Eva Pors: Cross Country Canada, Lindhardt og Ringhof, 2014 (handwritten)
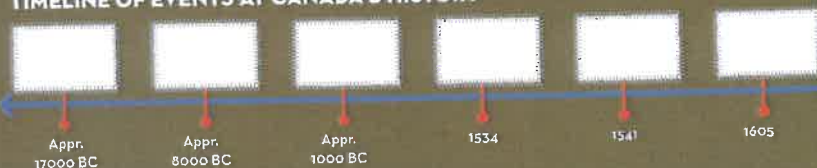
CHAPTER ONE

In this chapter you will be introduced to the history of Canada. Professor Claire Campbell briefly introduces major events in Canadian history from the last Ice Age to the present day, while historian Forrest Pass introduces the role the two world wars have played in shaping Canada together with the world famous poem, "In Flanders Fields", by John McCrae.

The five poems included by Mona Gould are intended to provide you with a poetic image of Canada through half a century.

At the end of working with this chapter you should be able to:

* list and explain central events in Canadian history.

* analyse representations of Canadian history.

* discuss ways in which the central events can be said to have contributed to the shaping of Canada.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS AT CANADA'S HISTORY

Appr. 17000 BC — Appr. 8000 BC — Appr. 1000 BC — 1534 — 1541 — 1605

Claire Campbell

A VERY BRIEF HISTORY OF CANADA

Claire Campbell has been an associate professor at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, and is joining the faculty at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania. She teaches Canadian history with a particular interest in environmental issues. Her interest in Canadian Studies was sparked over ten years ago when she was a visiting lecturer at the University of Aarhus.

WHILE READING

Below you will find a timeline of Canada.

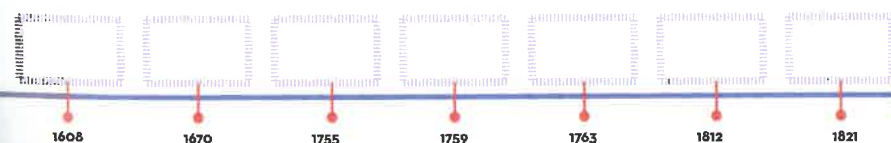🍁 Fill in the events at the correct marks on the timeline as you read.
Appr. 17000 BC – appr. 8000 BC – appr. 1000 AD – 1534 – 1541 – 1605 and 1608 – 1670 – 1755 – 1759 – 1763 – 1812 – 1821 – 1847 – 1858 – 1867 – 1869 – 1885 – 1917 – 1946 – 1965 – 1966 – 1971 – 1982

🍁 The text has been divided into eight parts indicated by Roman numerals. Although you have to read the entire text, each of you will be assigned one of these eight parts that you must focus on well enough to be able to summarise it in detail.

A Very Brief History Of Canada

"If some countries have too much history," said the prime minister of Canada in 1936, "we have too much geography." Canada has a history, too, but it is intertwined with its vast geography. As the second–largest country in the world, the story of Canada is a response over centuries and by different peoples to the
5   North American environment.

inter'twine (vb) – være forbundet med
vast (adj)– vidtstrakt

1608 — 1670 — 1755 — 1759 — 1763 — 1812 — 1821

Paul Kane, Assiniboine Hunting Buffalo (ca. 1856)

I

re'treat (vb) – trække sig
tilbage
carve (vb) – udskære
re'bound (vb) – at komme
sig
di'stinct (adj) – særlig
'occupy (vb) – besætte
re'ly (vb) – være afhængig
af
'salmon (subst) – laks
'caribou (subst) –
nordamerikansk rensdyr
ex'tensive (adj) – udstrakt

About 17, 000 years ago, during the last Ice Age, a land bridge allowed peoples to migrate onto the North American continent. As the glaciers began to retreat from North America, they affected the shape of Canada to come, leaving deep glacial lakes, such as Lake Agassiz in Manitoba and Lake Iroquois in Ontario; carving river valleys and scraping the Canadian Shield, a bed of granite underlying much of eastern and northern Canada; and defining ocean shorelines as the continent rebounded from the weight of the ice. By 10, 000 years ago, distinct language and cultural groups of First Nations occupied the continent, relying on the resources of regional ecosystems, whether the salmon of the West Coast, the bison of the Prairies, or the caribou of the Arctic.

For millennia, then, "Canada" was the territory of these different nations but connected by extensive trading networks. The first connection with Europe came

Pierre Desceliers, Mappemonde (ca. 1550)

about 1000 AD. The Norse traded with Inuit in the far north for things like whale ivory, and had established a small settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows to explore the Gulf of the St. Lawrence. About 500 years later, the riches of the sea drew fleets from Portugal, Spain, France and England to the eastern coasts of North America in pursuit of whales and cod. In the 1500s and 1600s, explorers, especially from France and England, began searching for ways through or around the continent in hope of reaching the Far East. Jacques Cartier (sailing 1534–41) sailed up – and named – the St. Lawrence River, which would be the major route into Canada for centuries; and borrowed the Iroquoian word for village, Kanata, to name the area.

'Norse (subst) – nordiske
folk
'ivory (subst) – elfenben
fleet (subst) – flåde
cod (subst) – torsk
'Iroquois (subst) –
nordamerikansk
indiansk sprogfamilie
bestående af forskellige
indianske stammer
som Cherokee, Seneca,
Mohawk og Oneida.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS AT CANADA'S HISTORY

| 1847 | 1858 | 1867 | 1869 | 1885 | | 1917 | 1946 | 1965 | 1966 | 1971 | 1982 |

II

Because of the colder climate and the limited amount of arable land, the allure of Canada would be harvests of natural resources. Emerging European empires began to explore and occupy the continent, providing them with wealth and power in the early modern age. In 1605 (on the Bay of Fundy) and 1608 (on the St. Lawrence), the French began two colonies, known as Acadie and Canada (or *la nouvelle France*). These were driven by religious and commercial agendas, by the Catholic Church and the fur trade, which would define the relationship between Europeans and First Nations for two hundred years. *Coureurs des bois* ("runners of the woods") and *voyageurs* relied on aboriginal knowledge and technologies like the canoe to venture further west. By the 1660s, Canada was solidly part of France's Atlantic empire, never as profitable or as populous as colonies in the Caribbean, but useful for its fish and furs. Confined to the fertile St. Lawrence River valley, Canada also developed a distinctive landscape of *seigneuries*, strips of land farmed by habitants who were now thinking of themselves as *Canadiens*.

The north attracted the British, too. Explorers like Martin Frobisher and Henry Hudson sought a northwest passage through the Arctic, and in 1670, the new Hudson's Bay Company (Canada's oldest company today) won rights to "Rupert's Land," all the land draining into Hudson's Bay – half of present–day Canada – in their search for furs. Their French rivals explored the Mississippi

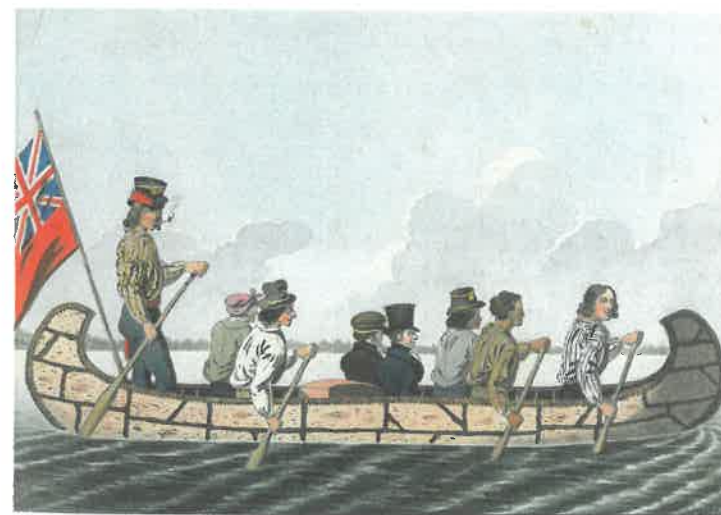*Benjamin West, The Death of General Wolfe (1770)*

Valley, the Great Lakes and the plains. The fur trade and the growing population of the Thirteen Colonies set the French and British on a collision course by the end of the seventeenth century.

III

Canada in the eighteenth century was a battleground between British, French, Americans, and aboriginals. Islands and territories were traded in treaties; strategic alliances were formed with First Nations; the eastern seaboard was populated by rival fortresses, as at Louisbourg and Halifax; thousands of Acadians were deported to places like Louisiana in 1755. Skirmishes in the Great Lakes and the interior showed the growing pressure of the booming Thirteen Colonies – twenty times the population of New France. The British victory in 1759 on the Plains of Abraham at Quebec signalled the fall of New France and the creation, briefly, of a single British North America.

In the 1763 Royal Proclamation after "the Conquest," Britain recognized both French legal and religious systems, and aboriginal title to land. These have influenced Canada to this day; but ironically, helped spark the American Revolution. This divided British North America into two new countries, one promising "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" (the United States) and the other "peace, order, and good government" (Canada). Canada was flooded by

Peter Rindisbacher, Hudson's Bay Company officials in an express canoe crossing a lake (about 1825)

Robert Harris, The Fathers of Confederation (sketch, 1883)

pro'pel (vb) – fremdrive
'era (subst) – tidsperiode
'rivalry (subst) – kappestrid
inter'marriage (subst) –
  blandet ægteskab

thousands of people seeking to stay loyal to the Crown (Loyalists), and whose presence resulted in the creation of new colonies.

A new fur trade company in Montreal, the North West Company, propelled a great era of rivalry and expansion in the fur trade, with explorers such as Samuel Hearne, Alexander Mackenzie, and David Thompson travelling rivers and lakes to map the entire continent to the Arctic and Pacific oceans. The "children of the fur trade," born of intermarriage, especially of voyageurs and First Nations, emerged as a distinct group on the prairie, known as the Métis. After 1821, the HBC held the entire western interior to the Pacific: a government in itself.

IV

But the emphasis was shifting toward permanent settlement, first in the Great Lakes and then on the prairies. After repelling American invasions during the War of 1812, the 49th parallel was chosen as the so-called "undefended border" between Canada and the United States. Now thousands of new emigrants, especially from Britain, arrived as pioneers in the wilderness or "backwoods." The divide grew between the conservative elite and reform-minded settlers, resulting in a campaign for greater political rights and even brief uprisings known as the 1837 Rebellions. Ten years later Nova Scotia became the first British colony to obtain "responsible government" – whereby the colony's

'emphasis (subst) – vægt
re'pel (vb)– drive tilbage
'parallel (subst) –
  breddegrad
'uprising (subst) – opstand
ob'tain (vb) – opnå

'council (subst) –
  rådsforsamling
'legislature (subst) –
  lovgivende forsamling
e'xecutive (subst) – den
  udøvende myndighed
'answerable (adj) –
  ansvarlig
e'lectorate (subst) –
  vælgerkorps
fuel (vb) – give næring til
prompt (vb) – medføre
staple (vb) – stabelvare,
  vare der haves i stor
  mængde
debt (subst) – gæld
'deadlock (subst) –
  dødvande
confede'ration (subst) –
  statsforbund
bi'cameral (adj)
  'legislature (subst) –
  tokammerparlament
ap'point (vb) – udnævne

governor chose his council from the elected legislature, making the executive answerable to the electorate for the first time – and the other colonies soon followed.

New roads and canals – such as the Rideau Canal, between the Ottawa River and Lake Ontario, and the Welland Canal, bypassing Niagara Falls – connected the growing population and fueled industrialization in the St. Lawrence Valley in cities like Montreal. The Grand Trunk Railway was the longest railway in the world by the end of the 1850s. Meanwhile, discovery of gold on the Fraser River prompted the creation of a new colony of British Columbia on the Pacific coast in 1858. Whether by river, rail, or pipeline, the export of raw resources – from fish and fur to wheat, timber, minerals, and now to oil – has always been "staples" for Canada's economy and place in the world.

V

In the early 1860s, debt from railway construction, political deadlock, fears of American expansion, and the need for new trading agreements between the colonies propelled four colonies (Canada East and Canada West, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick) to agree to terms of Confederation. The resulting British North America Act, which came into effect on 1 July 1867, created the Dominion of Canada, spelling out powers for the federal and provincial governments, a bicameral legislature with an elected House of Commons and an appointed

MOTHER BRITANNIA.—" See ! Why, the dear child can stand alone ! "
UNCLE SAM.—" Of course he can ! Let go of him Granny ; if he falls I'll catch him ! "

Cartoon, Canada, 1870

Parliament Buildings on the Ottawa River, with logging raft, circa 1882

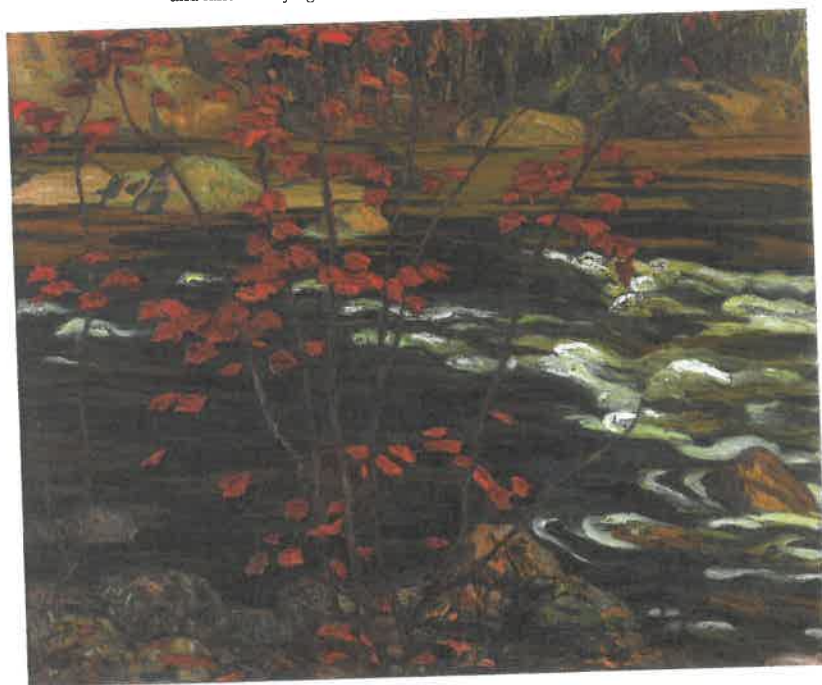*Driving the last spike, Craigellachie, 1885*

NOW THEN . ALL TOGETHER

"All Together now". From Canada: The Granary of the World (1903)

re'mote (adj) – fjern
'lumber (subst) – tømmer
aspi'ration (subst) –
    forhåbning
re'main (vb) – forblive
ac'quire (vb) – erhverve sig
ne'gotiate (vb) – forhandle
'purchase (subst) – køb
'settlement (subst) –
    bosættelse
feat (subst) – bedrift
land sur'veying (subst) –
    landmåling

Senate, and continued loyalty to the British Crown – this was not a declaration of independence!

The remote lumber town of Ottawa had been a compromise choice for the national capital – between French and English Canada, and safely distant from the United States. Conservatives and reformers coalesced into the Conservative and Liberal parties. Confederation was a pragmatic agreement, far more than an expression of national aspirations; indeed, it would be challenged by provincial and regional divisions almost immediately, divisions that remain characteristic of Canadian political life.

Confederation did allow especially those in Central Canada to pursue their ambition of acquiring the vast continental interior. In 1869 the new government of Canada negotiated the purchase of Rupert's Land from the HBC: one of the largest land sales in history. This opened the door to a massive campaign for western settlement, recruiting hundreds of thousands of emigrants from abroad and completing a transcontinental railway in 1885 – an incredible feat of engineering and land surveying.

A.Y. Jackson, The Red Maple (1914)

"Let's go, Canada!" World War I poster

bi'lingual (adj) – tosproget
spike (subst) – spiger
ex'tinguish (vb) – tilintetgøre
archi'pelago (subst) – øgruppe
in'cite (vb) – anspore
'controversy (subst) – strid
di'versity (subst) – mangfoldighed
'governor-'general (subst) – generalguvenør
mu'nitions (subst) – ammunition
a'chievement (subst) – bedrift
'notably (adv) – især
vie (vb) – konkurrere
'venture (subst) – foretagende
'showcase (vb) – udstille
'cultivate (vb) – dyrke
'impact (subst) – indvirkning
'Prairie 'Dust 'Bowl (subst) – 1930'ernes hårde støvstorme og tørkeperioder der ødelagde landbrugets afgrøder på den nordamerikanske prærie.
au'tonomy (subst) – selvstyre
'sovereignty (subst) – suverænitet

VI

A Métis from Red River (now Winnipeg), Louis Riel, led two uprisings in protest; the first resulted in the creation of Manitoba, a bilingual province with some Métis land rights, but the second ended with Riel's hanging the same week as the "last spike" was driven in the transcontinental railway. The North West Mounted Police (later the Royal Canadian Mounted Police), formed in 1873, provided the federal government with an important presence in the vast northwest territory. Acquiring the west for settlement also meant extinguishing aboriginal land claims through a series of numbered treaties that framed the status of First Nations within Canada for the next century. Britain also transferred the entire Arctic archipelago to Canada in 1880. While the discovery of gold in the Yukon incited a border controversy with the United States, the frontier at this time was still the western prairies; the north would become the new frontier of the mid–twentieth century.

Despite its ethnic diversity and francophone populations across the country, many Canadians considered the new Dominion "First Daughter of the British Empire" well into the twentieth century. British governors–general played an important cultural role, including giving the Stanley Cup and the Grey Cup to hockey and football. Canadian troops fought with British forces in the South African War and the First World War. The explosion of a munitions ship in Halifax harbour in 1917 was the largest man–made explosion in history before the nuclear bomb. Several moments of the world war marked a new sense of Canadian identity and achievement, notably the battle of Vimy Ridge in 1917.

VII

In the 1920s and 1930s, this new nationalism vied with the realities of mass culture. New ventures and institutions – artwork by the Group of Seven, radio by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation – showcased distinctive Canadian voices, especially in cultivating a mythology of northern wilderness. But the war had marked a turn away from Empire and toward North America, in American radio and film and in a common automobile landscape. Both Canada and the United States felt the economic impact of the Great Depression and the Prairie Dust Bowl, inspiring a number of political experiments in response to the weaknesses of capitalism. The most influential in Canada was the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation, a social democratic party (that would become the New Democratic Party and Canada's third major national party in 1961).

Canada entered the Second World War with much more autonomy, and played an important role in major battles such as the Battle of the Atlantic, Ortona, and Juno Beach on D–Day. In the postwar world, this meant a commitment to being a "middle power" in multilateral organizations such as the United Nations (including in the Korean War) and in peacekeeping operations around the world, and wrestling with issues of territorial sovereignty in the far north.

Aislin, On the table (September 12, 1986)

cen'tennial (adj) – hundredårs–
fe'rocity (subst) – voldsomhed
du'ality (subst) – dobbelthed
'secular (adj) – verdslig
au'tonomous (adj) – selvstændig
'advocate (subst) – fortaler
e'lectoral (adj) – valg-
means (subst) – metode
di'stinct (adj) – særskilt
re'visit (vb) – vende tilbage til
'patriated – overdraget
'charter (subst) – stiftelsesdokument
re'main (vb) – forblive
con'sistent (adj) – konsekvent
'recent (adj) – nylig
'decade (subst) – årti
rein'force (vb) – forstærke
a'chieve (vb) – opnå
'ancient (adj) – forhistorisk

There were new landmarks of nationhood: Canadian citizenship in 1946, a new flag in 1965, hosting the international Exposition in the centennial year of 1967. But the relationship with the United States became even more complicated: nationalists lobbied for protecting Canadian culture while others proposed continental free trade agreements.

VIII

Old regional and cultural tensions appeared with new ferocity. Canada declared itself officially bilingual and bicultural in 1966 to recognize the French/English duality; and "multicultural in a bilingual framework" in 1971 to acknowledge the diversity of emigration especially after 1945. But in the early 1960s, Quebec's *Révolution tranquille* (The Quiet Revolution) announced a modern, secular, and more autonomous state, and over the next twenty years advocates of separatism took to both violent (the FLQ) and electoral (*le Parti Quebecois*) means, even while the rest of Canada eventually accepted Quebec's status as a "distinct society." New energy resources especially in Alberta prompted the rest of the provinces to challenge the power of Ottawa as well. This resulted in years of constitutional (re) negotiation, revisiting the balance of powers established in 1867. The constitution was patriated from Britain to Canada in 1982 as the Canada Act at the same time as a the Charter of Rights and Freedoms came into effect. But the status of Quebec and First Nations within Canada remains a subject of ongoing debate.

Canada ranks consistently among the best countries in the world in which to live. The neoconservative turn of recent decades has called into question some of its defining myths and characteristics, such as its image of extensive wilderness and its sense of internationalism, but reinforced others, such as its claim to northern territory. Despite the ambitious promises of multiculturalism, social democracy, and "good government," there is much work to be done in achieving environmental and social justice. Even with its ancient glacial origins, Canada is still a young country, and an unfinished project.

Patriation of the Canada Act, 1982

WORKING WITH THE TEXT IN CLASS

✤ Sum up your timelines in class, and discuss any uncertainties or differences that may arise.

GROUP WORK AND ORAL PRESENTATIONS

✤ Based on your designated part of the text from while reading, create a comic strip (perhaps even a digital one by using www.stripgenerator.com) that explains a part of Canadian history in five to ten frames.

✤ If there are elements in your part of the text that you don't quite understand or just wish to research further, please consult the links found at www.canada.ca ✦ about Canada ✦ History.

✤ Display your comic strips in a class presentation.