Q1 - How did the British rule over a colony (Quebec) that was majority French and Catholic?

- From 1763-74 the British aimed to *assimilate* the “Canadiens” into their customs.
- They hoped that a large number of English speaking colonists from the 13 Colonies would come to Quebec.
- They changed the criminal and civil laws to British (impacted seigneurial system, marriage, divorce, etc)
- They made it so that only members of the Anglican Church could hold public office.
- There were no elections - government was by a council and governor appointed by the British.
This policy was unsuccessful

- Few English colonists came - was cold and they were not keen on living with French. They did not like the lack of an elected assembly.
- Canadiens resisted - there was a fear of a revolt at the same time that the 13 colonies were beginning to think about independence.

- Governor Sir Guy Carleton decided to make some concessions to the Canadiens in passing a new policy in Quebec.
Quebec Act - 1774

- Guaranteed French language rights
- Reinstated French civil and property law (return of seigneurial system, role of Catholic Church)
- Reintroduced the **tithe** (15% tax to Catholic Church)
- Enlarged the territory of Quebec into the Ohio Valley (will explain reason for this in Q2).
- Did not grant an elected government.
WHY?

- Wanted to avoid a possible rebellion - keep the Canadiens on their side if the 13 Colonies decided to revolt.

RESULTS / IMPORTANCE

- It worked - the Canadien were pacified, stayed loyal to Britain during American Revolutionary War. Priests and Seigneurs encouraged loyalty.
- It entrenched the bilingual nature of Canada, importance of French and British heritage - exists still today.
Enraged the 13 Colonies - stopped their western expansion - seen as making concessions to “foreigners”.

English speakers in Quebec were angry, still no elected government, their privileged position weakened.

Was one of the INTOLERABLE ACTS cited in the American Declaration of Independence!
Q2 - What Policy did the British have Towards First Nations?

- In the 1763 ROYAL PROCLAMATION, the British guaranteed land rights for the First Nations west of the Appalachians.
- Land there could only be purchased through the British government, AFTER consultation with First Nations (see map).
WHY?

- The British wanted peace on the frontier. Too expensive to occupy interior and police it.
- Pontiac’s Rebellion in 1763 convinced the British to come to good terms with the First Nations.
- It was designed to control and restrict the spread of American colonists.
- Protected the fur trade.
- Quebec Act played a similar role - though this also stripped First Nations of their rights from the 1763 Royal Proclamation - a common pattern.

Read pg. 110-115 in your textbook for review.
Q3 - What Impact did the American Revolution have on Canada?

- Quebec and Maritime colonies remained loyal to Britain, though some people in each colony did join the rebel cause.
- French population preferred life under Quebec Act than life under a Protestant USA.
- Maritime colonies had small populations, important economic links with Britain - did not share the same concerns as other 13 colonies.
During the Revolutionary War, the Americans attacked the Canadian colonies and briefly captured Montreal.

They were defeated by a combined British, Canadien, and First Nation force at Quebec City Dec. 31 1775. CDN colonies remained British. (see video)
The Loyalists

- About 1/3 of people in the 13 Colonies remained loyal and fought for the British in the Rev. War.
- In 1783, the war ended and resulted in the independence of the USA.
- These Loyalists and their families faced persecution for siding with the British. Around 100,000 decided to head for the nearest British colonies - Canada!
- While close to half settled in Quebec, the rest made homesteads west of Quebec or west of Nova Scotia.
- For the first time, there was a sizeable English speaking and Protestant population in Canada.
These new populations forced the creation of two new colonies.

- 1784 - West part of Nova Scotia becomes New Brunswick
- 1791 - The **Constitutional Act** split Quebec into **Lower Canada** (majority French-Catholic) and **Upper Canada** (majority English-Protestant).

This was done so that the rights extended to the French in the 1774 Quebec Act could be maintained in LC but in UC they could adopt totally British laws.
Constitutional Act - 1791
Q4 - What Relationship did the United States have with the CDN Colonies?

- Many Americans wanted to invade Canada and incorporate it into their vision of a massive continent wide country (manifest destiny).
- During the American Revolution (1775-83), the War of 1812, and the American Civil War (1861-65) Canada was either threatened or invaded from the South, but unsuccessfully.
- The US also threatened to gobble up the western territories that the British claimed.
- Many in the CDN colonies had close family or business links to the USA.
- USA was important trading partner - despite this.
Q5 - How did the Canadian Colonies Achieve Responsible Government?

- **Responsible Government** = Refers to a government that is accountable to the wishes of the people.

- **How?** - Elections - if a government abuses its power the electorate replaces it in the next election.

- This is basically what democracy is!

- Prior to 1848, most power in Canada was held by appointed councils made up of wealthy people with ties to the British. Not democratic at all!

- These groups that monopolized power were called oligarchies:
  - Upper Canada = “Family Compact”
  - Lower Canada = “Chateau Clique”
Colonial Government Structure (pg. 131 textbook)

- **Governor**
  - appointed by Crown
- **Executive Council**
  - appointed by Crown
- **Legislative Assembly**
  - elected - had power to consult governor and council. Could block proposals to spend public money
  
  Governor and council could veto their laws

dominated by landowners and upper classes
In this system, the interests of the oligarchies were protected - but these were not often the same as the common person.

In 1837, dissatisfied people in Upper and Lower Canada launched armed rebellions against the oligarchies and British rule.

Leaders - UC = Mackenzie  LC = Papineau

What were the goals?

- Some wanted to adopt a Republican System or join the USA entirely.
- Most wanted the elected legislative assemblies to have more power at the expense of the executive councils.
- In Quebec, there was an element of French-Canadian nationalism and resistance to assimilation.

(Read pg. 134-135)
The reasons for rebellion were similar to what had inspired American colonists to rebel in 1776, but in Canada they were crushed by the military.

Though they failed, the British realized that they needed to make reforms (changes) to address the grievances of Canadians and hold on to their colonies.

The **Durham Report** led to the **Act of Union** and eventually to the implementation of responsible government in the CDN colonies in 1848.

READ PG. 136-137
Act of Union - 1841
Canadian Fathers of Democracy

Lafontaine

Baldwin

Howe
Discussion Questions

- Why is the achievement of Responsible Government in 1848 significant to today’s Canada?

- How does this story differ from the American achievement of democracy - and help explain our differences today?

- What problem was made worse by the Act of Union?
How did the Fur Trade Impact the Development of the Northwest?
Two companies competed for control of the fur trade in Rupert's Land:

Hudson Bay Company

Northwest Company
Initially, the HBC had established forts on the bay, and First Nations brought furs to them.

NWC travelled overland (voyageurs) and established forts in the interior (ex. Ft. Gibraltar) and cut off the HBC.

This forced the HBC to advance into the interior as well, establishing forts like Upper Fort Garry.

First Nations benefitted from the trade initially.

New cultures were born as children of FN and European descent were born.

Scottish “country born” tended to work with HBC, French “Metis” worked with NWC.
The rivalry between the companies was sometimes violent, and resulted in theft and the occupation/destruction of the others’ forts.

In 1812, Lord Selkirk (an HBC man) brought settlers from Scotland to the area around the Forks (he called it Assiniboia).

This sparked clashes between the settlers, the Metis, and the NW Company, but also helped to establish Winnipeg.

See textbook: Pg. 146-158 and NOTES GUIDE
Why did the Canadian Colonies Unite to Form the Dominion of Canada in 1867 (Confederation)?
There were many things that were pushing people in the colonies to consider a union.

1) **The Railway**

Many people in the colonies wanted to build a railway to link the colonies - and eventually the coasts!

**WHY?**

- Colonies were in an **economic recession** - in 1846 Britain ended preferential treatment for products (**Repeal of Corn Laws**) and in 1866 the Americans cancelled free trade (**End of Reciprocity Treaty**).
- With the loss of trade, colonies consider improving trade with each other and to start competing with American and British manufacturing.
A railway would make this possible - the transport of goods and people would be faster and more efficient.

A railway would also give the colonies a chance to settle the west. Americans were building railways and threatening our claim to Rupertsland.

It would also help in defending the colonies against attacks from the USA because soldiers could be moved around faster.

USA was a real threat:

- Fenian Raids
- Manifest Destiny (Review pg. 172-178 textbook)
- Civil War Tensions
Therefore, the railway provided economic and defence advantages, but it was enormously expensive to build. Colonies would have to share cost.

Railway companies had **lobbies** that pushed politicians to seek confederation - sometimes their tactics were corrupt (bribes etc.) They stood to make a lot of money if railways were built!
2) **Political Deadlock**

- The government established by the Act of Union was not working - a new system was needed.

3) **Support from Britain**

- Wanted to reduce cost of running colonies - one colony instead of six would be cheaper.
- Hoped a more independent Canada would improve relations with the USA.
- Gave loans for railway development, appointed pro-confederation governors.
Achieving Confederation

- It required an agreement on a new constitution. Biggest question was how powerful the new federal government would be compared with the provincial governments.

- Each colony and Britain would have to vote and agree to the union.

- It was a long process 1864-1867 and controversial, but it was achieved officially on July 1, 1867 when the British North America Act came into law.

- See textbook pg. 180-186 and video for more
CONFEDERATION IN THE BEGINNING:
1867-1873

1867 The "British North America Act", passed by the British Parliament and signed Royal Assent on March 29, came into effect on July 1. The B.N.A. Act created the Dominion of Canada as a federal state uniting New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and the former province of Canada which was divided into the two new provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

On June 29, the United States of America purchased Alaska from Russia.

1869 The Red River Uprising, led by Metis leader Louis Riel, was a protest against the Canadian government's plans for the area.

1870 On May 12, the Manitoba Act created the Province of Manitoba and temporarily resolved the problems with the Metis. Manitoba officially became part of Confederation on July 15.

On July 16, Canada acquired the newly renamed Northwestern Territories made up of Rupert's Land and the Northwest Territories. The territory was purchased by Canada from the Hudson's Bay Company and the latter was ceded to Canada by Great Britain.

1871 The province of British Columbia, with the boundaries acquired in 1866, joined Confederation on July 20.

1873 On July 1, Prince Edward Island became the seventh province to enter Confederation.