

# Continued unrest in North America

1783 - 1815



# Constitutional Act 1791

ASPECT	TERMS
AIM	- Recognize biculturalism by dividing Quebec into Upper Canada and Lower Canada
LANGUAGE	- English is the official language in Upper Canada - French is the official language in Lower Canada
RELIGION	UC: 1/7 <sup>th</sup> of land set aside for Protestant schools and churches LC: continued protection of Roman Catholic Church
GOVERNMENT	- Each colony has an appointed Governor who rules with appointed Executive Council and Legislative Council - All 3 have veto power - Each colony will have an elected assembly (limited power to make laws, impose taxes, serve local needs)
LAWS	UC: English criminal and civil law LC: English criminal law + French civil law

How would the following groups react to the Constitutional Act?

French Seigneurs

Roman Catholic church

French Habitant

Britain

British Merchants in Lower Canada

Loyalists

- ❑ Satisfied the wishes of the people for an elected level of government while keeping real power in their hands
- ❑ Cut off from English speaking, Protestant population; worried about the power/influence of Canadien in gov't
- ❑ Kept religious influence and ability to collect tithes (taxes)
- ❑ Kept the seigneurial system
- ❑ Kept the Canadien way of life, however had no influence in government and still under the control of seigneurs and RCC
- ❑ Established an English speaking colony with its own elected Legislative Assembly, but only male property owners could vote



“The war that nobody won”

# Causes - Issues in Europe

- Britain was at war with Napoleon (France)
  - British blocked any ship or country from trading with Europe = seized 900 American ships and cargoes
  - Americans retaliated by refusing to allow any British ships in their ports – this only hurt American merchants
  - Britain was boarding American merchant ships looking for British naval deserters
    - It is illegal to board another country's vessel
    - Many Americans were forced into serving for the British navy

# Causes - Issues in North America

- Britain was offering free land to Americans to increase the population of BNA
  - America feared they would become weaker and BNA would become stronger
- First Nations were blocking American westward expansion and making alliances with the British
- “**Manifest Destiny**” = America will control the entire continent
  - Enroaching on First Nations
  - Threatened British colonies and future possessions

# Key People



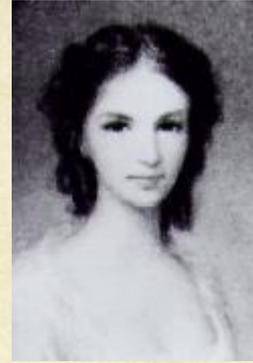
**General Brock**

British General who led British troops, BNA militia, and First Nations during the War of 1812.



**Tecumseh**

Shawnee Chief who led the First Nations in battle with the British. He was known as a brilliant and powerful orator.



**Laura Secord**

Heroine of the War of 1812. She risked her life to alert the British of American attacks.

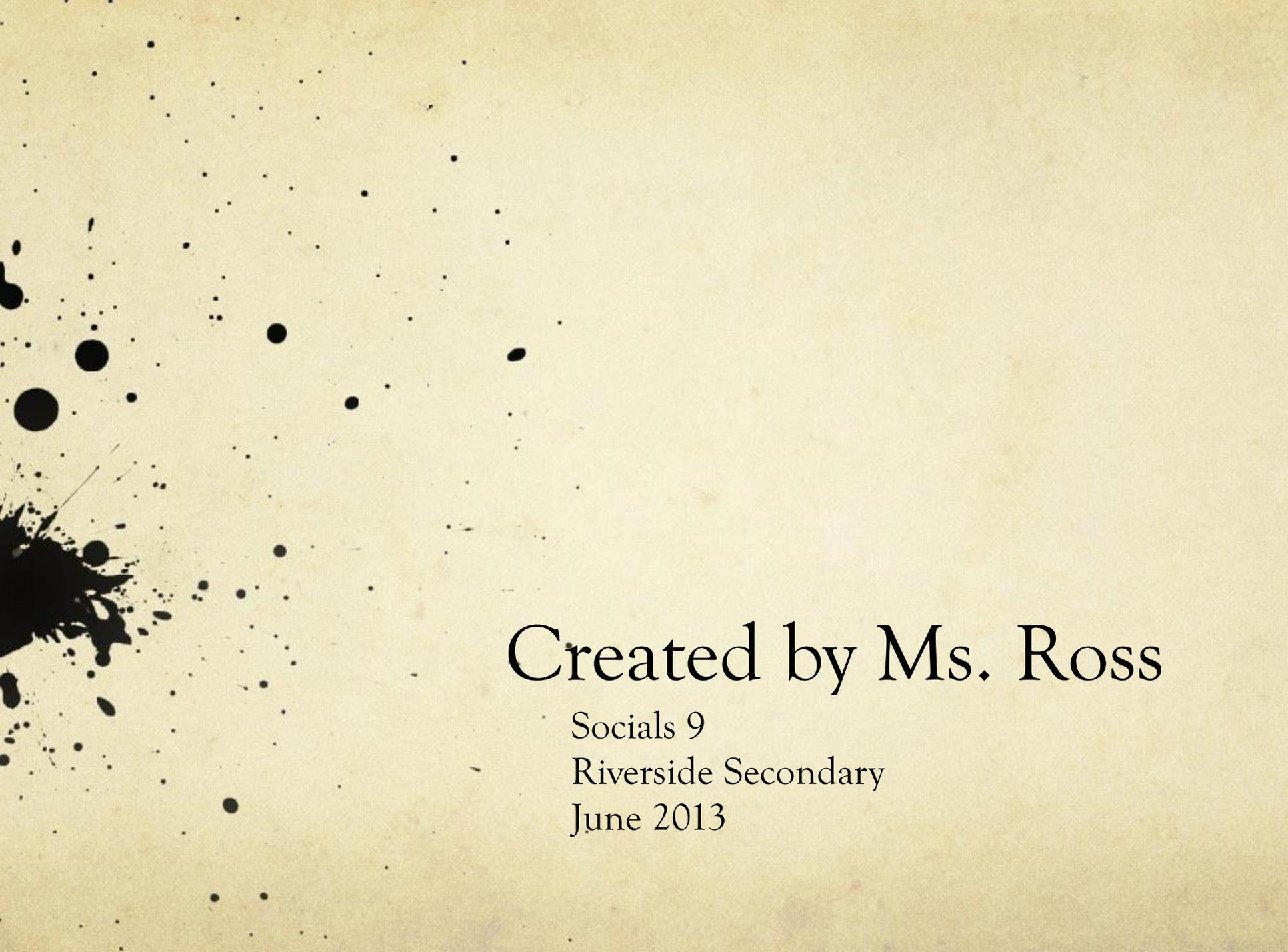


# Key events

- June 1812 – America declares war on Britain and invades Upper Canada
- August 1812 – General Brock and British troops, with the help of Tecumseh and First Nations, capture Detroit
- October 1812 – Americans capture Queenston Heights; Brock killed
- April 1813 – Americans capture York (capital city of U.C.) and burn the Parliament buildings
- October 1813 – Americans victorious at Thames River; British deserted leaving the FN warriors to fight and Tecumseh was killed
- Summer 1814 – British occupy Washington, D.C. (US capital) and burn gov't buildings
- Treaty is signed in 1814; war ends in 1815

# Outcomes

1. Discouraged American immigration to BNA
2. Stabilized the border between BNA and US
3. Britain respected the US as an independent nation
4. Sense of unity in Lower Canada = French and English had fought side by side to defeat an enemy
5. Little recognition of First Nation efforts to help Britain



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