

TOWARD CONFEDERATION

Social Studies 10 October 28, 2013

Imagine:

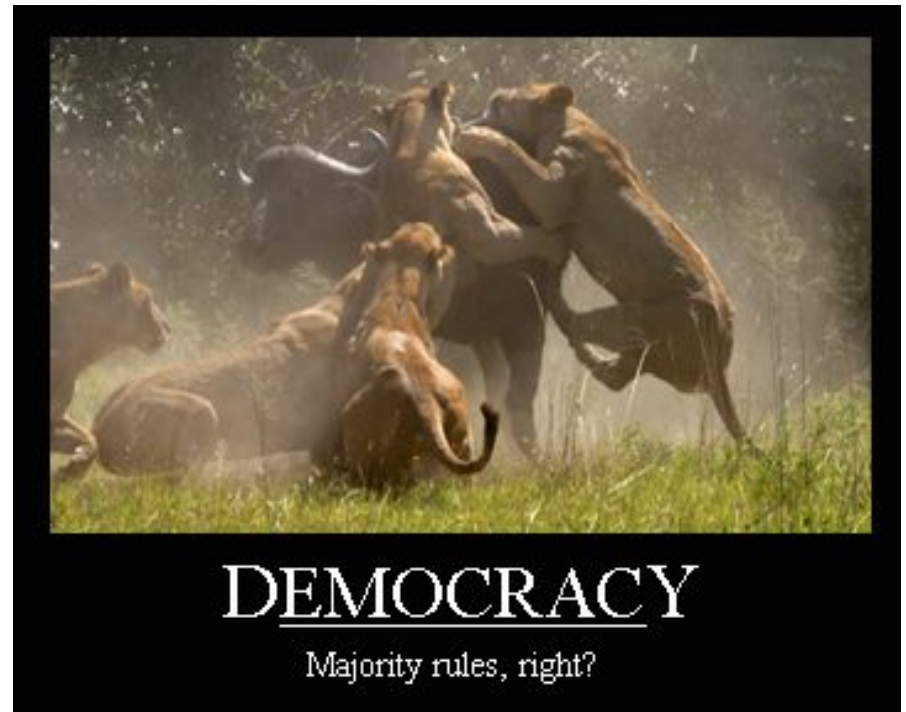
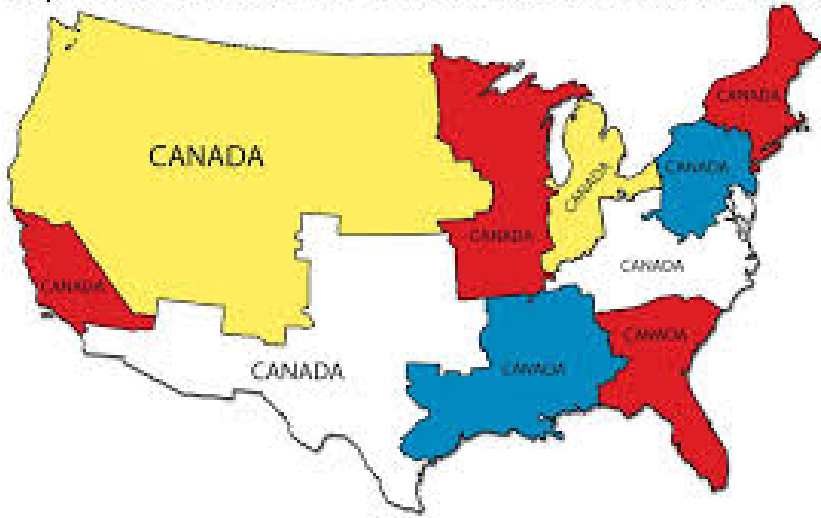
- Canada and the United States are going to join together to form one, united nation.
- With your two sticky notes, write one positive and one negative regarding this union.
- Affix your stick notes to the “T-chart” on the chalkboard



Consider:

- Would it be fair to let everyone in (what was) Canada and the USA vote on issues and then accept the majority's decision?

Population distribution of the United States in units of Canadas.



Consider:

- How could we fairly negotiate terms between the two nations?
- Is there a way to keep some of our identity, even as one centralized country?

Confederation

- What does confederation mean?
 - **CON** = with;
 - **FEDERATE** from the Latin foedus = League;
 - *League = a covenant (promise/vow) made between persons/parties etc. for the promotion or maintenance of **common** interests, **mutual** assistance or service.*
 - **ION** = action

Essentially, it's the act of uniting to form a league (a mutually beneficial relationship).

Approaching Confederation:

- Prior to 1867, no country, just colonies
 - Canada (east and west), Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, PEI, Newfoundland, British Columbia
- Talk of union, but there are concerns...
 - Will the french lose their identity within the larger group?
 - Which laws will rule?
 - How will decisions be made?

Where did the idea start?

- Inquiry Question:
- What economic and political situations led to the idea of confederation?

Recap: Durham's Report

- What 3 suggestions did Lord Durham make in his report to the British Government regarding the situation in Upper and Lower Canada after the Rebellion of 1837?
 1. A union of the two Canada's into one, united province
 2. An English-speaking province in which French culture becomes assimilated into English
 3. Responsible government

How did the British Respond?

- What reasons did the British give for NOT adopting Durham's suggestion for responsible government?
 - See page 100 in your text book, the first section.
 1. Weaken the empire
 2. Strengthen political enemies (France and U.S.A.)
 3. Result in political suicide (rule by rookies)

A love of mercantilism...

- What is mercantilism?
- THINK! Who would have benefitted from mercantilism? Who would NOT have benefitted?
- THINK! If little to no manufacturing is happening, where are manufactured goods coming from? Who is profiting?
- Canada exports raw materials → Britain imports and manufactures then exports → Canada buys (imports)...

But... Economic Pressures

- In 1846, the British Government repeals the Corn Laws...
- Turn to your text.
- Corn Laws protected the producers, but not the consumers in the British Empire.

+		-
Low tariffs = profit for producers	Corn Laws	Bread = \$\$\$\$\$\$
↓ \$ of Bread	Corn Laws	↓ profit for producers → economic depression

What's Best for Britain...

- Is increasingly becoming NOT the best for the colonies.
- Talk of a union begins:

Pro's (+)

- larger markets
- more industry
- better transport systems
- Canada's best interests vs. Britain's

- *What might some con's be?*
- A union would require self-government...

Lord Elgin & Responsible Govt.

- Elgin appointed as Governor General.
- Job to make responsible government a reality
- Q. Why do the British now want responsible government?
 - See text on page 101
 - A. To relieve Britain of economic responsibility:
 - Too expensive \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

Elgin's job cont.

- Make Canada a semi-independent nation
- Introduce enough to democracy that citizens will not revolt like the Americans in 1775.

The first test...

- The first test of responsible government comes in the form of the Rebellion Losses Bill.
- The bill proposes to use tax money to compensate those in Canada East (formerly Lower Canada) who had lost property in the rebellions (unless convicted of treason).
- The people (majority) have spoken, Elgin must make a choice...

Lord Elgin's Dilemma

- Read the “Zoom In” feature on page 102.
- Consider what you would have done in his shoes.
- If responsible government were NOT a factor, would you have passed the bill? Why or why not?

“The end has begun...”

- As a result of his passing of the Rebellion Losses Bill,
 - Elgin’s carriage is attacked.
 - Two days of violence ensue
 - Parliament is burned to the ground (Montreal)
 - The Annexation Manifesto is published
 - **BUT** The foundation is laid for Cdn. democracy

Choose from #1, 2 or 3 on page 104.

- For Question #2, use the 5 W + H model of questioning to help you.