Creating a New Country

To what extent was Confederation an attempt to solve existing problems and lay a foundation for a country?
Vocabulary

- Government
- Democracy
- Responsible Government
- Political deadlock
- Reciprocity
- Confederation
- BNA Act
- party
- Quebecois
- rep by pop
- manifest destiny
- federalism
- democracy
People and Government

• **Government** – the way societies organize themselves to make decisions and get things done
  - Write your own definition down
  - Compare the two and what similarities do you find in your definition and the text’s definition?
Canada’s Government

- Canada today is considered a **democracy**
- Canada also has **responsible government**
At the start of the 1850’s there were seven colonies in British North America.
Conditions for Confederation

• Each colony was an independent colony but had a few things in common
  – All were part of the British Empire
  – Had their own parliament
  – All felt separate from the Americans
• Certain conditions helped the colonies to unite to form one country (Canada)
Political Deadlock

• After the Union of Canada and Responsible government, people were still unhappy with how things were operating
  – Only one Assembly
  – English dominated the Assembly
  – French were still out-voted
Political Deadlock

• Many different parties had different interests in running the country
  – Clear Grit party – George Brown
  – Les Rouges – Antoine-Aime Dorion
  – Les Bleus – George-Etienne Cartier
  – Liberal Conservatives – John A. MacDonald
Political Deadlock

• With only one assembly for the provinces the parties fought for dominance in making decisions

• One major decision was Rep by Pop (Representation by Population)
  – The bigger population you have the more representatives in government who will look after their own interests
  – Think Alberta and Ontario
Political Deadlock

• With Canada West (which province is this today?) having a bigger population than Canada East (?) they wanted more representation in government.

• When it came for voting each overthrew the government because one wanted more rep.’s and one didn’t

• A major change was needed to solve this
Shifting Trade Partners

• Mercantilism was still in practice in the 1840’s
• Then it stopped when Britain did not want goods only from it’s colonies and began to trade with the rest of the world.
• Britain also thought the colonies were becoming expensive to keep since trade was not important anymore
Shifting Trade Partners

• If Britain was not going to trade with the Provinces of Canada then Canada would trade with the United States
• The law that allowed this was the Reciprocity Act (which means that each will trade exclusively with each other)
• Suddenly United States backed out of the deal
• Canada lost trade with both U.S. and Britain
• A major change was need to solve this
Defending British North America

- Once again Manifest Destiny was a concern
- Many British Canadians felt America might want to invade Canada again.
- The border between Canada and America would have to be defended
Confederation and the Maritime Colonies

• The Maritime colonies were doing well independent of the Province of Canada colony
• Times were changing and some felt it would be better financially and be safer if it would join the Province of Canada colony to form a single nation.
• A major change was need to solve this
Confederation Discussions

• Solve Issue 1 – Breaking the Deadlock
• George Brown would join with George Etienne Cartier to break the deadlock between the fighting parties
• Wanted one government for all colonies called a federal government
Confederation Discussions

• Solve issue 2 - with the trade gone from Britain and America, farmers and merchants needed to ship a great deal of goods quickly
Confederation Discussions

• Solve issue 3 -

• The Maritimes invited the John A Macdonald of the Provinces of Canada to discuss a union between the colonies to Charlottetown, PEI

• The second meeting was made in Quebec where the final ideas were made up.
What the Colonies decided

• The Province of Canada agreed to confederation
• The Colony of New Brunswick agreed to confederation
• The Colony of Nova Scotia agreed to confederation
• The Colony of Prince Edward Island did not agree to confederation
• The Colony of Newfoundland did not agree to confederation
Dawn of a Dominion

• John A MacDonald took all the suggestion given to him from all the colonies and their heads of state and travelled to London, England to request a separation from Britain
Dawn of a Dominion

• It was granted and a new law came into effect... The British North America Act (BNA Act) which says that on July 1, 1867 the colonies of:
  – Province of Canada
    • Ontario
    • Quebec
  – New Brunswick
  – Nova Scotia
• Will form the Dominion of Canada
The Structure of Canadian Government

• Britain would agree to look after defence and foreign affairs
• Canada remained part of the British Commonwealth
• The British monarch was still the head of state
• A Governor General would represent the monarchy
The Structure of Canadian Government

- The Government would have the following structure:
The Structure of Canadian Government

- The BNA Act called for two types of government in Canada:
  - Federal which would look after the country as a whole
    - Defence
    - Post office
    - Trade
    - Money
    - Taxation
  - First Nations rights
  - Criminal Law
  - Marriages and Divorces
The Structure of Canadian Government

• The other type of government was called Provincial which looked after:
  – Property        Education
  – Local Works     Highways
  – Hospitals       Cities
  – Courts          Local police