

1497

Explorer John Cabot sailed from England to the Eastern Coast of Canada. He returned with reports of much fishing and massive forests.

1600's

French explorer Samuel de Champlain established the settlement of Quebec, which became a fur trading center. The French called this territory "New France."

1763

The French lost the French and Indian War, and New France came under English control.

1791

The British government drew new boundaries in Canada, dividing Quebec into two colonies. Most of the British people lived in "Upper Canada," and the French lived in "Lower Canada."

Religion and Language

Today, about two-thirds of Canadians speak English, and those living in Quebec speak French! The two major religions are Catholicism (from the French) and Protestantism (from the English).

1837

Colonists became unhappy with being governed by the British and began to rebel.

1867

The British Parliament created the Dominion of Canada, which meant that Canada was an independent, self-governing nation, but still apart of the British Empire. The British wanted to avoid another bloody war!

1931

Canada became a free and equal member of the British Commonwealth of Nations! Its territory spread with the Canadian railroad system.