quebec
- The reforms have made some people happy
- Some people still believe that Quebec should be independent



Discussion Question

- How is French culture evident in Canada?



Discussion Question

- What are the pros and cons of Quebec independence?



Discussion Question

- How are cultural conflicts from several centuries ago still evident today?



Stop and Think!

- How would life be different if Georgia gained independence from the United States and became its own country?

