

Life in British North America

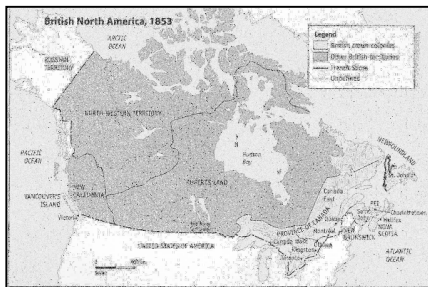
Part A

The Seven Years War

The American Revolution

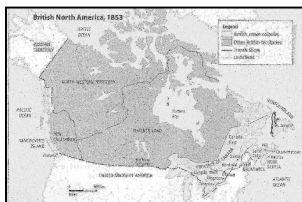
Life in British North America

The political divisions of British North America changed several times in the 1800's but by 1853 the British controlled all of what is now Canada.



Important Facts

- A) In 1763 Great Britain won all of Frances colonies in North America so they were now part of British North America.
- B) The American Revolution of 1776 – 1783 the British colonies south of New Brunswick rebelled against Great Britain and won their independence.



The Battle of the Plains of Abraham



The Battle of the Plains of ABRAHAM, September 13, 1759. The British Army, led by James Wolfe, defeated the French Army, led by Louis-Joseph de Montcalm, on the Plains of Abraham, a plateau just outside the walls of Quebec City. The battle was a decisive moment in the Seven Years' War, leading to the British conquest of New France and the creation of Canada.

1756 – 1763 The Seven Years' War

- **The Battle of the Plains of Abraham**, was a pivotal battle in the Seven Years' War.
- The confrontation, which began on 12 September 1759, was fought between the British Army and the French Army, on a plateau just outside the walls of Quebec City.
- The battle involved fewer than 10,000 troops between both sides, but proved to be a deciding moment in the conflict between France and Britain over the fate of New France, influencing the later creation of Canada.



A Great Canadian Story

- Summer 1759 – Wolfe (British) bombarded the fortified city of Quebec City several times but it had little effect.



A Great Canadian Story

- Wolfe (British) was very worried. His men were getting sick and discouraged and if he didn't figure out a way to take Quebec City he would have to leave. The winter freeze would crush his ships.



- Montcalm (French) was very worried. His supplies were running low because of the British blockade and his men were discouraged they weren't actually fighting the enemy. Many of Montcalm's men were untrained in traditional combat and were French farmers and natives.



The Plan

Quebec City was situated near a plateau

The Plains of Abraham.



- **If** Wolfe (British) managed to:
 - * Get his boats past the fortified city.
 - * Climb a 53m cliff dragging cannons and guns and gear.
 - * Overtake the guards at the bottom and the top of the cliff and the troops on the plateau.
- **Then** the British might be able to engage the French in a traditional field battle.
 - *Wolfe was so doubtful of the plan he confided in one of his officers that he expected he would go home without Quebec or dead.*

A Trick

- To convince the French they were attacking from the east the British left their largest ships on the east firing on the city all night as they landed all of their sick soldiers to look like an attacking army.
- It worked, the French prepared all night for an attack in the morning from the east.
- Montcalm never thought the attack would come from the west. In fact he actually said:

"It is not to be supposed that the enemies have wings so that they can in the same night cross the river, disembark, climb the cliffs and scale the walls"



The luck was all for the British

1) A French deserter told the British the French were expecting small supply ships to sneak by the British that night. So the British used the small boats to go around the city in the dark of the night. When the guards asked them who they were they said they were French supply ships
(*Speaking French*).



The luck was all for the British

2) The guard station at the bottom of the cliff was empty. A soldier's horse had been stolen and they were out looking for it.

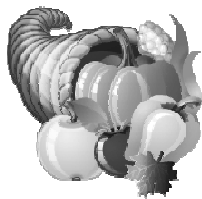
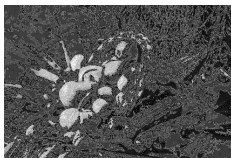


3) The guards in the station at the top of the cliff were asleep.



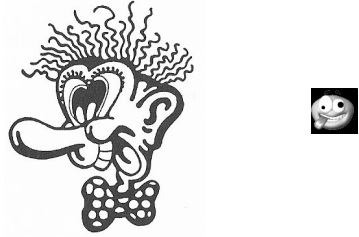
The luck was all for the British

4) The Militia Unit protecting the plateau had sent half of its soldiers home to help with the harvest and were easily defeated.



The luck was all for the British

5) One French militia soldier did escape to the fortified city but the people he talked to simply dismissed him as crazy.



The luck was all for the British

6) The French had Militia units several miles away and could have surrounded the British but Montcalm (French) was worried if he waited more British troops would show up. There were no more British troops coming.



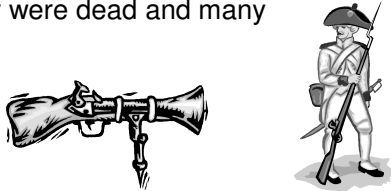
The luck was all for the British

7) Montcalm (French) sent word back inside the walls for the artillery to be moved outside the city but the officer only sent 3 guns saying it was needed to protect the city.



The luck was all for the British

8) Many of the French were not trained and each time they had to reload their guns they threw themselves down to avoid enemy fire. However when the trained French soldiers saw the others dropping to the ground they thought they were dead and many retreated.



The luck was all for the British

9) Traditional field battle was to form up in rows at least five deep. The British lined up in only two rows so they would stretch across the entire field – The French greatly overestimated the British's numbers.



The luck was all for the British

10) The British double loaded their muskets, fired in unison, stepped back and the next line took aim. The explosion of all of the guns going off at the same time resulted in many French casualties had a serious blow to French confidence.



The End



- The culmination of a three-month siege by the British, the battle lasted less than an hour. British troops commanded by General Wolfe successfully resisted the French troops under General Montcalm. Wolfe died on the field within minutes of the battle and Montcalm died the next morning.

The End

- The British took control of Quebec City and the rest of the French colonies fell within a short time period.



The American Revolution

- The British government attempted to increase taxes, and gain more control over the colonies. The colonies strongly objected to these laws and taxes.
- “No Taxation Without Representation”

The Americans didn't want to be taxed without having representatives in the Government and a say in how the tax money was spent.



The American Revolution

- The colonies formed a central government, the first Continental Congress.

The Boston Tea Party



The American Revolution

- George Washington, was appointed Commander in Chief of the Continental Army.
- On July 4, 1776, the Congress adopted the **Declaration of Independence**, in which they declared their independence from England.
- The war ended in 1783, and the United States of America was born.



The Beginning of Canada

- In 1763 Great Britain won all of Frances colonies in North America.
- In 1783 the British lost their American colonies.
- The British Colonies that were left eventually became Canada.

