

# History and Government of Canada

All questions require at least  
**THREE** sentences on own paper.

## PLACES & TERMS

**province** political unit of a country

**Dominion of Canada** confederation of Canadian provinces

**confederation** political union

**parliamentary government** system where legislative and executive functions are combined in a legislature called a parliament

**parliament** legislature

**prime minister** head of a parliamentary government

## The First Settlers and Colonial Rivalry

### *Who settled Canada?*

Canada's vast size and its cold climate *significantly* affected its development. As you read in Chapter 5, people from Asia began moving into North America thousands of years ago.

Some early people remained in what are now the Canadian Arctic and Alaska. These people were ancestors of the Inuit (or Eskimos). Others gradually moved south, into present-day British Columbia and beyond.

Europeans first came in the 15th century. In 1497, explorer John Cabot landed in Newfoundland. He claimed the area for England. Then, during the 16th and 17th centuries, French explorers claimed much of North America. Their settlements in Canada were called New France. The British colonized North America along the Atlantic coast.

The coastal fisheries and the inland fur trade were important to both countries. Soon, there was conflict. The French and British challenged each

other's territorial claims. Britain defeated France in the French and Indian War, 1754–1763.

### 1. Why did France and Britain fight?

Answer in at least **THREE SENTENCES** on own paper.

## Steps Toward Unity (pages 156–157)

### *What was the British North America Act?*

Canada had become a land of two distinct cultures by the end of the 18th century. There were the Roman Catholic French and the Protestant English. Conflicts erupted between the two groups. So, in 1791, the British government split Canada into two **provinces**, or political units. Upper Canada (later, Ontario) located near the Great Lakes had an English-speaking majority. Lower Canada (later, Quebec) located along the St. Lawrence River had a French-speaking population.

Over the next few decades, Montreal, Toronto, and Quebec City developed as major cities in the

region. Population grew, as large numbers of immigrants came from Great Britain. Railways and canals were built. Also, explorers moved across western lands to find better fur-trading areas.

Tension between English-speaking and French-speaking settlers continued. The British government decided that major reform was needed. In 1867, it passed the British North America Act. This law created the **Dominion of Canada**.

The Dominion was to be a loose **confederation**, or political union. It would consist of Ontario (Upper Canada), Quebec (Lower Canada), and the British colonies of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick on the Atlantic coast.

The Dominion grew rapidly. Manitoba, British Columbia, and Prince Edward Island were added. By 1871, Canada stretched to the Pacific Ocean. Soon, the Yukon Territory, Alberta, and Saskatchewan followed.

## 2. Why was the Dominion of Canada formed?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

## Continental Expansion and Development

*What was the first step for growth?*

Canada had much available land to settle. It tried to make it easier for pioneers to get to this land. In 1872, the government began to build a transcontinental railroad. In 1885, the main line of the railway, from Montreal to Vancouver, was completed.

A little more than a decade later, gold was discovered in the Yukon. Fortune hunters from around the world headed to Canada. Not long after, copper, zinc, and silver deposits were found. These discoveries led to the building of new railroads and towns. At the same time, immigrants from other parts of Europe besides Britain were coming to Canada's vast open lands.

Early settlers had lived in rural areas and engaged in farming. But Canada became increasingly urban and industrial as its population grew and natural resources were developed. Cities and towns first sprang up wherever farming was possible. Later, these same areas became manufacturing and service industry centers.

Most of this growth took place within 100 miles of the U.S. border. There, the climate was warmer and the land more productive. Also, transportation linking east and west was more readily available.

## 3. What brought immigrants to Canada in the late 1800s?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

## Governing Canada

*What is a parliament?*

Britain recognized Canada as an independent nation in 1931. Like Great Britain, Canada has a **parliamentary government**. It is a system where legislative and executive functions are combined in a legislature called a **parliament**.

A central federal government and smaller provincial and territorial governments govern Canada. Canada is an independent country, but its symbolic head of state is still the British *monarch*. All legislative matters are the responsibility of the Parliament. The majority party's leader in Parliament becomes **prime minister**, or head of the government.

Each of Canada's ten provinces has its own legislature and premier (prime minister).

## 4. How is it determined who heads the government?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.