

Canada's
History
for KIDS
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Canada's History Magazine for Kids

Kayak

96 96



Canada and the United States



**SETTLING
THE BORDER**



**WAR OVER
A PIG?**

COVER STORY

Up and Down, Back and Forth

Looking back on 225 years of
Canada-U.S. relations

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Kayak Psst! These symbols spell
Kayak in Inuktitut.



Cover Illustration: Rhael McGregor

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FROM-THE-EDITOR



First Peoples have moved all over what we now call North America for generations upon generations. Settlers created new borders. The United States declared itself a country separate from Britain, starting a long relationship between it and what would become Canada. At times, the relationship has been friendly. At others, like recently, it's been a bit tense. Read on to learn more.

Nancy



8,890 KILOMETRES (GIVE OR TAKE A FEW KM)

LENGTH OF THE CANADA-U.S. LAND BORDER, THE WORLD'S LONGEST.

"GEOGRAPHY HAS MADE US NEIGHBOURS. HISTORY HAS MADE US FRIENDS. ECONOMICS HAS MADE US PARTNERS. AND NECESSITY HAS MADE US ALLIES."

-PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY SPEAKING TO CANADA'S PARLIAMENT, 1961

CANADA AND THE U.S. TRADE ABOUT \$3.6 BILLION IN GOODS AND SERVICES WITH EACH OTHER EVERY DAY. THAT'S MORE THAN ANY OTHER TWO COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD.



"LIVING NEXT TO YOU IS IN SOME WAYS LIKE SLEEPING WITH AN ELEPHANT. NO MATTER HOW FRIENDLY AND EVEN-TEMPERED THE BEAST, IF I CAN CALL IT THAT, ONE IS AFFECTED BY EVERY TWITCH AND GRUNT."

-PRIME MINISTER PIERRE TRUDEAU SPEAKING IN WASHINGTON, D.C., 1969



THE FIRST UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OFFICE IN CANADA OPENED IN HALIFAX, N.S., IN 1833.

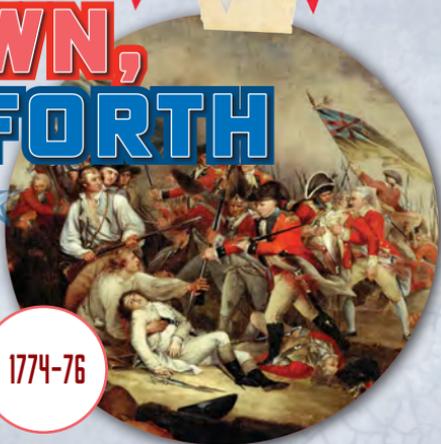
NUMBER OF CANADIAN CITIZENS LIVING IN THE U.S.: ABOUT 800,000

NUMBER OF AMERICAN CITIZENS LIVING IN CANADA: ABOUT 1,000,000

NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO CROSS THE CANADA-U.S. BORDER EVERY DAY: ABOUT 400,000

UP AND DOWN, BACK AND FORTH

Just like in the last little while, Canada and the United States went through good and not-so-good times in our first 225 years.



1774-76

As some Americans look to throw off British rule, they send two forces to invade Quebec in 1775. The British defeat them in Quebec City, but the Americans eventually win the Revolutionary War and become an independent country.



1783-84

Tens of thousands flee the new United States for what are now Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Ontario. Because they want to stay British, they are known as Loyalists.

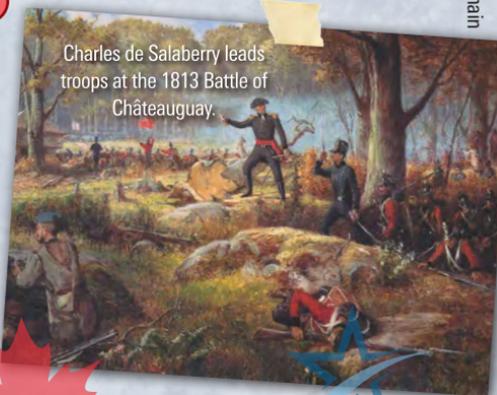
1794

The Jay Treaty between the U.S. and Great Britain allows First Nations people to travel freely back and forth between the two countries. In 1956, the Supreme Court of Canada says the treaty is “not in force.”

1812-15

The War of 1812 between the U.S. and Canada (controlled by Great Britain) has no one cause. There was no clear winner, either, but there were clear losers: Rights for First Nations and Métis people, whose help was crucial in defending Canada, were ignored after the war.

Charles de Salaberry leads troops at the 1813 Battle of Châteauguay.



1837-38

Although rebellions in Upper and Lower Canada fail, rebels fleeing to the U.S. find support. There, thousands of Americans join secret societies known as Hunters' Lodges or l'Association des Frères-chasseurs. Members try to start a war to free Canada from Britain by attacking across the border.



1850

The United States passes the Fugitive Slave Act, allowing formerly enslaved Black people to be recaptured even in states that banned slavery. Over the next decade, more than 15,000 freedom-seekers make their way to Canada.



This painting, called *American Progress*, shows U.S. settlers heading west.

1845

The term Manifest Destiny is first used to describe the idea that God gave the U.S. the right to control all of North America.



Many people hoping to escape slavery came using a secret system known as the Underground Railroad.

When one country takes over another, it's called annexation. And since before Canada was a country, some people here have wanted to become part of the United States. Hundreds of the city's politicians and businessmen signed the Montreal Annexation Manifesto in 1849. (A manifesto is a public statement of opinions or ideas.) It promoted joining the U.S. to have more people to sell things to, and because of the Americans' military strength. Around the same time, there was talk in Upper Canada (now Ontario) of a new system of government that would be more like what the Americans had. Some in this "republican conservative" group wanted the U.S. to annex the British colonies that eventually became Canada. In the late 1860s, some people in what is now British Columbia asked Queen Victoria to let the U.S. annex their colony to help with its debt. Others there wrote to ask the American President Ulysses S. Grant to take them over. Not long after Confederation, former Nova Scotia premier Joseph Howe used a threat of American annexation to try to make Britain let his province leave Canada. Before Newfoundland joined Confederation in 1949, the Economic Union Party there said it would explore annexation to the U.S. rather than join Canada. Saskatchewan Premier Roy Romanow said his government would have considered the same thing if Quebec had voted to leave Canada in 1995.



1861-65

Northern and southern American states fight each other in the brutal Civil War. As many as 40,000 Canadians fight in the war, most on the side of the anti-slavery North.



1866-71



Armed Irish-Americans known as Fenians (FEE-nee-yans) stage raids in what are now New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba. They hope to capture Canada and force Britain to leave Ireland.



1867

Fear of the U.S. helps persuade what are now New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec to create a new country, Canada. This is known as Confederation. The U.S. buys Alaska from Russia.

1869

To avoid the Americans grabbing gigantic Rupert's Land (covering parts of what are now Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Ontario and Quebec) Britain pushes the Hudson's Bay Company to sell it to Canada.



1871

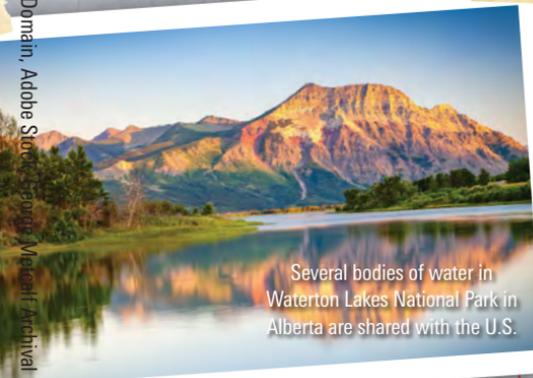
The Treaty of Washington finally ends the risk of war between the U.S. and Canada.



British delegates to the Treaty of Washington.

1890

The Americans put a huge tax, known as a tariff, on most Canadian goods. One of their goals is to weaken Canada so it would consider joining the United States. Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald just shifted more Canadian business to other countries.



Several bodies of water in Waterton Lakes National Park in Alberta are shared with the U.S.

1909

Canada and the U.S. sign the Boundary Waters Treaty, creating the International Joint Commission to oversee shared waterways.



Canadian and American officers in France, 1917.

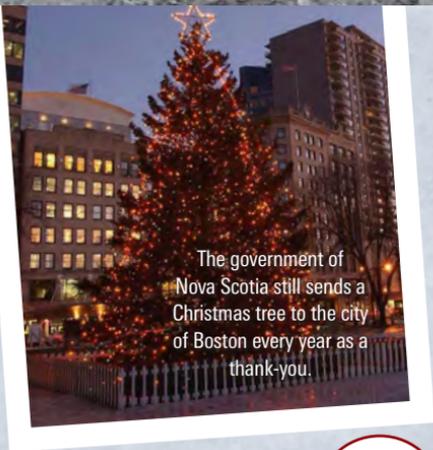
1914-18

Canada goes to war alongside Britain. Before the U.S. joins the First World War in 1917, more than 2,000 Americans fight in the Canadian forces.

Early in the First World War, the Canadian military enlists groups of American citizens. Together, they're known as the American Legion. Overseas, they join units where they're needed most.



The Halifax Explosion of 1917 levelled huge parts of the city.



The government of Nova Scotia still sends a Christmas tree to the city of Boston every year as a thank-you.

1917



After ships collide in Halifax Harbour, causing a horrific explosion, the U.S. sends trainloads of people and supplies to help.

1926

The two countries set up their own direct relations, without British involvement.

1930

More American tariffs, this time in something known as the Smoot-Hawley Act. Canada responds by increasing tariffs on American goods and cutting them on British ones.

1939-45

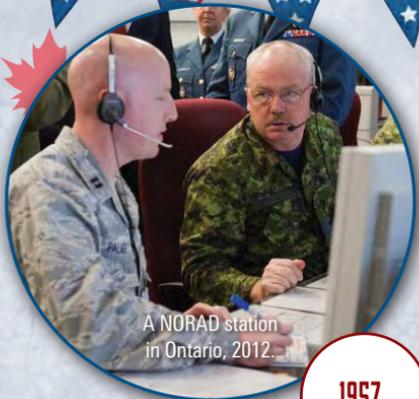
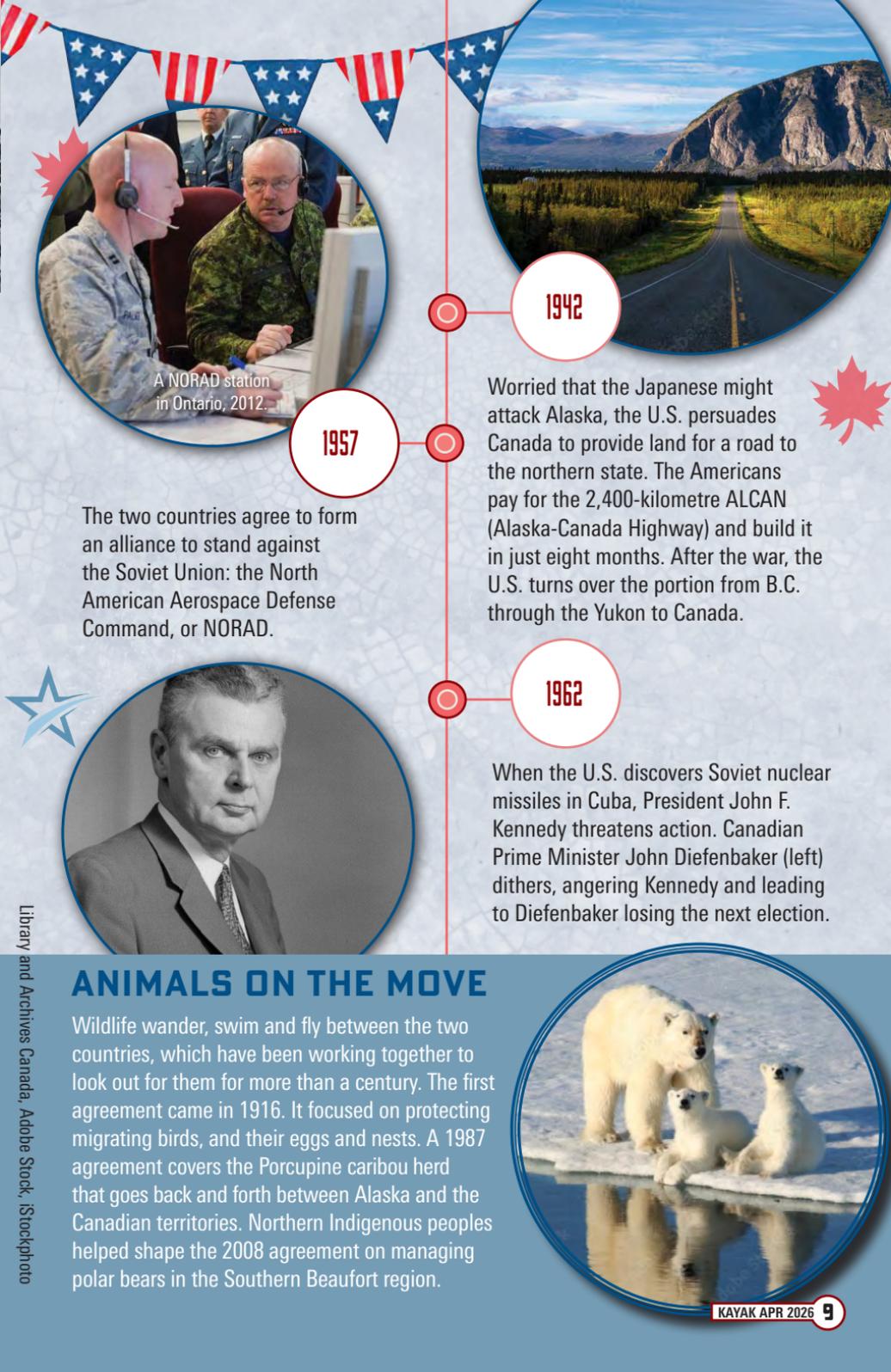


Again Canada goes to war before the U.S., and again thousands of Americans sign up to fight in the Canadian military. American President Franklin Roosevelt promises to support Canada if it is threatened. He and Prime Minister Mackenzie King sign agreements in 1940 and 1941 that give Britain and Canada more access to military supplies. The U.S. enters the Second World War in 1941. Canadian and American forces fight side by side in Italy and land together on the beaches of France on D-Day, June 6, 1944.



From 1942 to 1944, Canadians and Americans fought together in the First Special Service Force, also known as the Devil's Brigade.

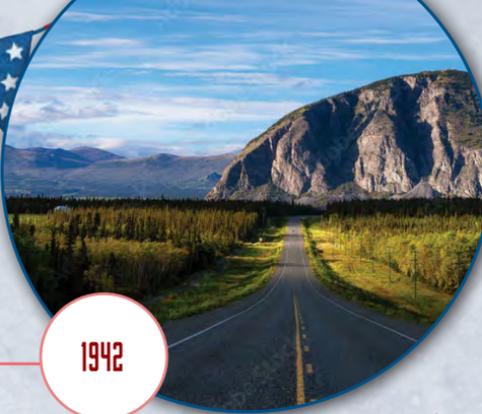




A NORAD station in Ontario, 2012.

1957

The two countries agree to form an alliance to stand against the Soviet Union: the North American Aerospace Defense Command, or NORAD.



1942

Worried that the Japanese might attack Alaska, the U.S. persuades Canada to provide land for a road to the northern state. The Americans pay for the 2,400-kilometre ALCAN (Alaska-Canada Highway) and build it in just eight months. After the war, the U.S. turns over the portion from B.C. through the Yukon to Canada.



1962

When the U.S. discovers Soviet nuclear missiles in Cuba, President John F. Kennedy threatens action. Canadian Prime Minister John Diefenbaker (left) dithers, angering Kennedy and leading to Diefenbaker losing the next election.



ANIMALS ON THE MOVE

Wildlife wander, swim and fly between the two countries, which have been working together to look out for them for more than a century. The first agreement came in 1916. It focused on protecting migrating birds, and their eggs and nests. A 1987 agreement covers the Porcupine caribou herd that goes back and forth between Alaska and the Canadian territories. Northern Indigenous peoples helped shape the 2008 agreement on managing polar bears in the Southern Beaufort region.



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1965

The two countries sign the Auto Pact. It takes most tariffs off car parts and boosts cooperation between the American and Canadian auto industries.

1965-73

Although Canada never officially enters the Vietnam War, at least 20,000 Canadians join with the U.S. forces. More than 30,000 Americans move to Canada to avoid serving in the war.



1979-80

Iranians storm the U.S. embassy in Tehran and hold staff hostage. Canadian diplomats shelter six Americans, eventually getting them out of the country safely. It's known as The Canadian Caper.

1971

U.S. President Richard Nixon puts tariffs on nearly everything from other countries. Canada looks to sell more of its goods to Europe and Japan.

PRIME MINISTERS AND PRESIDENTS

Sometimes the leaders of Canada and the U.S. like each other. Sometimes they don't. Prime Minister Lester Pearson irritated President Lyndon Johnson, but they got a lot done together. Same for Pierre Trudeau and Richard Nixon, shown at right, who couldn't stand each other. Brian Mulroney and Ronald Reagan were big pals, as were Louis St. Laurent and Dwight Eisenhower. A personal friendship doesn't guarantee things will go well between the two countries, but it can help.



Public Domain, Library and Archives Canada, Adobe Stock



Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and American President Ronald Reagan.

1989

The Free Trade Agreement between Canada and the U.S. begins. It aims to end tariff fights, make it easier to do business across the border and solve trade arguments.



1991

Wind doesn't stop at the border, so acid rain and smog affect both countries. In 1991, they sign the Canada-United States Air Quality Agreement to measure and cut down on pollution.

1985

The American ship *Polar Sea* sails through Canada's Northwest Passage without asking permission. The uproar leads to the 1988 Arctic Cooperation Agreement.



A warm welcome in Gander again, 2002.

2001

After terrorist attacks in the U.S., airplanes all over the world are grounded. Hundreds of American flights land in Canada. More than 6,500 people on 38 American planes end up in Gander, NL, population 10,000. The Newfoundlanders provide food, places to sleep and a warm welcome for a few days until the planes can take off again.

ON ICE

Hockey is probably the biggest sports rivalry between the two countries. The Canadian women have won five Olympic gold medals compared to three for the Americans. On the men's side, Canada has nine Olympic golds; the Americans have three. In all fairness, the U.S. dominates matchups in nearly every other sport, except a few such as rugby, curling and lacrosse.



BORDERLINE

People often talk about the dividing line between Canada and the United States being the 49th parallel. It's true that about 2,000 kilometres of the border runs along that line of latitude, but a lot of it doesn't. Settling where the whole thing would go took more than 140 years.

Alaska Boundary Dispute

Look at the northwest coast of British Columbia. See how the Canada-U.S. border cuts off most of the islands? For a long time, the two countries claimed different territory along the coast. Things got serious when the Klondike gold rush brought thousands of people to the region in the 1890s. A committee of three Americans, two Canadians and one British member made a decision in 1903. The Canadians were furious that the British representative agreed with the Americans on where to set the border we see today.



British Columbia coastline near Prince Rupert.

The first formal agreement on the border came in the 1783 Treaty of Paris after the American Revolutionary War.

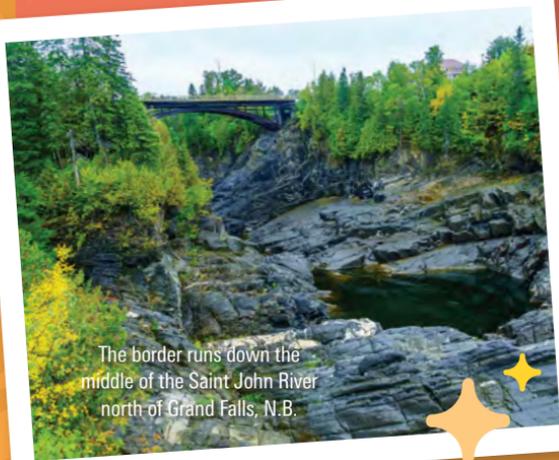
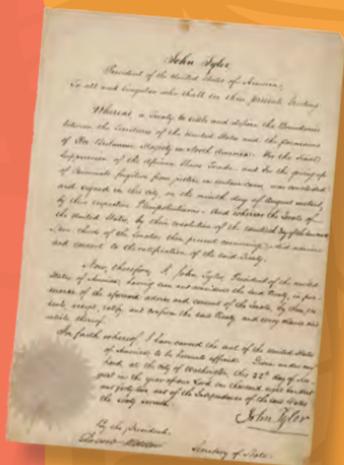


WESTERN DISAGREEMENT

After the War of 1812, Britain and the U.S. debated who would control the area west of the Rocky Mountains, all the way from Mexico to Alaska. (The Americans called it the Oregon Territory. The British called it Columbia.) Some Americans were ready to go to war to get all the land up to Alaska, a latitude of 54 degrees and 40 minutes. Their slogan was "54-40 or fight!" (That's where the Vancouver band 54-40 took its name.) In 1846 the two countries signed the Oregon Treaty, settling on the 49th parallel as the border.

Eastern Standoff

In the early 1800s, Britain and the U.S. both claimed an area south of Grand Falls, N.B., around the Aroostook River. They wanted its tall pine trees for valuable lumber. In 1831, they asked the king of the Netherlands to judge where the border should go, but the new state of Maine rejected his decision. By 1838, both sides were accusing the other of trespassing and stealing logs. Things got even more tense after they sent armed troops, and there was nearly a war. The Webster-Ashburton Treaty (right) of 1842 finally settled the boundary.



The border runs down the middle of the Saint John River north of Grand Falls, N.B.

A 1908 treaty did a better job of establishing exactly where the Canada-U.S. border would go. The two countries and Britain also sorted out how to mark the border in the many bodies of water.

ODDS AND ENDS

Even with the details of the boundary settled, there are still some unusual spots. The only road to New Brunswick's Campobello Island goes through the state of Maine, although you can get there by boat from Canada. On the West Coast, the 49th parallel cuts through a peninsula south of Vancouver, leaving the American community of Point Roberts only accessible by land via Canada. Inaccurate maps led to the Northwest Angle ending up as part of the state of Minnesota but surrounded on three sides by Manitoba and Ontario.



This 2017 photo shows the phone travellers used to report entering or leaving the Northwest Angle.

MARKING IT OUT

It's one thing to draw a line on a map and call it a boundary. It's a whole different thing to create that boundary in the real world. Everywhere that we have a boundary marker is a place someone had to get to by foot or in a boat, leaving a clear indication for others. Most of the time, the work was done by official teams of British and American surveyors.

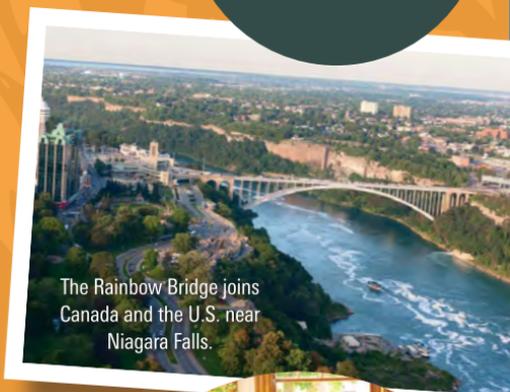
A **surveyor** is someone who measures and often marks an area of land. Before cars, airplanes, drones or other tech, surveyors slogged through swamps, hiked and canoed or did whatever else was needed to show where the border should be. And of course, sometimes they made mistakes, especially when they were trying to figure out what vague wording in a treaty actually meant on the landscape in front of them.

Surveying to determine the border was hard, even dangerous work. In 1819, three members of the British team died after falling sick while surveying marshy areas around Lake Erie.

British surveyor John Hawkins and American Archibald Campbell often disagreed, but starting in the late 1850s, their teams placed markers and cleared land to show the border along much of the 49th parallel. Their work was so careful that much of it stayed in place even after the governments did new official surveys in the early 1900s.



Two out of every three Canadians live within 100 km of the U.S. border.



The Rainbow Bridge joins Canada and the U.S. near Niagara Falls.



The border between Quebec and the state of Vermont runs right through the 1901 Haskell Free Library and Opera House. One door is on the Canadian side, and one on the American side. Staff speak French and English.

THINKING DIFFERENTLY: INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND BORDERS

By Sarah Perry

In many Indigenous communities, land and territory in North America look very different from the historically recognized, government-imposed borders. Let's look at a specific example: the traditional territories of the Mi'kmaq First Nation, in Eastern Canada and the area of the northeastern U.S. known as New England.

Mi'kma'ki is the unceded territory that Mi'kmaq communities claim as their ancestral land. Unceded territory is land that Indigenous communities never legally gave or signed away to Canada or another country. Mi'kma'ki includes land in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, the island of Newfoundland, Quebec and the American state of Maine. The Mi'kmaq Nation of Maine were even the first international power to sign a treaty with the United States: the Watertown Treaty of 1776.

According to Canada and the United States, if you were to leave the Atlantic provinces to visit Maine, you would be crossing the Canada–U.S. border. Under Mi'kmaq governance, however, this would not be true! Historically, Indigenous understandings of land borders, territories and governance are not always the same as the colonial borders that we know and follow in society today. This is important to remember as our countries work towards Truth and Reconciliation with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people.

Do you have a land acknowledgement in your school?

What traditional Indigenous territory might you reside on?

These are valuable questions to ask when learning about the history of your own community. Using Indigenous-created sources such as the online website Native Land Digital is a fun way to explore this history!



Sarah Perry is a PhD student in history at McMaster University. She studies the history of the environment and Indigenous people of Atlantic Canada. Some of Sarah's family members are Mi'kmaq, which is why she loves learning about Indigenous history and sharing it with others!

CONNECTED OR COMBINED?

How do people from many different backgrounds live together and form a country? There are different answers in Canada and the United States.

For a long time, Canada was described as a **cultural mosaic**. People from all over the world came here with different languages, cultures, faiths and ways of living. The idea was that they fit together, with everyone having a part in creating a big picture that everyone shares. This is known as multiculturalism, where differences sit side by side.

Women play traditional Japanese instruments at the Cherry Blossom Festival in Montreal, 1963.



Since it became Canadian government policy in 1971, multiculturalism has been criticized and praised. Some said we should focus on what we share instead of our differences, and that it's not fair to treat a wide range of people the same way. For instance, Indigenous Peoples have been in this territory for tens of thousands of years. French Canadians have a unique place in the country's story. Others said it's actually good to celebrate differences — that highlighting Canadians' various cultures builds respect and understanding.





In the U.S., the usual image is of a **melting pot**. This idea means that when people come to the U.S., they should leave their old ways behind to become American. Think of all kinds of different candle wax melting and flowing together to make something brand new. A later image was a salad bowl, where newcomers kept their differences but were united into a bigger identity.

In reality, neither country was really all one or the other. Lots of people gave up their past ways when they came to Canada. Lots of people kept their past ways as Americans. The way we think of ourselves is more complicated than a single image. And let's face it—it's not especially comfortable to be either heated in a melting pot or squished into a mosaic!



**WHAT IS THE STORY OF YOUR FAMILY'S TIME IN CANADA?
DOES YOUR FAMILY KEEP PARTS OF ITS ORIGINAL CULTURE?
WHAT PARTS OF OTHER CULTURES DO YOU SEE OR TAKE PART IN?**



HOME IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Written by Allyson Gulliver • Illustrated by Vivian Zhou

Parrtown, Nova Scotia, September 20, 1783

Dear Ann,

I write briefly and in haste to inform you that Lavinah and I have arrived after our journey aboard the Cyrus. How happy we were to leave New York behind for British territory, even though it meant we would never see our little farm again. I do not criticize your choice to stay in the United States — that name is still so strange to me! — but, dear sister, it saddens me that we are now separated by a border.

This town has perhaps 400 souls with few graceful buildings as yet. I am sure we will soon be comfortable in a house we will build on the lot we expect to receive. Before long we shall be farmers again!

-William

White Plains, New York, United States of America, November 30, 1783

Dear Will,

We were glad to hear that you are safe and settled. How distant you seem in that colony of your beloved Britain, with us here in a wholly new and independent country. The talk of the future is very exciting, but our daily lives continue much the same, with your growing nieces and nephews occupying most of my time. I know we have our differences, but I truly wish you and Lavinah well in your new home.

-Ann

Parrtown, April 12, 1784

Dear Ann,

Forgive my long silence. The winter was harsh, with many days that caused us to question our choice. As the damp wind blew off the ocean and snow piled up all around, I began to wonder whether we would survive. We were sustained by the knowledge that we could not have stayed where so many hated us for our loyalty to Great Britain.

After being too miserable to write for many months, however, I now put pen to paper to say that we are much encouraged. I hope to plant our first crops this summer, and I have plans to buy more property while prices are still cheap. As more settlers flock to Parr Town, no doubt land will quickly increase in value.

Perhaps you and John would consider moving your family here to be near us? You would see why the St. John River is known by some as the Wolastoq or “beautiful river.” Land in its valley is fertile. We enjoy a calm, ordered British way of life, unlike the rough chaos of your republic. No doubt you are already seeing the error of its ways.

-William



Parrrtown, New Brunswick, July 21, 1784

My dearest Ann,

I worry that you have not written back because my last letter has angered you. In my enthusiasm for our new life, I did not mean to be thoughtless. Please accept my humble apology. What is past is past, and I shall say no more about your country or your choice. You will always be my beloved sister.

As I expected, life changes and improves rapidly in our new home. You will notice that although we have not moved, I write you from a whole new place! The flood of Loyalists like us has prompted the creation of New Brunswick, a separate colony from Nova Scotia. Many of us are pleased to no longer answer to faraway Halifax.

I have purchased a cart and horse to transport newcomers and their belongings and carry goods for merchants. There is much here to keep us busy. Do write me back when you are able.

-William

White Plains, New York, October 9, 1784

Dearest William,

Please do not trouble yourself. I have not been angry, but busy tending to our newest family member. Little Isaac was born in May. Our growing brood is delightful but a great deal of work. I sometimes wonder how Mama managed all seven of us! I am training the older children to look after some tasks, which is often a great deal more work than doing them myself. With the garden, preserving, washing and so much more, the days fly by!

I am very pleased to hear of your situation. A whole new colony for the Loyalists is quite an achievement!

-Ann

Saint John, New Brunswick, May 27, 1785

Dear Ann,

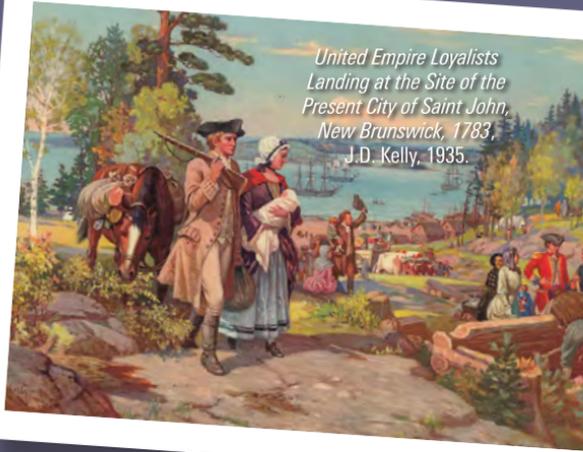
How happy I was to receive your letter from last October! It was delayed in arriving by the onset of winter, but I have read and reread it many times.

You will note that our town has a new name, Saint John. It combines our former Parrrtown and the neighbouring settlement of Carleton. I understand the new name derives from the river, which in turn was named by Samuel de Champlain for his arrival on the feast day of St. John the Baptist nearly two centuries ago. I must admit that I was partial to the names of British leaders for our towns, but we spell it out as “Saint John” in the most English way possible.

Just last week, I received another grant of land, and I would not be surprised if another were offered later this year. May I impart to you an idea that has much occupied my mind of late? I am thinking of building an inn on land near the Lily Lake. Imagine your brother William as an innkeeper! Lavinah sends her love, as I do mine.
-William

K

William and Lavinah Burtis were real Loyalists who fled to what was then the colony of Nova Scotia after the American Revolutionary War. From 1783 to 1785, about 15,000 Loyalists arrived, quadrupling the population. Their numbers included about 2,000 Indigenous people who had fought for Britain, and at least 3,500 enslaved and free Black people. The land Britain gave people like William and Lavinah was the traditional territory of the Wolastoqey and Mi'kmaq. William had five sisters who stayed in the U.S., although we don't know for sure if one was named Ann. We imagined these letters, but the things William mentions in them are real: his arrival, the creation of New Brunswick and Saint John, his plans to buy land and sell it for much more money (he did) and to build a tavern (he did), and even his cart and horse. You can even see William Burtis's grave in the Old Burying Ground in Saint John.



*United Empire Loyalists
Landing at the Site of the
Present City of Saint John,
New Brunswick, 1783,
J.D. Kelly, 1935.*

Pig War!

TEXT BY NANCY PAYNE * ILLUSTRATIONS BY NICKIA MCIVOR

Signing of the Treaty of Oregon,
Washington, D.C., 1846

We are agreed?

The border will run down
the middle
of the channel
which separates
the continent
from Vancouver
Island.

Do you think
they know there are
TWO channels there,
with a bunch of
islands in between?

San Juan Islands, between Haro Strait and Rosario Strait



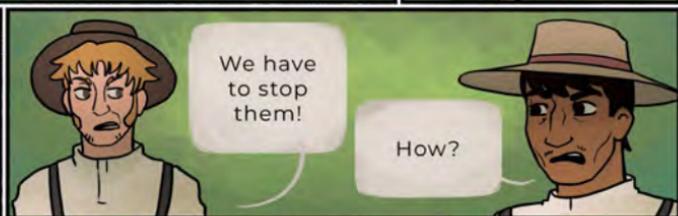
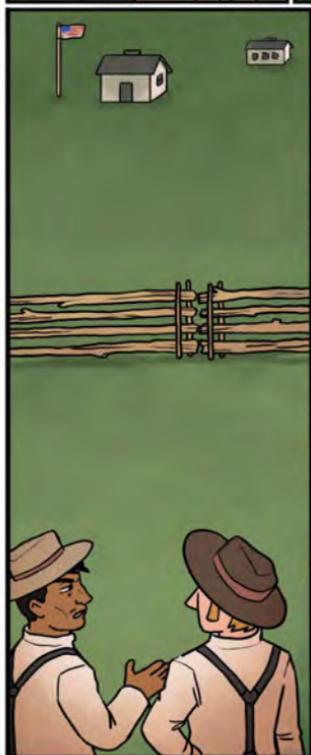
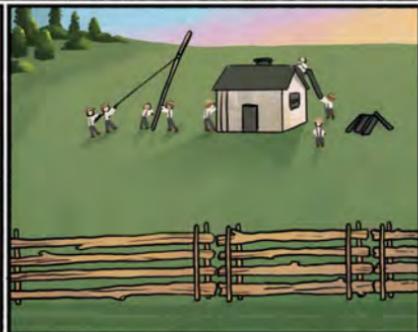
Belle Vue sheep farm, May 1854

You were right, sir.
This is good pasture.

Soon the
whole island
will be a
Hudson's Bay
Company farm!

James Douglas

If we can
just keep
those
American
rascals
away.



June 15, 1859



A few days later...

Give us one good reason why we shouldn't arrest you.

I'm an American!

Perhaps we should just remove you all from OUR land.

General Harney will send troops to protect us!

July 27, 1859

Is there no way to get rid of Pickett and his men?

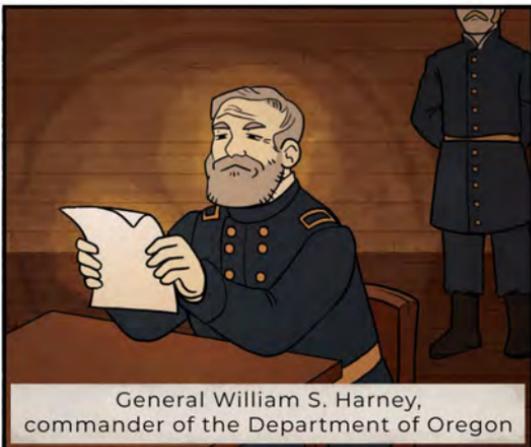
Don't worry, men. The British don't control this island just yet.

Captain George Pickett

Captain Geoffrey Phipps Hornby of the British Royal Navy



We have two more warships on the way.



General William S. Harney, commander of the Department of Oregon

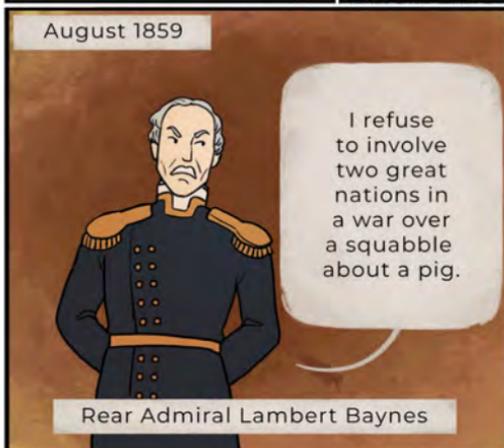


The British will never have our islands!

Send reinforcements!



August 1859



I refuse to involve two great nations in a war over a squabble about a pig.

Rear Admiral Lambert Baynes



Those are the Americans, dear.

American President James Buchanan sends War of 1812 officer General Winfield Scott to sort things out.

Six weeks later, October 1859



Harney, you nincompoop! Why did you let things go this far?

General Winfield Scott

So, the two countries would share the islands?

For now, anyway.

We'll both keep forces here until the border issue is settled for good.

For 12 years, Britain and the U.S. both had a military presence on San Juan Island. In 1872, a commission in Europe decided that the border would run through Haro Strait, giving the islands to the United States. British forces pulled out. The Pig War had ended peacefully, but it did not end well for everyone.

Their border — it's imaginary but it separates our families.

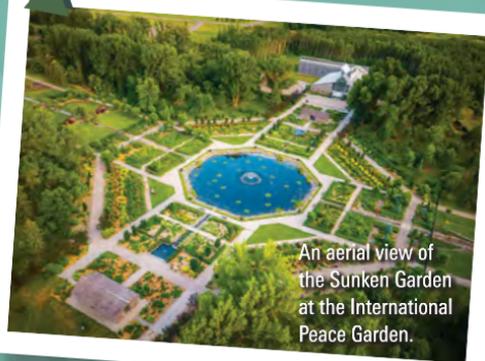
And the Americans no longer allow us WSÁNEĆ to fish where we always have.

CHECKING ON THE NEIGHBOURS

Grab your passport and explore the long relationship between Canada and the United States.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE GARDEN

Almost a century ago, Henry Moore, a keen gardener from Ontario, had the idea for a special place on the Canada–U.S. border. He pictured a garden that would be a living, growing celebration of the two countries' friendship. The organizers decided to put the site close to the geographical centre of North America. The International Peace Garden opened in 1932, about 25 kilometres south of Boissevain, Man., with 50,000 people on hand. Besides lots of gardens and a floral clock, you can check out the peace chapel, a historic lodge, hiking trails and a building containing thousands of kinds of cacti and succulents.



An aerial view of the Sunken Garden at the International Peace Garden.

Manitoba donated 1,451 acres of land (about 590 hectares) and North Dakota donated 888 acres (360 ha) to create the garden.



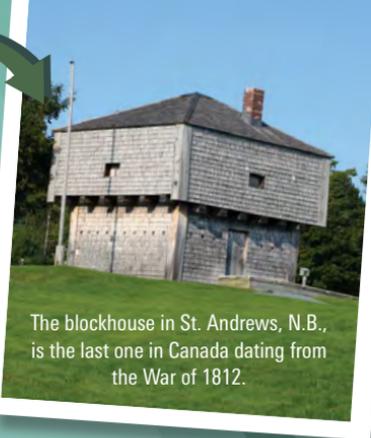
Loyalist House, Saint John, New Brunswick.

LOYALIST STORIES

The Loyalist Parkway running along the north shore of Lake Ontario west of Kingston is a great spot to learn more about the United Empire Loyalists who headed north after the American Revolution. Take a guided tour of the Black Loyalist Heritage Centre near Birchtown, N.S., visit Tilley House in Gagetown, N.B., or visit the many other Loyalist heritage sites throughout eastern Canada.

WAR OF 1812

There are plenty of national historic sites highlighting this war, from Fort George and Queenston Heights near Niagara Falls to the ruins of Fort St. Joseph on the shore of Lake Huron in Ontario, to the Battle of the Châteauguay and Fort Lennox south of Montreal to St. Andrews Blockhouse in New Brunswick.



The blockhouse in St. Andrews, N.B., is the last one in Canada dating from the War of 1812.



PEACE ARCH PARK

The arch built in 1921 on the Canada–U.S. border just south of Vancouver was the first of its kind in the world. Kids on both sides of the border donated money to buy land around the arch for an international park to commemorate peace between their countries. Take a picnic and a soccer ball!

A PLAQUE IN ARGENTIA, NL, MARKS THE SITE OF AN AMERICAN SECOND WORLD WAR MILITARY BASE.



The American Camp on San Juan Island, 1868.



The smash hit musical *Come From Away* tells the story of the Americans stranded in Gander, NL, in September 2001.

San Juan Island in the state of Washington, site of the Pig War featured in this issue's comic, is now an American national historical park.



Left to right: Valentina, Jasmine, Flavie, Cora

CELEBRATING STUDENT HISTORIANS

Congratulations to the winners of the 2025 Heritage Fair National Showcase!

Each project was created as part of the Heritage Fairs program, where students throughout Canada investigate the past, ask big questions, and share their discoveries in creative ways. Learn more about their projects at CanadasHistory.ca/2025HFNS.

Cora L.

"Women in Farming: Rooted in Tradition, Growing the Future"
Antigonish, N.S.

Flavie B.

"Naufrages"
Bas-Caraquet, N.B.

Jasmine S.

"Militant Mothers"
Vancouver, B.C.

Valentina H.

"Asotamakewin: God's Lake First Nation and the Signing of Treaty 5"
God's Lake Narrows, Man.

Andrew Workman

ANSWERS

HIDDEN PICTURES P. 32



TEACHER'S CORNER

You can find classroom material in both English and French to go with this issue of *Kayak*. Just visit CanadasHistory.ca/KayakCanadaUS or HistoireCanada.ca/KayakCanadaE-U.



English



Français

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HIDDEN PICTURES



How sharp-eyed are you? See if you can find each of these objects or images in the comic

Pig War! that starts on p. 22.