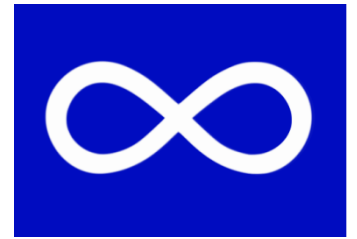


Chapter 8: The Métis

Name: _____

Chapter Inquiry - In what ways did the Métis have an impact on the development of Western Canada?



Emerging Identities - Your identity is the set of characteristics and values that you use to express who you are. Some groups may dress differently, follow different religions, speak different languages, and hold different perspectives or points of view. These are all ways of expressing an identity.

Vocabulary

1. Assimilation- the process by which a culture is absorbed into a more dominant culture because of its overwhelming influence
2. Bill of Rights- A document created by the Metis Provisional Gov't and presented to the gov't of Canada that requested that Metis receive the rights enjoyed by other Canadians
3. Country born Metis- The children of First Nations women and British traders from the Hudson Bay Company
4. Demographics- The characteristics of the people of a particular people
5. Economy- The way in which people meet their basic needs, such as food, clothing and shelter
6. Identity- A set of characteristics and values that describes the essence of a person or group
7. Manitoba Act- A law that was passed in July 1870 in response to the Metis Bill of Rights; it created the province of Manitoba
8. Mercantalism- An economic system that allowed an imperial country to become rich by selling the resources taken from its colonies
9. Metis- People of mixed First Nations and European ancestry who identify themselves as Metis people.
10. Michif (pg. 172)- language spoken by the Metis at Red River
11. Migration- movement of people within a country
12. Nor'Westers- A North West Company employee
13. Pemmican Proclamation- A gov't law created in 1814 that banned the Metis from exporting any meat, fish, or vegetables from the Red River settlement.
14. Political deadlock- A situation where no progress can be made
15. Public School- A school for all students
16. Traitor- One who betrays one's country, a cause or a trust
17. treason- pg. 191- betrayal of one's country
18. York boats- A boat used by the Metis to transport furs; it replaced the canoe as the main means of transportation on western rivers and lakes

Citizenship and Identity - One result of contact between the First Nations and Europeans was the emergence of the Metis. By the mid-1800s most of the Métis lived in Red River, Manitoba.



An Emerging Identity In The West - The children of First Nations women and European men were called Metis. They lived all over North America, but the largest community of Métis lived in Red River, Manitoba, which is now called Winnipeg.

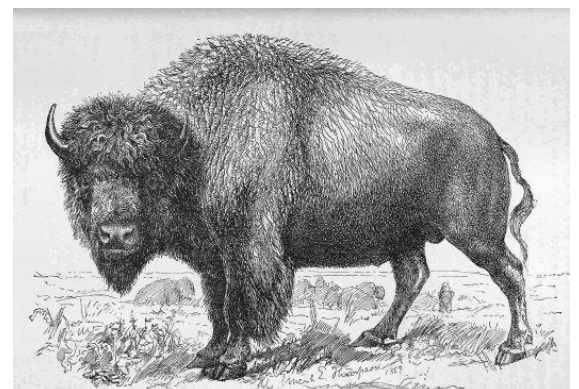
When we examine the characteristics of the people of a particular place we are referring to the demographics of the place. They include information such as the number of people who live there, or the ratio of male to female residents.

1. How many Francophone Métis lived in the Red River region by 1840? 4000
2. What religion did most of them practice? Catholic + First Nations beliefs
3. How many non-Métis people lived in the area? 1000

The non-Métis included the following groups of people:

- Country Born Métis were the children of First Nation women and British traders from the Hudson Bay Company. These Métis were usually Protestant (non-Catholics) like their fathers and also held some First Nations beliefs.
- Cree and Anishinabe First Nations.
- Roman Catholic missionaries - who built churches and schools which became the centres of Francophone Métis communities.
- The Canadiens who lived in St. Boniface.
- British employees of the HBC.

The Red River Métis shared a unique culture that shaped their identity. They developed their own language, artistic style, poetry, music, dance, economy, and values.



Shared Economy – How did the Métis make a living? _____

Fur trading, hunting, farming

The Metis in the Fur Trade: How were the Métis important to the success of the fur trade? Worked at trading posts, supplied buffalo meat, acted as interpreters, worked as trappers, traders, and delivered furs

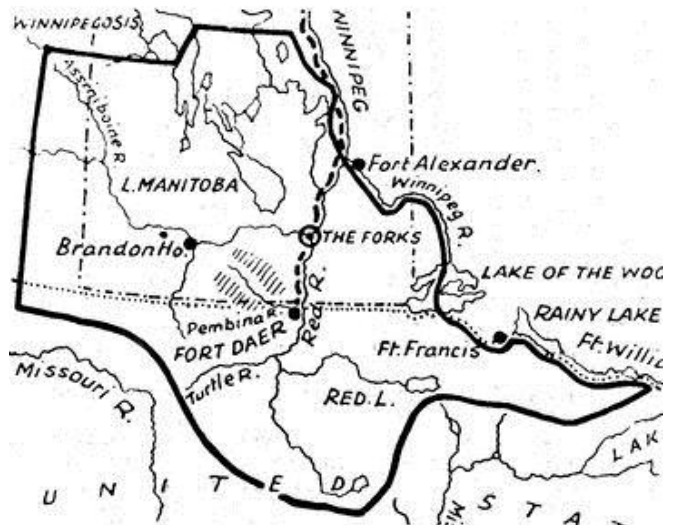
The Buffalo Hunt: What role did Métis play in the Buffalo Hunt? They were expert buffalo hunters. The women cut up the meat, dry it, and made it into pemmican. The Métis sold this to fur traders. It was a very important food to the people in the West.

Conflict At The Red River – In the 1800s a Scottish nobleman named Lord Selkirk bought a huge piece of land from the HBC. He brought dozens of families to the land from Scotland. He hoped that they would be able to turn the land at Red River into a great

farming colony. However the land was not empty and a large Métis community was already established and living there.

Métis Reaction to the Colonists – The Métis had no legal papers that said they owned the land that they had been farming for more than 100 years. They were worried that these colonist would push them off their farms.

The North West Company employees were also opposed to Selkirk's colony because they were competing with the Hudson's Bay Company for control and thought that HBC had sent the colonists to disrupt their trade.



Conflict over Resources - The governor was worried that his colonists would starve if all of the food was exported out of the region, so in 1814, he banned the Métis from exporting any meat, fish, or vegetables from the region.

What did they call this order? Pemmican Proclamation

The Nor'Westers and the Métis were outraged by this order because the buffalo meat trade was important to the Metis identity and economy. So they tried to force the Selkirk colonists to leave by stealing their equipment, horses and frightening the settlers by shooting off their guns. As a result of these actions and a series of natural disasters, many of the colonists left.

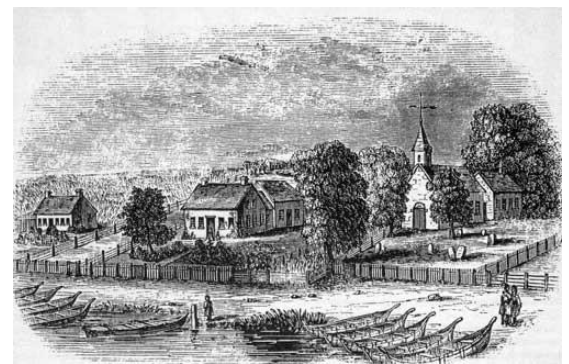
Battle of Seven Oaks - The battle was fought between the remaining Scottish Colonists and the Metis. The two sides faced each other near a grove of oak trees beside the Red River. A fierce fight broke out, one Metis and 21 Colonists were killed. This was the first time that the Métis stood up as a united group against the Canadian government. The event marked the beginning of the Métis nation.

Migration Further West - The Hudson Bay Company took over the North West Company and with the purchase they also took over all of their lands. The buffalo began to die out and the Métis hunters had to travel far from the Red River colony to find a herd. To be closer to the buffalo the Métis migrated, and settlements were set up further west.

Red River Resistance, 1869

Red River Métis believed that Rupert's Land belonged to them.

The Government of Canada thought it would make a good place to send European colonists. Government scientists reported that the region was well suited to farming, and had many natural resources. There was a lack of farmland in Ontario.



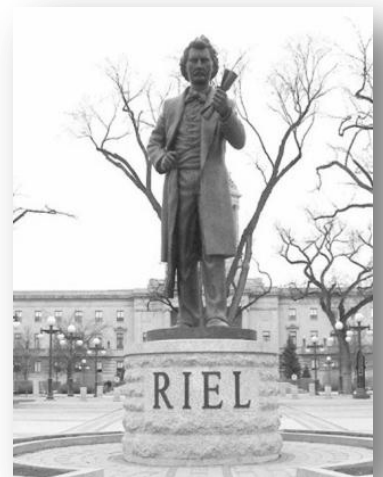
Rupert's Land Joins Canada - Some American newcomers began to arrive in Red River area and the Canadian government realized that if they didn't quickly claim Rupert's Land, the United States would. In 1869 they purchased the territory from the Hudson's Bay Company for \$ 1.5 million dollars.

Fears of Assimilation. The First Nations and Metis living in Rupert's Land were not consulted and were uncertain about their future. They were worried about assimilation which is when one culture is absorbed into another culture.

Red River Resistance, 1869 - Canada was ready to take

control of Rupert's Land on December 1st, 1869.

- The Federal Government sent surveyors to Red River without telling the First Nations and Métis.
- Louis Riel who was a Metis, who could speak French, English and Cree, stopped the surveyors and told them to leave Red River immediately. This gave them time to decide how to protect their land
- Riel became the president of the Métis provisional Government and helped draw up a Bill of Rights to be presented to the Government of Canada. This bill was meant to protect the interests of the different people living in the area.



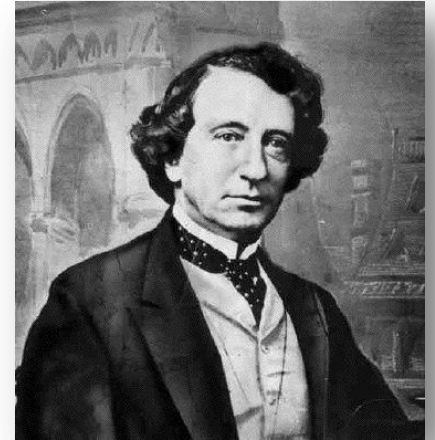
French and English Canada Take Sides - Not everyone in Red River supported the Métis resistance. The English colonists were furious with the Francophone (French speaking) Metis. The Métis jailed an Englishman named Thomas Scott when he threatened to kill Riel. He was found guilt and executed in front of a firing squad. Depending on your perspective your reaction to this event was very different.

The Anglophone Perspective: Scott was an English-speaking Protestant. His death made the British population in Ontario want revenge.

The Francophone Perspective: The Canadiens in Quebec reacted differently. They saw the Métis as defenders of the French Catholic way of life.

The Creation of Manitoba

Prime Minister John A. Macdonald wanted to find a solution to the crisis. In July 1870 the government passed the Manitoba Act to try to please both sides. This act created the 5th province in Canada.



Some of the most important terms of the act included:

- It gave Manitoba its own provincial government
- Both English and French would be spoken in the government and courts.
- The province could send four members to the House of Commons in Ottawa and two members to the senate.
- There would be schools for Protestants and Catholics.
- Land would be set aside for the Metis to use.
- Natural resources would be under the control of the federal government.

Soldiers on the March - The Prime Minister sent 1200 soldiers to Red River to keep the peace and defend the area in case the United States tried to claim it. Many of the soldiers thought they were really there to punish the Métis and capture Louis Riel. Knowing his life was in danger, he fled to the United States. Some of the soldiers took out their anger on the Metis by killing, jailing and beating them. It was a bad start for the new province of Manitoba.

Second Metis Uprising, 1885 - The creation of the Province of Manitoba didn't solve all of the problems for the Métis and First Nations people.

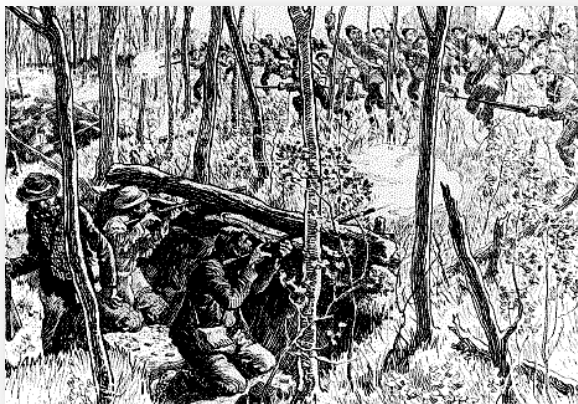
- Many Metis didn't receive the land promised to them
- Newcomers from the East didn't show respect for the Metis way of life.
- Feeling cheated, many Metis left Manitoba to move further west and north, where they could set up their own government with their own laws

Metis and First Nations Grievances - Why did the government ignore the Métis concerns? Because they were more focused on what they thought was a more important issue which was the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway. It was a priority because they wanted more colonists to move onto the prairies and develop the land.



In the summer of 1884, Louis Riel is invited back to Canada from the United States. The Métis were angry and impatient that nothing was being done about their complaints. They wanted Riel to be their voice. Riel and the Métis set up their own government and demanded that:

- Land issue solved
- Two new provinces be created west of MB
- More food rations for First Nations



When nothing happened, a violent, but brief resistance at the village of Batoche occurred. Gabriel Dumont was the military general for the Métis forces. After 3 days of fighting, the Métis surrendered.

The Fate of Louis Riel - Following the Resistance, Louis Riel was accused of treason or the betrayal of one's country. A jury found him guilty and he

was sentenced to hang. Prime Minister John A. Macdonald delayed the execution date because of a federal election. If he sided with Ontarians (the English), rather than Quebec he would likely win the election. On November 16th, 1885, Riel was taken from his jail cell in Regina and hanged.



The Métis wanted rights equal to the people in other provinces, but the government ignored their requests. Their struggle to be recognized as a distinct people would remain unsettled for many years to come.

Many Ontarians thought the Metis leader, Louis Riel was a traiter and a murderer. They wanted him hanged.

Canadiens thought Riel was a hero. They thought of him as a defender of French language rights and the Catholic religion in the West.