

K-12 Lesson Plans



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Foundational Knowledge Overview

As an Educator I should know...

Who are the Métis people?

Métis means more than “mixed”:

The term “Métis” in section 35 does not encompass all individuals with mixed Indian and European heritage; rather, it refers to distinctive peoples who, in addition to their mixed ancestry, developed their own customs, way of life, and recognizable group identity separate from their Indian or Inuit and European forebears.”

<http://albertametis.com/metis-rights/who-is-metis/>

“The Métis were originally a product of the fur trade—they are descendants of early unions between European explorers and fur traders and First Nations women. Within a few generations the descendants of these unions settled in the historic North-west starting with the Red River Settlement and developed a culture distinct from their European and First Nations forbears. Once these forbearers developed a political consciousness and began to assert themselves, the Métis Nation was born.”

The Métis are strong, Indigenous people who celebrate distinct traditions, languages, culture, politics, governance, and history. Métis are a collective of communities with a common sense of origin and destiny[i] with kinship networks which span across a historic homeland. They share a common nationalism that is distinct from other local identities. The traditional homeland of the Métis Nation is expansive, including all of what is now called Alberta.[ii]

Métis ethnogenesis refers to the emergence of Métis as a distinct ethnicity. The Métis ethnicity has historical connections to both First Nations and European relations. Unions between these two communities formed the first roots of Métis peoplehood.[1] After a few generations, Métis married other Métis, and the Métis population grew. Métis culture includes distinctly Métis traditions which may have similarities of First Nations and European influences. One example of this is the Red River Jig, which is a traditional Métis dance. The Red River Jig was created by Métis community members, who were inspired by movements from traditional European and First Nation dance forms.

Understanding ethnogenesis as the origin of the Métis serves to counter the idea that Métis inherently means “mixed.” It is important that educators do not simplify Métis identity to mixedness. Métis ethnogenesis acknowledges the beginnings of First Nations and European ancestors coming together, but also that by the mid-1700s the Métis had already developed into a distinctive community with their own culture, traditions and language. The Métis National Council defines Métis legally below. All our Homeland provinces in Canada abide by this definition in order for Métis citizens to have recognition of their Métis



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identity and Aboriginal rights according to the Canadian constitution.

[1] Peoplehood: A sense of distinctive belonging among a group with common experiences and beliefs.

Excerpt taken from Rupert's Land Institute Foundational Resource, Métis Culture and Traditions

Title/Unit: Métis History & Identity

Time Frame: 60-75 minutes

Grade/Subject: 10-12

Topic(s) Language, Identity, Culture, Alberta, Canada

Métis Education Themes

- Languages of Métis
- Culture and Traditions
- Homeland History
- Métis in Alberta
- Métis Nation Governance

Teacher Quality Standard (TQS) connections

How does this lesson contribute to my knowledge in the following areas?

1. Fostering Effective Relationships
2. Engaging in Career-Long Learning
3. Demonstrating a Professional Body of Knowledge
4. Establishing Inclusive Learning Environments
5. Applying Foundational Knowledge about First Nations, Métis, and Inuit
6. Adhering to Legal Frameworks and Policies

Vocabulary/Terms

Aboriginal - Descendants of the original inhabitants of North America. The first peoples in Canada, according to Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution, 1982. Inclusive of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit. Each group is distinct and has its own history, culture, protocols, traditions, and languages. Used as a term when referring to government policy.

Battle of Seven Oaks - On June 9, 1816, this battle was the first time the Métis gathered and fought for their rights as a Nation. Also known as the Victory of the Frog Plain (See also: *la Victoire de la Grenouillère*, Victory of the Frog Plain).

Colonialism - The policy or practice of acquiring full or partial control over another country and/or Nation. This typically includes dominating the Indigenous peoples living there.



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Constitution Act - The 1982 Constitution Act is a landmark document in Canadian history. It achieved full independence for Canada by allowing the country to change its Constitution without approval from Britain. For the Métis Nation, a critical part of the Constitution Act is Section 35 (1) and (2), which states the following:

"35. (1) The existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed."

"(2) In this Act, "aboriginal peoples of Canada" includes the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada."

Ethnogenesis - The emergence of Métis as a distinct ethnicity. Métis ethnogenesis acknowledges the beginnings of First Nations and European ancestors coming together, but Métis today have developed their own distinctive community with culture and traditions that are not simply 'mixed,' but rather, Métis.

Framework Agreement - An agreement between two parties that recognizes that the parties have come to an agreement on some issues, but not all issues. The agreement is a commitment to move forward in addressing issues.

Indigenous - A term describing the identity, culture, or heritage of anyone whose ancestors traditionally occupied a territory that has been threatened by colonization. There are three groups of Indigenous peoples in Canada: Inuit, Métis and First Nations. Each group is unique and has their own history, languages, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs.

Louis Riel - One of the Homeland Heroes of the Métis Nation, Riel was a prominent leader of the Métis through the late 19th century. He led several provisional governments in Red River, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan. He also led Métis through two major resistance movements against the Government of Canada. Riel also was a founder of the province of Manitoba, and was a twice-elected Canadian Member of Parliament.

Manitoba Act - The official act which brought the province of Manitoba into confederation on May 12, 1870.

Métis - Métis is enshrined in Section 35 of the 1982 *Constitution Act* (s.35(2)). The accepted definition of Métis as stated by the Métis National Council is: "a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation ancestry and who is accepted by the Métis Nation."¹

Métis Population Betterment Act, 1938 - This legislation allowed for 12 tracts of land, to be identified through a series of Government Orders-In-Council.

Metis Settlements - Eight areas of land set aside as protected lands for Métis to live and govern themselves on. Known today as Metis Settlements, which were formerly commonly called Metis Colonies by Métis, and others.

¹ Métis National Council, "National Definition of Métis and Acceptance Process," (Consultation Document, February 2006). Accessed from, http://www.metisportals.ca/cons/wp-content/uploads/2009/02/national_defn_and_acceptance_process_february_2006_document.pdf ; Métis National Council, "Citizenship." Accessed from, <https://www2.metisnation.ca/about/citizenship/>



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Michif - Michif is the distinct, Indigenous language of the Métis. In Alberta, this language draws, in varying degrees by dialect, from the French and Cree languages spoken by ancestors of Métis. It was first developed orally and was later made into a written language.

North-West Half-Breed Commission - A Commission established by the Government of Canada to address claims of Aboriginal title to land that Métis had in the historic North-West, leading to the deliverance of scrip for individual Métis. This was distributed so Métis could exchange it for land-or cash.

Pemmican - Traditionally made of dried meat, usually buffalo or moose meat, and pounded into coarse powder and mixed with an equal amount of fat, and seasonal berries, such as saskatoon berries, cranberries, cherries, or currants.

Perspective - A person's unique way of understanding and responding to the world based on his or her experience, community, beliefs, values, stories, languages, laws, ethics, and behaviors.

Road Allowance - A plot of crown land set aside for future development of roads.

Road Allowance People or Communities - The Métis that squatted on road allowance plots of land came to be known as the "road allowance people." The Métis living on road allowance lands were marginalized by racist Euro-Canadian societies, creating a variety of challenges for Métis families, such as barriers to health care, employment and education.

Rupert's Land - The English granted the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) much of North America. Prince Rupert of Rhine became the first appointed Governor of the HBC's new territory, and so the North-West was also known as Rupert's Land. The name Rupert's Land became important to Métis as their trade partners, the HBC would call the region Rupert's Land.

Self-government - A system that organizes people and ways of living that is controlled and directed by the inhabitants of a political unit rather than by an outside authority (the control of one's own affairs).²

Ticket Out: Answer the questions: Who are the Métis? Why is it important that we are learning about the history and identity of Métis people?

Assessment FOR Learning: Gimkit

Assessment OF Learning: Teacher Led

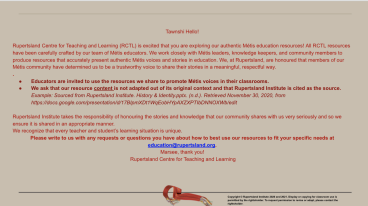
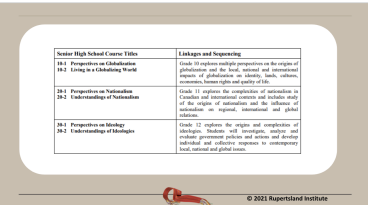
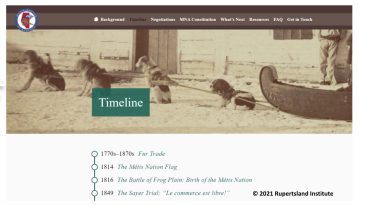

Differentiation/Adaptations: Introduce material in smaller sections. Examine relevant vocabulary

² "Self-Government," Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Accessed from, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/self-government>





and [Métis Nation of Alberta Timeline](#) prior to introductory lesson.

Time	Activity	Materials/Text References
	   	<p>NOTE: Speaker's notes contain teaching points</p> <p>Excellent resource to be used by teachers/students</p> <p>http://www.albertametisgov.com/timeline/</p> <p>Who is Rupert's Land?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Affiliate of Métis Nation of Alberta issued with Triple Mandate in Research, Education and Training. - Incorporated under the Non-profit Societies Act. - <p>RLI's vision is for a skilled, knowledgeable and self-reliant Métis Nation and is integral to enhancing the self-sufficiency and well-being of Alberta Métis through quality education, training and research.</p> <p>Rupert's Land Institute holds the mandate for Métis Education in Alberta.</p> <p>Rupert's Land Centre for Teaching and Learning is the K-12 Education division under Rupert's Land. The flower and the icons within each petal represent five foundational knowledge themes</p>



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and an accompanying Moodle course that are being developed. The five themes are: Languages of Métis, Culture & Traditions, Homeland History, Métis in Alberta, Métis Nation Governance. Who the Métis are as a people and a Nation are illustrated in each of these themes.

Visit <https://www.rupert'sland.org/teaching-learning/resources/> for more resources that support Métis Education.

There are four living languages within the Métis Homeland. Cree, Michif, French, and English. Cree and Michif are both Indigenous languages. Michif is uniquely Métis and is a fusion of French nouns and Cree verbs. The Michif language is unique in itself. If a person speaks French and Cree, they would be able to understand some Michif words but they would not be fluent in Michif.

Cree - Tanisi (tahn-say)

Michif - Taanishi (tahn-she)

French - Bonjour (bawn-zhoor)

English - Hello

Practice saying “Hello” in Michif (tawn-shay), Cree (tawn-say), English (hello), French (bohn joor)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qExW6w9fbE>

Music to play prior to presentation or after

Opportunity to look at perspective

Who is telling the story?

Nothing about us, without us.

Michif language to Métis youth continues to explore and become familiar with the language.

Rupert's Land is developing Michif Revitalization resources - contact education@rupert'sland.org for more info!

Tanisi
Taanishi
Bonjour
Hello

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Taanish!
Tansif!
Hello!
Bonjour!

Today, the Métis across the Homeland have four living languages:

- Michif
- Cree
- English
- French

Michif is an Indigenous language that is uniquely Métis.

Understanding the importance of language is essential to appreciating of Métis culture.

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Métis National Anthem

What story does the anthem tell?

Red River Jig

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Michif Word of the Day
with Dan Cardinal
Vice President of the Métis Nation of Alberta

"Kisoshitin"
which means: I love you!

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See Vice President Dan Cardinal pronouncing the Michif word of the Day- “*Kisakihitin*” which means: *I love you!*

More Michif words and pronunciations can be found here: http://www.metismuseum.ca/michif_tools.php Note the use of two Michif dialects. Northern Michif is more common in Alberta than Heritage Michif. Northern Michif draws more from the Cree language, and Heritage Michif draws more from the French language.

Today you will leave with better understanding that the Métis...

- have a distinct, strong, vibrant culture
- are unique from First Nations & Inuit
- were actively involved in the development of Canada



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What does Indigenous mean in Canada?



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Indigenous, in Canada, is an umbrella term for First Nations, Métis and Inuit.

The word Indigenous means “originates from”. The First Nations, Métis, and Inuit originate from the land that we now call Canada

Métis ancestors have marked this land for thousands of years. Each Indigenous group is unique and distinct from the other.

When referring to the entirety of Indigenous Peoples, refer to them as Indigenous; FNMI is not an appropriate term as the Peoples are not an Acronym.

When possible, identify and acknowledge the individual First Nations groups/cultures, Inuit Peoples and Métis Peoples.

Who is Métis? All of the photos are of people who are recognized as Métis within the Métis Nation. This is a great opportunity to discuss diversity and the uniqueness of each individual. There is no specific “Métis” look. Some Métis look more First Nations, while others will look more Euro-Canadian.

Métis are more than mixed: “*Métis*” means a person who *self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples,*



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Métis means a person who:

- “self-identifies as Métis
- “is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples
- “is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry and who is accepted by the Métis Nation.”

Definition of Métis

Métis National Council

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WHO ARE THE MÉTIS?

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Métis Identity and History
True or False?

© 2021 Rupert's Land Institute

is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry and who is accepted by the Métis Nation.”

As you can see, being Métis does not simply mean having mixed blood or being mixed race.

A Métis citizen is someone who is “a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis Nation.”

The entire registry process of the Métis Nation of Alberta is designed to ensure that this definition is maintained with integrity.

Simply put - it takes a Métis to make a Métis

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YvulIRnPE3Y>

MNA/RLI Alberta Identity video

Why is identity important? What is Métis identity?

- *What do we know about identity?*
- *Who has an identity?*
- *What is your identity?*
- *How does it contribute to who you are?*
- *How does identity affect your relationship with others?*
- *How can they see themselves?*
- *How can our Identity define who we are as Métis?*

Ask students:

- *Why should people learn about Métis identity? (Métis is not a culture of the past; it is very much present and part of our communities. Many students who are Métis do not have “a look”)*
- *Who does it benefit? (Métis and non-Métis members of a community. Many of the misconceptions that are presented portray the Métis as a thing of the past).*

True or False

In-person Learning

- Use whiteboards/paper in page protector with dry erase marker
- Stand up for TRUE sit down for FALSE


Online Learning

- Type your answer into the chat box - do not press enter until



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TRUE?

FALSE?

Métis people are all the same.

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The Métis Nation of Alberta has six regions in Alberta.

TRUE?

FALSE?

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TRUE?

FALSE?

There were originally 8 Metis Settlements in Alberta.

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The current president of the Métis Nation of Alberta is Audrey Poitras.

TRUE?

FALSE?

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TRUE?

FALSE?

There is a traditional Métis Nation Homeland.

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Traditional Métis Homeland



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teacher says to see everyone's answers at once (Chat Waterfall)

- Thumbs up or thumbs down

FALSE - there is diversity across our Nation and who we are.

TRUE

- Region 1 – Lac La Biche
- Region 2 – Bonnyville
- Region 3 – Calgary
- Region 4 – Edmonton
- Region 5 – Slave Lake
- Region 6 – Peace River

False

There were originally 12 Metis Settlements in Alberta. There are now 8 Metis Settlements.

- Cold Lake, Wolf Lake, Touchwood, Marlborough were ultimately removed/rescinded by the government (resources identified and/or military intentions)

True

First female and longest running president

TRUE

Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta—together with parts of Ontario, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories, and the Northern United States. This is the Métis Nation Homeland



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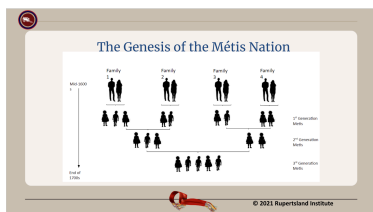


The Métis are a proud Nation. Alberta is a central part of the Métis Nation's history and Homeland. As a people and a Nation, the Métis were born of this place - they are Indigenous.

“We, the Métis Nation, are an Indigenous people. We were born as a people and developed as a Nation along the fur trade routes that wove the three prairie provinces—Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta—together with parts of Ontario, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories, and the Northern United States. This is the Métis Nation Homeland. We made our living from our Homeland and its resources. We governed ourselves. We were *Otipemisiwak*—the free people, the people who owned ourselves.”
- <http://www.albertametisgov.com/background/>

This area is known as the “historic Métis Nation Homeland.” It includes the three (3) Prairie Provinces and extends into parts of British Columbia, parts of the Northwest Territories, parts of northern United States and parts of Ontario (many parts of Ontario were on probation as to following Métis Nation identity and stipulations as they did not follow definition of Métis),

The Métis Nation originated through a proven ethnogenesis process where people of both First Nations and European ancestries came together. In a few generations, children of these generations emerged and led a new, distinct people and Nation.



Summary of the Event: The Métis Homeland plays a prominent role in determining “Métis” as the definition of Métis to the ability to claim ancestry from the Red River; it is important to understand that Métis stretches through the prairies and parts of Ontario, BC and NWT.

Children of the European Settlers and First Nations People begin to marry and create their own families.

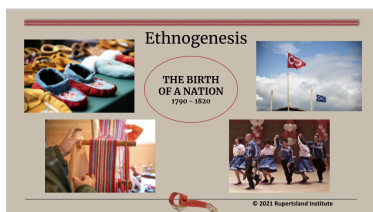
Children of the children begin to marry

Children of the Children of the children begin to marry

The distinctness of Métis culture, history, languages, and traditions is



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what makes Métis identity - not the racially-informed idea of having mixed blood.

It is not “how much First Nations” is in a person; it is not possible to measure someone’s blood to measure their heritage. This idea is called measuring Blood Quantum. It is not an accurate measure or a means of measuring who is Métis.

Summary: The creation of the Métis evolved over time through the coming together of European and First Nation peoples. Generations of families with their unique cultures and traditions began to establish their own identity, culture, traditions, and nationhood: Métis.

Ethnogenesis: The birth of a Culture/Nation

Definition of *ethnogenesis*: the process by which a group of people becomes ethnically distinct : the formation and development of an ethnic group

Occurred between 1790 - 1820 (Métis continue to grow as a Nation)

Through the process of ethnogenesis.... *(the process by which a group of people becomes ethnically distinct)*

What is the difference between ethnicity and race?

Race is defined as “a category of humankind that shares certain distinctive physical traits.” The term ethnicities is more broadly defined as “large groups of people classed according to common racial, national, tribal, religious, linguistic, or cultural origin or background.”Feb 22, 2019

Through this process of ethnogenesis, Métis established their own language (Michif), culture, traditions which are all encompassed by Métis ways of knowing, being and doing. These families led the development of their own distinct communities, governance structures, and Nationhood.

Summary of Concept(s): -The beginning of the Métis Nation began as European and First Nations families joined together. Within a few generations the descendants of these families developed a culture distinct from their European and First Nations forebears. Eventually, the Métis were leading their own communities, with governing laws, beliefs



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and epistemologies.

The Métis emerged as a distinct people and Nation in the historic Northwest during the course of the 18th and 19th centuries. They were instrumental in the Fur Trade. Key contributions they made include:

- hunting
- trapping
- preparing furs
- trading as middle men
- leading voyages
- designing effective transportation vehicles and networks

“The strength of Métis contributions to the global fur trade of the 1700s-1800s were fostered in the values and traditions of Métis throughout the North-West. For Métis, the fur trade was the collective experience for generations of **harvesting** furs, navigating tensions and **networking** trade relationships, and resisting the imposition of control by Euro-Canadian governments, traders, and settlers. These experiences collectively invigorated Métis communities to embrace the expressions of nationhood that have been necessary to resist colonial imposition.” - RCTL *Homeland History* not yet published

There are many great stories, historical events and great Métis leaders that give strength to our plight for the struggle, both past and present, to be recognized as a distinct Nation of rights bearing people.

Summary of the Event(s): The Fur trade played a significant part in establishing Canada in addition to Canadian history as it provided opportunity for European immigrants to enter into the lands of many First Nations and form deep relationships with them. The unions between First Nations and Europeans were crucial in understanding the land, animals and translation between peoples.

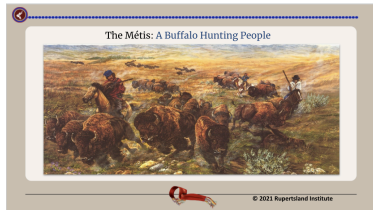
“The Métis were originally a product of the fur trade—they are descendants of early unions between European explorers and fur traders and First Nations women. Within a few generations the descendants of these unions settled in the historic North-west starting with the Red River Settlement and developed a culture distinct from their European and First Nations forebears. Once these forebearers developed a political consciousness and began to assert themselves, the Métis Nation was born.”



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The Métis were a buffalo hunting people.



“By the 1830s, many Métis had been gathering and organizing a collective governance of their families for the annual buffalo hunt. The buffalo hunt was a defining event for Métis communities across the Homeland, influencing all families, whether they participated or not” - RCTL *Homeland History*, waiting to be published

Harvesting animals provided food for many Métis families. Métis hunters were well known for their abilities to hunt on horseback while using a rifle. With settler expansion in the western plains, the buffalo were nearly eradicated. The Métis adapted and continue to hunt other wild animals for food (for example moose, deer, elk).



Photo "The Metis" (1983) Painting by Albert Lee Ferris © retrieved from <https://www.dibaajimowin.com/tawnkiyash> on February 20th, 2020

“On January 8th, 1814, the Selkirk Governor Miles Macdonell issued the Pemmican Proclamation: a public ban on the export of pemmican and any other provisions. There was also a ban placed on the buffalo hunt within the boundaries of the Red River Settlement. Six months later, Macdonell also banned the running and use of any horses on the buffalo hunts. Métis were frustrated by their land being taken over and their economic livelihood being threatened.” RCTL, *Homeland History*, not yet published.

Pemmican War/ Victory of Frog Plain

On June 19, 1816, Grant was leading a group of 60 First Nations and Métis men past the HBC post to deliver pemmican supplies to North West forts. Governor Robert Semple and a group of HBC employees confronted the Métis at the community of Seven Oaks. Semple and 20 of his men died in battle. The Métis won the battle but lost one man, 16 year old Joseph Letendre. As a sign of nationhood, the Métis infinity flag was flown for the first time. This was known as the Battle of Seven Oaks.

Summary of the Event: The Victory of Frog Plain is the first



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Red River Resistance

- December 1, 1869 transfer of British North America lands of HBC to Canada
- December 1, 1869 First Provisional Government presented their *List of Rights* to Canada
- December 8, 1869 the Provisional Government was formed.
- December 27, 1869 Louis Riel was elected President

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Events

- March 4, 1870 Thomas Scott executed as determined by Provisional Government trial
- May 12, 1870 Manitoba Act is passed, including Métis *List of Rights*
- July 15, 1870 Manitoba Act takes effect
- August 1870 Canadian troops arrive in Red River

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Métis Leader

"I am more convinced every day that without a single exception I did right. And I have always believed that, as I have acted honestly, the time will come when the people of Canada will see and acknowledge it."
-Louis Riel, 1885

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recognized Assembly of the Métis Nation under one flag. The Métis Flag (longest standing flag in Canada; pre-dates the Canadian Flag) was first introduced flown at this event.

The Hudson's Bay Company transfers Rupert's Land and the North-West Territories—which include present day Alberta—to the newly created Dominion of Canada. Concerned that Canada will not respect their rights and freedoms, the Métis resist. Under the leadership of Louis Riel, the Métis establish their own provisional government in the Red River.

On December 1, 1869, Métis defined the **List of Rights**. The *List of Rights*, shared below, outlined what they considered necessary for the Métis Nation and other communities in the Red River area to enter the Confederation forming to the east.

On May 12, 1870 parts of the *List of Rights* became enshrined as the **Manitoba Act**, and Manitoba entered the confederation as an amendment to the Canadian Constitution, then known as the *British North America Act, 1867*.

As a part of the enshrinement of the *List of Rights* in the *Manitoba Act, 1870*, the Métis were promised, among other things, 1.4 million acres of land for their children. The Crown failed to fulfill this promise honourably.

Métis living in the Red River area were discriminated against and sometimes attacked by newly arriving Euro-Canadian settlers and many left the Red River area.

The Government of Canada framed Riel as a traitor against Canada. He found respite with Métis relatives in the northern United States.

Summary of the Events: Thomas Scott's actions against the Provisional Government of Assiniboia twice led to his arrest and jailing. Scott was convicted of treason and executed by the provisional government, led by Louis Riel, on 4 March 1870. In the eyes of the Canadian government (Sir John A MacDonal), Scott's execution justified the sending of the Red River Expeditionary Force, a military



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force sent to Manitoba to confront the Métis at Red River.

(Oct 22, 1844 - Nov 16, 1885)

Louis David Riel was born on October 22, 1844 to Julie Lagimodiere and Louis Riel Sr. He was the eldest of 11 children. In 1858 Louis Riel is locally educated by the clergy of St. Boniface prior to being sent to Montreal to study for the priesthood. From 1869 to 1870 Louis Riel returned to Red River Settlement as a young man who is politically aware. Together with the people of Red River, he formed a provisional government to negotiate the entrance of Manitoba into Canada's Confederation.

Summary of the Event: Louis Riel is important politician who was a revolutionary with a vision for his people and advocated for their rights. He contributed to the provisional government, defining Métis Identity and envisioning Métis sovereignty.

Take a break and learn to jig! Culturally appropriate for EVERYONE to jig!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WKlEt_ImSV8&t=8s

Resistance is the act of resisting an external power's attempt to control

Rebellion signify a defiance against government

Rebellion is **not** accurate in the context of Métis; Métis held sovereignty in the west when land surveyors illegally attempted to control Métis territory.

Because Métis battle efforts were in **defense** of Métis people's rightful and inherent sovereignty- **resistance** is a more accurate descriptor of Métis battles.


Summary of the Narrative: **HOW** we narrate and view the battle



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North-West Resistance 1885

- Métis were facing similar issues to the Red River Resistance
- Westward expansion of the Canadian settlers and railway
- Dumont heads to U.S and returns with Riel in Resistance
- After three battles, Métis are defeated in the Battle of Batoche May 9-12, 1885 due to a lack of ammo
- Riel surrendered three days later. He is hanged for treason on November 16, 1885


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North-West Half-Breed Commission
(also known as the Scrip system)

A system designed by Canada to address the Indigenous land rights of Métis

Scrip is a coupon that was used as evidence for entitlement to receive something

There is land or money scrip.



Scrip

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Red River Resistance dictates how we navigate the story for students. The Métis were not seeking sovereignty FROM Canada, but rather, they wanted a meaningful place in the conversation of what it's Métis Peoples were entitled to as part of Canadian Nation.

In Batoche in 1885, (in the area now known as the Province of Saskatchewan) Métis were facing similar issues that led to the Red River Resistance:

- Threat to way of life and buffalo numbers were drastically reduced
- Westward expansion of the Canadian settlers and railway
- Dismissal of their petitions to have their rights acknowledged

A group of Métis, including Gabriel Dumont, traveled to the U.S. to bring Riel back.

Riel returns and leads the Métis in an armed resistance with Gabriel Dumont at his side.

After three battles, Métis were defeated in the Battle of Batoche May 9-12, 1885 due to a lack of ammo.

Riel surrendered three days later. He was hanged for treason on November 16, 1885 at age 41.

Summary of the Event: The North-West Resistance (led by Riel and Dumont) attempted to eliminate the same fate that was seen at the Red River (displacement of Peoples and non-negotiation of rights, lands, etc.); The Battle provides context of Métis resistance

Following the Resistance movements, Métis in the North-West continued to be systematically pushed out of their lands and homes. The main system that dispossessed them is the Scrip System.

Scrip dispossessed the Métis Nation of something vital to their identity - the territory from which they were born. From that point on, Métis were, in Canada's eyes, squatters in their own Homeland. Many times, they were called the Road Allowance People, because many of the lands they could live on were labelled as Road Allowances by Canadian society and Government.





Scrip Experiences –Community Voices

"Jim Cornwall went up there. They went up there with my dad, interpreting more to the old lady... They said: 'Give us that scrip and we'll bring a lot of money for you.' 'Well,' the old lady said, 'I don't know.' The old man was cutting hay just across the river from there. 'Well, let me see.' Jim Cornwall was saying. So he took it. 'Yeah, I'll bring a lot of money for you!' He put it in his pocket and he got out of there. So this young fellow started running, and yelling to his dad. The old man came across the river with the saddle horse. 'They took my grandmother's scrip,' the young one said. The boat was there beside the river and there was a bridge, so they raced up there... The boat was coming and both of them were standing there, and that pilot, by God, he saw them standing there waiting. So he never stopped, he went right through. So they sold that scrip... and they never brought the money."

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"First Nations got Treaties. Métis got Scrip. Scrip was very different."

~Zachary Davis

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Break Out Box: Métis Scrip

Rupert's Land Institute - Introduction to Métis Scrip

In this game you will be taken on a journey that you probably are quite unfamiliar with. Read the facts carefully and be prepared to travel down a road about Canada's history that has remained quiet for too long. In this game you will need to read carefully to find clues that will solve each lock.

Breakout Edu Scrip Lesson

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As a result of the land promised in the Manitoba Act, scrip was first offered to men, women and children in Manitoba from 1885-1889. Métis Scrip, or "Half-breed" scrip, was given to Métis people to address Métis claims to land. Métis scrip was issued either as money scrip (\$160 or \$240) or land scrip equivalent to a 160 acre quarter-section of land or a 240 acre quarter-section, both of which were to be used to acquire lands surveyed for homesteads.

Summary of the event: Treaty vs. Scrip (We are all on treaty land, not treaty people); As Canadians, it is imperative that we recognize that Canada only signed treaty agreements with First Nations peoples. Métis did not sign treaties. Métis were viewed by Canada as a "problem" to be managed through various forms (displacement, Scrip). This perspective led to the Resistance efforts, and the establishment of systems that pushed Métis away from their homes and lands.

Big Joe Cardinal, personal correspondence with Pat Sawchuk and Joe Sawchuk, 9, February 1981, cited in Sawchuk, Sawchuck, Ferguson, and Métis Association of Alberta, Métis Land Rights in Alberta, 140.

Read story together.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4JL8TpPLDNM&t=2s>

The fraudulent Métis scrip system, in which the vast majority of recipients never kept or received their scrip land, created a large number of landless, rootless Métis people. Many Métis rented the land or worked as labourers in towns and cities. Other Métis managed to keep their scrip land and owned it for a while, but lost their homesteads because they could not afford to pay their property taxes,

Summary of the Event: The Scrip System left many Métis peoples without homes and without roots. This eventually created issues as the world changed: the buffalo hunt ceased, fur trade faded and technology/industry became the replacement. The Métis would become the Road-Allowance People- without community and identity.



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Rupert's Land has developed this Introductory resource to introduce the concept of scrip to those unfamiliar with and/or who have limited knowledge. Learners can work their way through the activity and answer questions regarding Scrip and the impact on Métis.

Learners must determine the correct word to unlock each section to move towards the end.

Activity can be done as a group or individually with students.

The Métis Nation is resilient. Métis leaders have stepped into all kinds of roles to advocate for the well-being of their people. Métis have, for generations, established governing systems within their Homeland. There have been laws and leadership within the Métis Homeland since before the establishment of Canada.

Louis Riel wasn't the first nor the only Métis leader, though he is the most well known.

The Métis have always had their own governing systems, laws, and beliefs which allowed them to exist harmoniously with others and as a functioning group.

Why do you think it is necessary for the Métis to be able to maintain their own sense of autonomy? .

Métis have been known as otipemisiwak (say: o-ti-pem-ee-see-wak)

This means: The people who govern themselves

In-Person: Have students attempt to pronounce

Online: Have students unmute and pronounce

Discussion Question:

- What does it mean to be a Nation that governs themselves?

<http://albertametis.com/otipemisiwak-magazine/>

In 1928, a small group of Métis under the leadership of Charles



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		<p>Delorme, started the first political movement for the Métis in Alberta. This marked the beginning of the Métis Nation of Alberta's formal governing structure.</p> <p>In 1932 the Association was officially founded by Malcolm Norris, Jim Brady, Peter Tomkins, Joseph Dion and Felix Calliou (the Métis "famous five"). The Famous Five would go on to pressure the Government of Alberta on behalf of the Métis populations for a protected homeland.</p> <p>In response to their lobbying, the Alberta legislature created the <i>Ewing Commission</i>. The founding fathers of the Métis Nation of Alberta worked tirelessly to lobby the government, especially examining ways to counteract poverty and to create a land base for the people.</p> <p>Their persistence of the group paid off with the government of Alberta establishing the Ewing Commission or also known as <i>the Royal Commission Appointed to Investigate the Conditions of the Halfbreed Population in Alberta</i> to examine the plight of the Métis. Its report called for a Métis land base provided by the provincial government; today that land is known as the Metis Settlements.</p> <p>Originally, twelve (12) Métis Land bases were established as part of the Metis Population Betterment Act (1938) however, currently there are only eight (8) Settlements in Alberta, the only province in Canada where Métis have a land base recognized under provincial legislation. These lands are managed by the Metis Settlements General Council as per the Metis Settlements Act (1990).</p> <p>The Métis Association of Alberta, created by the Métis people of Alberta in 1932, was mandated to advance Métis rights, self-government and self-determination, as well as improve the cultural, social, physical, emotional and economic well-being of Métis in Alberta. That mandate continues today for the Métis Nation of Alberta.</p> <p>Despite ongoing policies of forced assimilation and systemic discrimination, Métis continued to demonstrate strength, independence and resilience of their ancestors.</p>
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- Alberta is the only Homeland province that has negotiated land. Originally there was 12.
- Today there are 8.
- Managed by the Métis Settlements General Council (msgc.ca)
- 1.25 million acres of land in total.



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Summary of the Event(s)

- Métis leaders in Alberta have always taken strides to seek the betterment of their people.
- The Métis Nation of Alberta, first established in 1928, advocate for the entirety of the Métis people of Alberta.
- The Métis Nation of Alberta and Metis Settlements General Council are not the same governing body/group.
- The Metis Settlement General Council advocate for those Métis upon “designated” settlements. This was originally set up by the Government of Alberta so that Métis are wards of the Province in which to be “taken care of” - not through a sense of self-governance.

<https://msgc.ca/>

In the late 1950s four of these settlements (Touchwood, Marlboro, Cold Lake, and Wolf Lake) were closed which required residents to relocate to the remaining eight settlements, all north of Edmonton.

Métis National Council (MNC)

Métis National Council is a collective entity formed by the individual Métis governments across the Homeland.

Their central goal is to secure a healthy space for the Métis Nation's ongoing existence within the Canadian federation.



THE MÉTIS NATIONAL COUNCIL
RALLIEMENT NATIONAL DES MÉTIS

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The four settlements were rescinded without the consent of the people with the discovery of resources on the lands and the government statements that the land proved ineffective for agricultural purposes and for farming. The Government of Alberta also stated they were unable to provide services in addition to various excuses....

Summary of the Events: Alberta is the only province with a designated land base for Métis peoples. The Metis Settlements are governed by their own General Council for decision making.

Métis Government in Alberta Today

Within each province of the Métis Homeland, there is a Métis governing body.

The Métis Nation of Alberta is the governing body representing the Métis of Alberta.



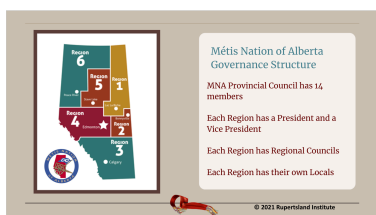
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Since 1983, the MNC has represented the Métis Nation nationally and internationally. It receives its mandate and direction from the democratically elected leadership of Métis governments in the five westernmost provinces, the MNC Governing Members. Specifically, the MNC reflects and moves forward on the desires and aspirations of these Métis governments at the national and international levels. Overall, the MNC's central goal is to secure a healthy space for the Métis Nation's ongoing existence within the Canadian federation.

The Métis Nation is represented through democratically elected



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governments – the Manitoba Metis Federation, Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, Métis Nation of Alberta, Métis Nation British Columbia and Métis Nation of Ontario.

“In Alberta today, over 114, 370 people have self-identified as Métis. Approximately 45,000 are registered citizens of the Métis Nation of Alberta. Approximately 6,500 people live on the Metis Settlements. Métis live in almost every community in the province, celebrating their traditions, sharing their histories, and building the Métis Nation in many ways.” - RCTL, *Métis Nation Governance*, waiting to be published

As a proud Nation, the Métis continue to advocate for their Peoples and its rights as part of Canadian Society. They have maintained resilience and continue to building its place within confederation of Canada.

The Métis Nation has always advocated for its citizens and their rights.

<http://albertametis.com/governance/>

Métis Nation of Alberta Governance Structure

The MNA political structure spans corner to corner in the province and is composed of 6 Regions. These regions form constituency boundaries related to both the elections and the political representation of Métis within the governance framework.

Every four years the MNA holds ballot box elections to elect a Provincial President and Vice – President as well as Regional President’s and Vice – Presidents.

- These 14 individuals make up the MNA Provincial Council and are responsible to govern the affairs of the MNA.
- In each of the 6 MNA Regions there are similar governing structures called Regional Councils.
 - Regional Councils are presided over by the democratically elected Presidents and Vice - Presidents of the Region as well as the Presidents of the locals within the Region.

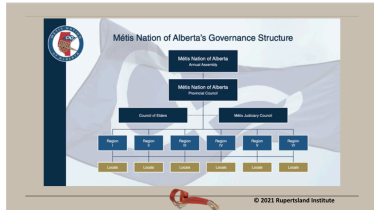
Understanding that the Métis Nation of Alberta has its own governing



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body and advocates for its Peoples. It is elections for those to represent their voices and rights; The Métis Nation has worked copiously to sit at the table in the importance of Albertan History.

Summary:

- The Métis Nation of Alberta is comprised of
 - Provincial Council, 6 Regions with Regional Councils, and several Locals
 - Regional Councils determine and accomplish the goals and rights of the Métis Peoples across Alberta.
 - There is an electoral process where Métis Peoples have the right to vote on who represents them. It provides opportunity for those within those regions to work with communities to establish what is the needs of the people (harvesting, trapping, housing, education, etc.).

In February 2017, the Métis Nation of Alberta and the Government of Alberta signed a new 10 year Framework Agreement that commits to working together on a **Nation-to-Nation basis**.

Working **Nation-to-Nation** means that the Government of Alberta finally acknowledges the Métis Nation of Alberta as a formal nation. For years they were dismissed - this is a huge step forward.

This Agreement advances reconciliation and enhances the MNA - Alberta relationship through recognition, collaboration, respect for Métis rights. It also enables leaders to work towards the advancement of Métis self-government and self determination.



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**Self-Government
Agreement**
June 27, 2019

"This is an historic day for the Métis Nation of Alberta. Since 1928 our people have fought with passion and determination for this recognition as the Métis Nation government in Alberta. Today marks the beginning of a true government-to-government relationship with Canada based on reconciliation and recognition of our place in confederation."

President Audrey Poitras
Métis Nation of Alberta



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The agreement includes explicit commitments to pursue key rights-related issues such as a harvesting policy and a Métis Consultation policy. It also commits Alberta to negotiate options for the legislative recognition of the MNA and their governance structures.

On Thursday, November 16th, 2017, the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs and Audrey Poitras, President of the Métis Nation of Alberta, took a historic step with the signing of the Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation.

The signing enables Canada and Métis Nation of Alberta to begin formal negotiations towards shared and balanced solutions advancing reconciliation and the enhancement of the well-being of Métis Nation of Alberta citizens while respecting the rights of all Canadians.

<https://www.albertanativenews.com/historic-agreements-signed-with-metis-nation-of-alberta-metis-nation-of-ontario-and-metis-nation-saskatchewan/>

On June 27th, 2019, the Government of Canada further advanced its commitment to renewing nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationships with the Métis, based on recognition of rights, respect, cooperation and partnership.

The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister for Crown-Indigenous Relations signed Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreements with the Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras, the Métis Nation of Ontario President Margaret Froh and the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan President Glen McCallum.

Summary of the Event: As a proud Nation, the Métis continue to advocate for their Peoples and its rights as part of Canadian Society. They have maintained resilience and continue to building its place within confederation of Canada.

<https://www.gimkit.com/view/5e5d8ba66359470022705da9>

Review with Gimkit

Question	Answer
Year of Métis Nation	1938
Year of Métis Government	1997
Year of Métis Nation	1997
Year of Confederation	1867

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There have been established Métis communities on these lands before Alberta became a province in 1905.


Did you know there are more than 115,000 self-identified Métis in Alberta?
What do you think it means to be Métis in Alberta?

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		<p>Alternately students may create their own games</p> <p>Group discussion regarding the Province of Alberta, Canada.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Where do Métis people live in Alberta? (everywhere).- How many years has Alberta been a province?- What does that mean if Métis people were here before Alberta became a province? <p>More than 114K self-identified Métis people in Alberta. Approx 6500 on Metis Settlements and more than 45K registered with the Métis Nation of Alberta.</p> <p>Rupertsland Institute is continually adding to our resources. Updates are on our webpage https://www.rupertsland.org/teaching-learning/resources/ and are shared on social media.</p>
Closure		
Extension Activities		
Resources/Links/Videos Red River Jig Métis Nation of Alberta Timeline MNA/RLI Identity Video Metis Jigging Metis Scrip: A Claim Against the Crown		



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[Metis Settlement General Council](#)
[Metis Nation of Alberta Governance](#)
[Metis Otipemisiwak Magazine](#)
[Metis Nation Self-Government Agreement Article](#)
[Louis Riel Colouring Sheet](#)
[Scrip Breakout Box](#)
[Metis Beading Article](#)

Credits

