



Creating Canada – The British North America Act

The *Constitution Act, 1867*, originally known as the *British North America Act (BNA Act)*, was the law passed by the British Parliament creating the Dominion of Canada. This document, written over 150 years ago, would become one of the building blocks of the Canada we know today.

Information for students

- Click on this link to bring you to an online version of your History textbook, *Reflections.qc.ca: 1840 to Our Times*: <https://www.iplusinteractif.com/books/187/254/3804/67482/235996>
- You can also use the print version.
- Read pages **51-53** to find out about the *BNA Act* of 1867. If you do not have access to either version of your textbook, consult the historical documents provided below.
- Now that you have learned about the *BNA Act*, do the following activities:
 - **Identify differences** between the maps of Canada in 1867 and today.
 - **Identify similarities** between the political structure during the period of responsible government and at Confederation.
 - **Establish connections** between different areas of responsibility and identify the jurisdiction each one fell under in 1867.

Materials required

Useful resources, depending on personal preferences and availability:

- Device with Internet access
- Writing materials (paper, pencil, etc.)

Information for parents

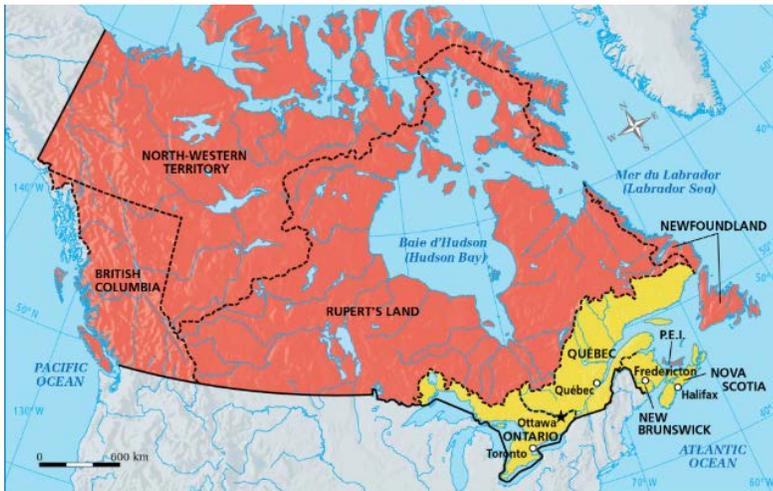
- Discuss the ideas presented and potential answers with your child.



History of Québec and Canada

- 1 Identify differences between the maps of Canada in 1867 and today.
 - o To do this activity, you can either use [the online maps](#) to help you visualize the differences, or look at the two maps below. (If you use the online versions, select the maps for 1867 and Today.)

Map of Canada, 1867



Source: <https://platform.cheneliere.ca/myapp/cartes/56a47a58a49a53a85a90a93/56a47a58a49a53a85a90a93/>

Map of Canada, today



Source: <https://platform.cheneliere.ca/myapp/cartes/56a47a58a49a53a85a90a93/56a47a58a49a53a8>

Differences:

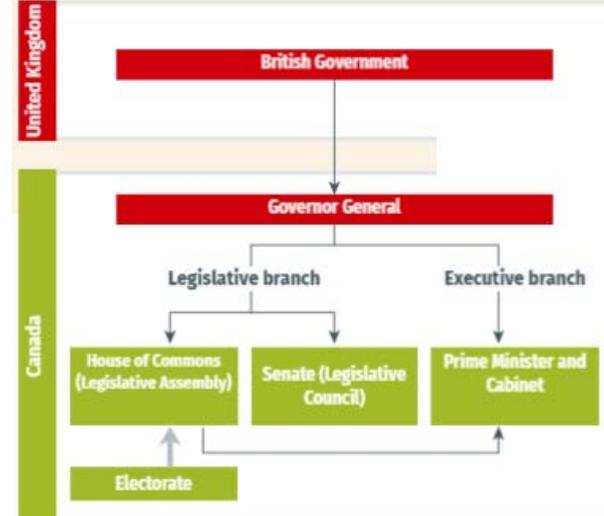
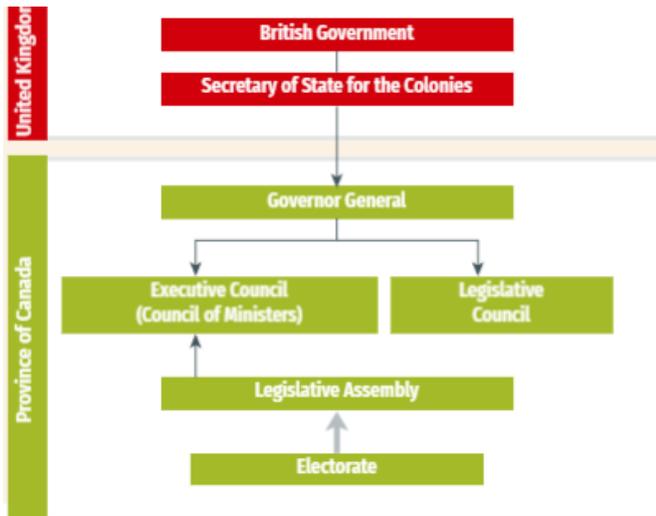


History of Québec and Canada

- Identify similarities between the political structure during the period of responsible government and at Confederation.

To do this activity, you can either use this [link](#) and go to slide 6 of 7 to help you visualize the similarities, or **look at** the two charts below:

History of Québec and Canada *Political structure during responsible government, 1848* *Political structure at*



Confederation, 1867

Source: https://iplusinteractif.com/contenusstatiques/presentations/reflections4/3571_C1_org_1_05_BNAA_1867/index.html

Similarities:



Establish connections between different areas of responsibility and identify the jurisdiction each one fell under in 1867

Place the following documents in the appropriate boxes.

Document 1

“Upon Confederation [religious] school systems were enshrined in the British North America Act (BNA), 1867. Both Quebec and Ontario were required by section 93 of the BNA Act to safeguard existing educational rights and privileges of the Protestant and Catholic minorities. Thus, separate Catholic schools and school boards were permitted in Ontario. However, neither province had a constitutional requirement to protect its French- or English-speaking minority.”

Laurence K. Shook, 1971

Document 2

Farm in New Brunswick, 1867



Document 3

“The ... government's legislative responsibilities for Indians and Inuit derive from section 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867* and responsibility was given to the Secretary of State for the Provinces Responsible for Indian Affairs.”

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Federal Jurisdiction	Provincial Jurisdiction	Shared Jurisdiction



Answer key:

1.

Differences:

- Québec and Ontario are larger today than they were in 1867.
- Prairie provinces like Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba now exist where Rupert's Land once was.
- British Columbia, PEI and Newfoundland are now provinces of Canada instead of British colonies.
- There are now three Canadian territories on land that used to be the North-Western Territory and Rupert's Land.

*Other answers are possible.

2.

Similarities:

The British government still had ultimate power.

The Governor General of Canada was still appointed by the British.

The electorate (the people) still voted only for the Legislative Assembly.

*Other answers are possible.

3.

Federal Jurisdiction	Provincial Jurisdiction	Shared Jurisdiction
3	1	2