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Africa, A Land of Hope; Canada in the Twentieth Century High School Course; Canada's Natives Long Ago; Courage & Conquest: Discovering Canadian History; Geography, Province to Province; Guide to Canadian Government Learning Modules; War of 1812 Unit Study; WWII Secret Agents in France Unit Study

Appreciation to Edith Louise Marsh, for text from *The Story of Canada* (1927) now in public domain, which has been included in revised and edited format.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

TERMS OF USE .....	II	LESSON 18: THE WAR OF 1812 .....	81
HISTORICAL THINKING CONCEPTS .....	III	ASSIGNMENT .....	85
CANADA, A PEOPLE'S HISTORY VIDEOS .....	IV	<b>Unit Four: Opening the West .....</b>	<b>87</b>
RESOURCE LIST .....	V	LESSON 19: THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY .....	89
<b>Unit One: Beginnings .....</b>	<b>01</b>	ASSIGNMENT .....	91
LESSON 1: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES .....	03	LESSON 20: THE NOR'WESTERS .....	93
ASSIGNMENT .....	05	ASSIGNMENT .....	95
LESSON 2: THE VIKINGS .....	07	LESSON 21: MARINE EXPLORATION .....	97
ASSIGNMENT .....	09	ASSIGNMENT .....	99
LESSON 3: JOHN CABOT .....	11	LESSON 22: RED RIVER COLONY .....	101
ASSIGNMENT .....	13	ASSIGNMENT .....	103
LESSON 4: JACQUES CARTIER .....	15	LESSON 23: BRITISH COLUMBIA GOLD .....	105
ASSIGNMENT .....	17	ASSIGNMENT .....	107
<b>Unit Two: New France .....</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Unit Five: From Sea to Sea .....</b>	<b>109</b>
LESSON 5: SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN .....	21	LESSON 24: REBELLIONS IN THE CANADAS .....	111
ASSIGNMENT .....	26	ASSIGNMENT .....	113
LESSON 6: THE FUR TRADE .....	27	LESSON 25: CONFEDERATION .....	115
ASSIGNMENT .....	29	ASSIGNMENT .....	118
LESSON 7: GEORGIAN BAY MISSIONS .....	31	LESSON 26: NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE .....	121
ASSIGNMENT .....	33	ASSIGNMENT .....	123
LESSON 8: MAISONNEUVE AND MONTREAL .....	35	LESSON 27: A RAILWAY FOR CANADA .....	125
ASSIGNMENT .....	37	ASSIGNMENT .....	127
LESSON 9: COUREURS DE BOIS .....	39	LESSON 28: NORTH-WEST REBELLION .....	129
ASSIGNMENT .....	41	ASSIGNMENT .....	131
LESSON 10: THE SEIGNEURY .....	43	LESSON 29: YUKON & NORTHWEST TERRITORIES .....	133
ASSIGNMENT .....	45	ASSIGNMENT .....	135
LESSON 11: COUNT FRONTENAC WINS .....	47	LESSON 30: NEWFOUNDLAND AND NUNAVUT .....	137
ASSIGNMENT .....	51	ASSIGNMENT .....	139
LESSON 12: THE SEVEN YEARS WAR .....	53	TIME LINE PICTURES .....	140
ASSIGNMENT .....	55	MAP OF CANADA .....	146
LESSON 13: THE ACADIAN DEPORTATION .....	57	LESSON 9 - APPENDIX .....	147
ASSIGNMENT .....	59	LESSON 18 - APPENDIX .....	148
LESSON 14: FALL OF NEW FRANCE .....	61	LESSON 20 - APPENDIX .....	149
ASSIGNMENT .....	65	LESSON 27 - APPENDIX .....	150
<b>Unit Three: After the Conquest .....</b>	<b>67</b>	INDEX .....	151
LESSON 15: AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR .....	69	CREDITS .....	152
ASSIGNMENT .....	71		
LESSON 16: THE LOYALISTS .....	73		
ASSIGNMENT .....	75		
LESSON 17: TWO CANADAS .....	77		
ASSIGNMENT .....	79		



had ever seen. They gave the visitors a grand feast. When the men gave the Cree brass awls, needles, or rings for their furs, Radisson and Groseilliers became the first to trade furs in the Canadian West.



Hudson's Bay Company blankets became a staple trade item in the growing fur trade industry. This blanket has been made into a coat.

When they returned from the Northwest, the governor took most of the furs they brought back as a penalty for going without permission. He also refused to give them the right to go back again. Without the profits from their furs, Radisson and Groseilliers could not afford to explore the country.

In despair they went to France, hoping that the king would help them. But the king was too busy to think about explorers, so they went to England to see if anyone there would listen.

In England Prince Rupert, the king's cousin, took a great interest in what they told him of the riches to be gained

from the fur trade in the New World. He persuaded a company of merchants to fit out two ships, the *Eaglet* and the *Nonsuch*, and sent them to bring back some of those beautiful pelts the explorers were talking about.

Radisson sailed in the *Eaglet* and Groseilliers was in the *Nonsuch*. The *Eaglet* was driven back by storms, but the *Nonsuch* reached Hudson Bay and came safely back loaded with rich furs.

The merchants were excited by this success and formed the Hudson's Bay Company. The king gave this company the sole right to the fur trade in that "great lone land." Prince Rupert was made governor of the company, and the land under their rule was called Rupert's Land.

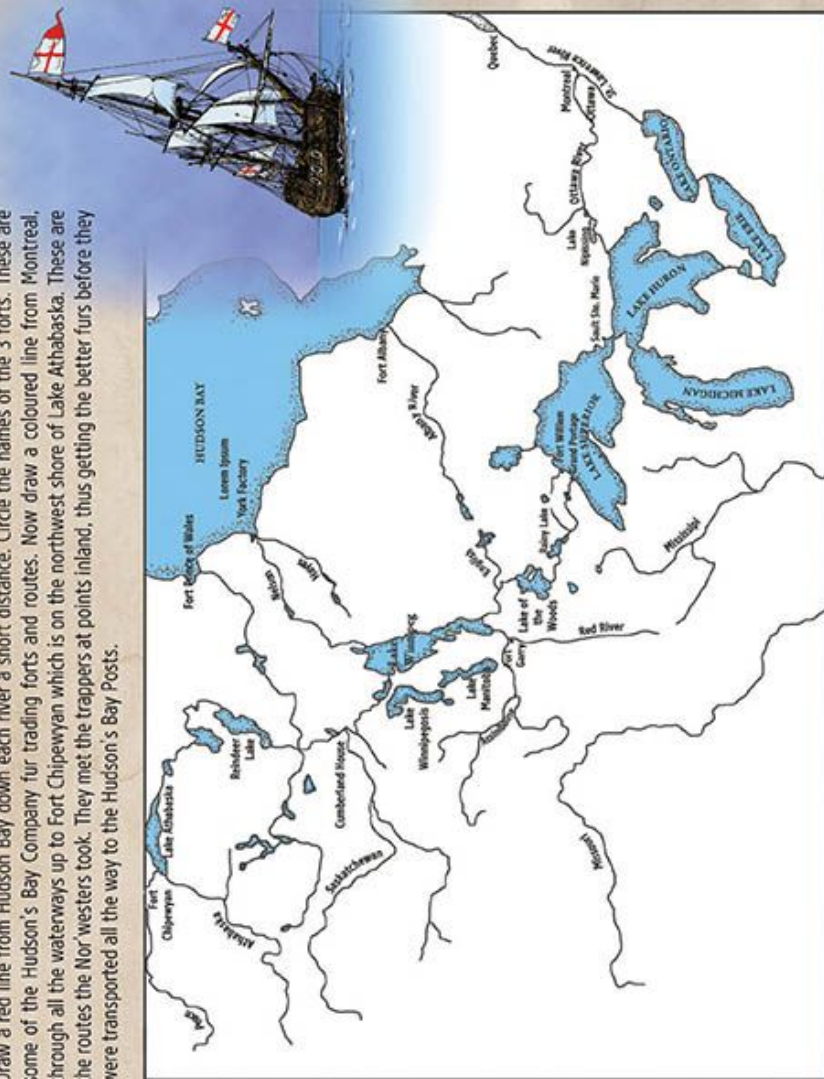
The Hudson's Bay Company sent men out to trade with the First Nations and soon forts were built at different places throughout the country where Aboriginal People could bring their furs. The First Nations were hunting now with guns and traps and claiming far more bounty than just what was needed for food and clothing as in the past.

In the early spring, just before the snow became too soft for travelling, the Aboriginal Peoples would take their sleigh loads of furs down to the nearest forts. If it happened that they could go by river, they would wait until the ice had broken up and travel in their canoes.

The Hudson's Bay Company has a long and storied history as a large landowner, trading company, catalogue mail order store, and one of the first department store chains in history. On its 300 anniversary in 1970, the company relocated from Britain to Canada. The Hudson's Bay Company Archives includes hundreds of years of detailed, and mostly hand-written records and is now part of the Archives of Manitoba. It is one of Canada's national treasures.

## LESSON 19 ASSIGNMENT

Draw a red line from Hudson Bay down each river a short distance. Circle the names of the 3 forts. These are some of the Hudson's Bay Company fur trading forts and routes. Now draw a coloured line from Montreal, through all the waterways up to Fort Chipewyan which is on the northwest shore of Lake Athabaska. These are the routes the Nor'westers took. They met the trappers at points inland, thus getting the better furs before they were transported all the way to the Hudson's Bay Posts.





## UNIT 4: LESSON 19

### Time Line - 1670

Put the picture on your timeline.

### Nonfiction

Hacker. <i>Kids Book of Canadian History</i> . . . . .	pp. 18-20
Livesey. <i>Fur Traders</i> . . . . .	pp. 25-33
Owens. <i>Kids Book of Canadian Exploration</i> . . . . .	pp. 35-37

### Fiction

Ritchie, C.T. *Runner of the Woods*. Great Stories of Canada Series. The story of Radisson as a young man. Grades 5 and up. L  
Wilson, Clifford. *Adventurers from the Bay*. Great Stories of Canada. The story of the Hudson's Bay Traders. Grades 5 and up. L

### Video

See various videos in Easylinks.

### Travel

- ◆ Fort St. James, BC - Fort St. James Historic Site
- ◆ Lachine, QC - Fur Trade Museum
- ◆ Langely, BC - Fort Langley National Historic Site
- ◆ Nanaimo, BC - Nanaimo Bastion
- ◆ Rocky Mountain House, AB - Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site
- ◆ St. Andrews, MB - Lower Fort Garry
- ◆ Thunder Bay, ON - Fort William Historic Park
- ◆ Winnipeg, MB - Manitoba Museum

## LESSON 19: THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

In Champlain's day, a man named Henry Hudson sailed across the Atlantic to search for a water passage to the Western Sea. He sailed into bays and inlets along the coast, but found no passage through the land. The Hudson River at New York City is named for Henry Hudson's southern exploration.

On his next voyage, in a ship called the Discovery, he sailed north until he came to the water we know now as Hudson Bay. He and his crew passed a difficult winter with the ship frozen in Arctic ice. In the spring, Hudson hoped to sail across the bay and see what was beyond, but his crew, weary of the long winter and heartsick for home, refused. They put Hudson, his son, and a few loyal men who were ill adrift in a small boat, and then sailed home. Our great bay in the north is named after poor Henry Hudson, whose grave is somewhere under its waves.

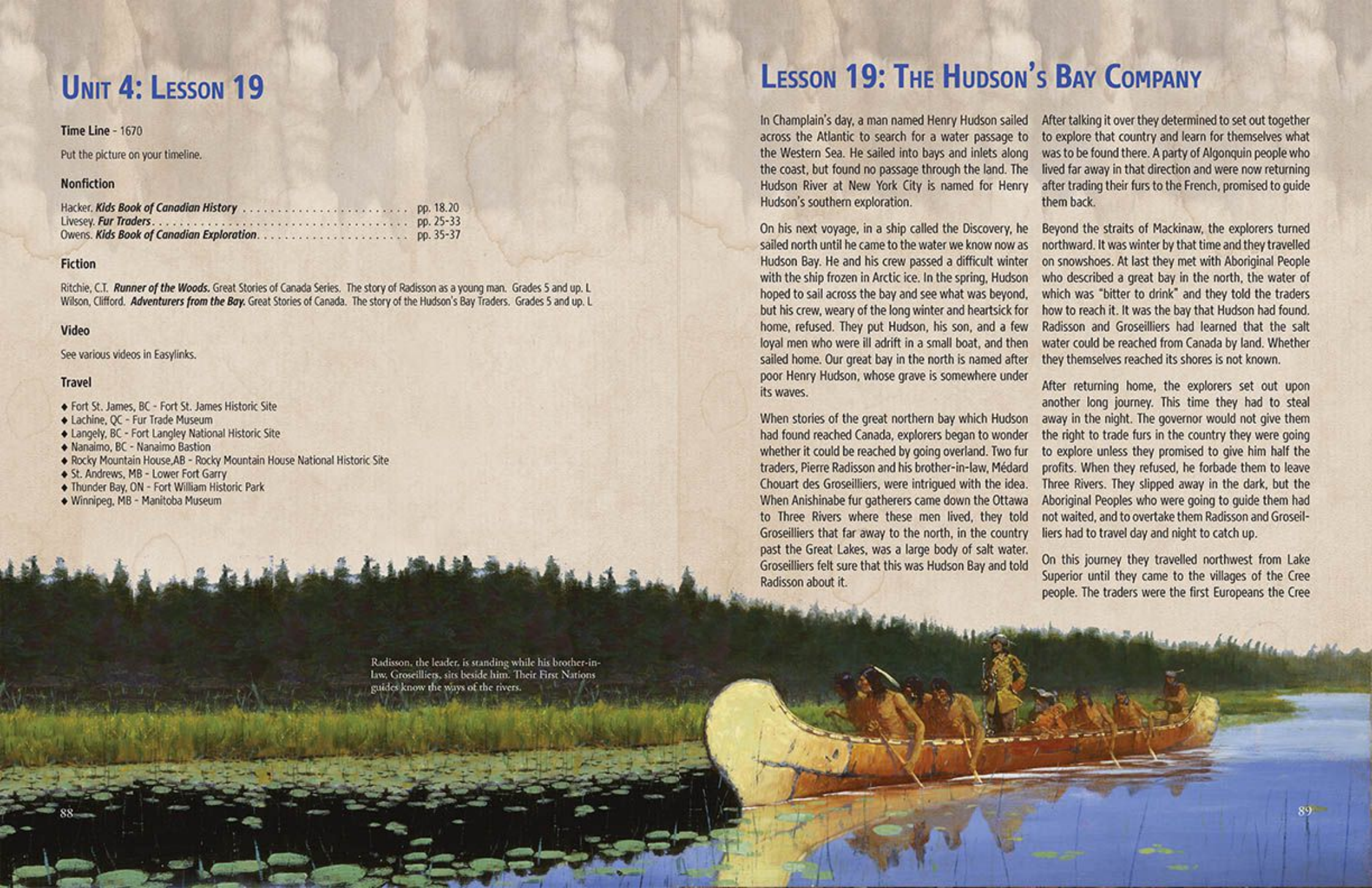
When stories of the great northern bay which Hudson had found reached Canada, explorers began to wonder whether it could be reached by going overland. Two fur traders, Pierre Radisson and his brother-in-law, Médard Chouart des Groseilliers, were intrigued with the idea. When Anishinabe fur gatherers came down the Ottawa to Three Rivers where these men lived, they told Groseilliers that far away to the north, in the country past the Great Lakes, was a large body of salt water. Groseilliers felt sure that this was Hudson Bay and told Radisson about it.

After talking it over they determined to set out together to explore that country and learn for themselves what was to be found there. A party of Algonquin people who lived far away in that direction and were now returning after trading their furs to the French, promised to guide them back.

Beyond the straits of Mackinaw, the explorers turned northward. It was winter by that time and they travelled on snowshoes. At last they met with Aboriginal People who described a great bay in the north, the water of which was "bitter to drink" and they told the traders how to reach it. It was the bay that Hudson had found. Radisson and Groseilliers had learned that the salt water could be reached from Canada by land. Whether they themselves reached its shores is not known.

After returning home, the explorers set out upon another long journey. This time they had to steal away in the night. The governor would not give them the right to trade furs in the country they were going to explore unless they promised to give him half the profits. When they refused, he forbade them to leave Three Rivers. They slipped away in the dark, but the Aboriginal Peoples who were going to guide them had not waited, and to overtake them Radisson and Groseilliers had to travel day and night to catch up.

On this journey they travelled northwest from Lake Superior until they came to the villages of the Cree people. The traders were the first Europeans the Cree



Radisson, the leader, is standing while his brother-in-law, Groseilliers, sits beside him. Their First Nations guides know the ways of the rivers.



at Duck Lake, not far from Batoche. When a party set out to secure these, they arrived to find Dumont, Riel's helper, and a force of Métis there ahead of them. In a subsequent scuffle between government agents and two Métis and Cree representatives, shots were fired and a battle ensued. More than 20 men were killed and wounded and the government forces retreated.

The politicians in Ottawa now realized that they had delayed too long in considering the case of the Métis, and that the result was a rebellion. Soon a large force under General Middleton was on its way to the Saskatchewan area. The railway which was being built across the continent did not yet reach so far west as the troops must go, and they had to travel on foot or on horseback over great stretches of bleak country through the snow and rain of early spring.

As General Middleton marched quietly along the Saskatchewan River, with his men divided so that half were on one side and half on the other, he came upon Dumont with a rebel force at Fish Creek, a tributary of the Saskatchewan. At once the soldiers on the other side began to cross the river. But they had only one small boat, and many were not able to cross until the attack was over. There was a sharp fight before the Métis were driven back. The loss was heavy in General Middleton's army. Realizing that the enemy was not to be trifled with he decided to wait for reinforcements before going on to Batoche.

General Middleton remained where he was until the ice broke up and a small steam boat arrived with reinforcements. The boat was then turned into a gunboat, and the army moved on to Batoche, reaching there in May.

It was three days before Batoche was captured. The Métis were driven out of Batoche, and Riel's prisoners, about twenty-five soldiers, were set free. Dumont, whose skillful fighting had won the admiration of the Canadian volunteers, made his escape to the United States. Riel was taken prisoner. In a short time, the rebellion was over.

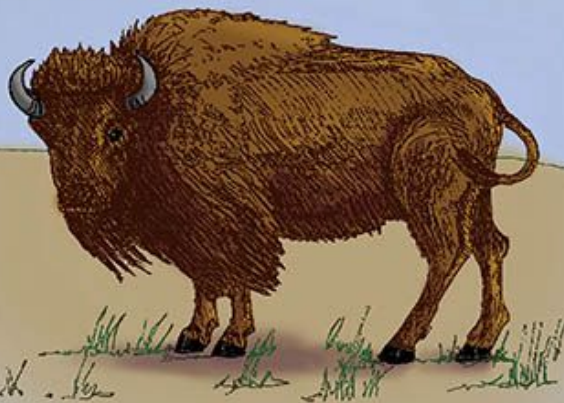
The rebellion had long-lasting results. More policemen were sent by train on the newly finished railway. A trip that took three months on horseback took only four days by rail. This began the presence of an extensive police force in western Canada. Food was sent to the people on the reserves as an immediate solution, but in the long-term they were marginalized on reserves. In an effort to assimilate them, children were sent away from families to residential schools where they were forbidden to carry on their language and culture.

Riel and several others were punished by death for the crime of treason. French Canadians were very angry, while English Canadians were satisfied with the judgement. The division between the French and the rest of Canada is still an underlying issue today.

Battle of Seven Oaks



## LESSON 28 ASSIGNMENT



**Long-Term  
Consequences**

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**Immediate  
Consequences**

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### North-West Rebellion (Resistance)

**Immediate  
Causes**

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**Underlying  
Causes**

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## UNIT 5: LESSON 28

### Time Line - 1885

Put the picture on your timeline.

### Map

Use an atlas to mark Duck Lake on your map.

### Historical Thinking - Cause and Consequence

When looking at cause and consequence, historians ask "What were the causes of past events and what were the consequences?" Consequences can be intended or unintended, and have immediate and long-term effects.

### Nonfiction

Hacker, <i>Kids Book of Canadian History</i> .....	pp. 49-50
Hodge, <i>Kids Book of Canada's Railway</i> .....	pp. 18-19
Livesey, <i>Railways</i> .....	pp. 43-51

### Fiction

Hayes, John F. *Flaming Prairie*. An exciting, accurate account of the Northwest (Riel) Rebellion. Grades 5 and up. L  
McCourt, Edward. *Revolt in the West*. Great Stories of Canada Series. Riel and the North-West Rebellion. Grades 5 and up. L  
Trotter, Maxine. *Blood Upon Our Land. The North West Resistance Diary of Josephine Bouvier*. Dear Canada Diary Series. Grades 5 and up. IP

### Video

See various videos in Easylinks..

## LESSON 28: NORTH-WEST REBELLION

Great changes had taken place in Manitoba since the trouble at the Red River. People were beginning to know what a fertile farming country the great prairie was, and settlers were pouring in both from eastern Canada and other countries. The capital of Manitoba was now the great thriving town of Winnipeg, which was very different from little Fort Garry of the days when the province was first formed.

The growth in population was found not only in Manitoba, but extended to the North-West Territory beyond. Many of the Métis had left Manitoba and settled on the Saskatchewan River. There they had long narrow farms, much like the farms of the French Canadians on the St. Lawrence. The chief food of the Métis and the Aboriginal Peoples was pemmican, made by pounding and drying the buffalo meat. They saw that the buffalo were being driven farther away or being overhunted for hides. The people would soon be facing starvation.

When the surveyors reached the Saskatchewan River and began dividing the land into square farms, the Métis became alarmed. These men went to their very homes, drove stakes here and there on their land, and were changing the long narrow farms into square ones.

Would the Métis lose their farms altogether? It was the Red River trouble all over again!

The Métis had no representatives in Parliament at Ottawa to plead their cause, but they sent petitions to the government asking for title deeds to their lands, such as had been given to their people who had remained in Manitoba. These title deeds would give them legal rights to their farms, so they wouldn't fear losing their land.

In Ottawa the matter was set aside, as the critical issue of the building of the western railway took priority. When the Métis received no reply to their petitions they sent for their old friend Louis Riel.

Riel was teaching in a school in the United States; but his time of banishment from Canada was up and he came at once. By the spring of 1885, Riel had made his headquarters at Batoche and was gathering the Métis together to make their voice heard in Ottawa.

There was only a little band of settlers and a few hundred Mounted Police to oppose the rebellion. The North-West Mounted Police had provisions and ammunition stored



TIME LINE PICTURES



John Cabot at Newfoundland 1497



Champlain's Habitation 1603



The Vikings 1,000 A.D.



Jacques Cartier 1534