

Facts and Figures

British North America in the mid-1800s had been shaped by two important events. In 1763, Great Britain won all of France's North American colonies, so those lands were now part of BNA. Then, in the American Revolution of 1776, the British colonies south of New Brunswick rebelled against Great Britain. They won independence and created the United States of America.

Politics

- Vancouver's Island, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, the Province of Canada, Newfoundland, and New Brunswick were all *colonies* of Great Britain. A colony is a territory of the "home" country in another part of the world. All important decisions about the colonies were made by the government of Great Britain.
- According to the Royal Proclamation of 1763, no First Nations land was to be taken over unless there was a meeting and agreement between representatives of the First Nations and the British government. This statement in the Royal Proclamation became the basis for later treaty-making.
- Rupert's Land, the North-Western Territory, and New Caledonia were under the control of a British fur-trading company called the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC). The HBC was given these rights by the government of Great Britain, without any discussion with the First Nations and Inuit of these regions.
- Newfoundland territory included the "coast of Labrador" extending from Blanc Sablon to the entrance of Hudson's Strait. The interior boundary was undefined until it was decided by the British Privy Council in 1927.
- The French Shore is the area covered by a treaty that was in place from 1783 to 1904. It was one of a series of treaties France and Britain made that gave fishers from France the right to live and fish along certain parts of Newfoundland's coast.
- The Province of Canada was made up of Canada East (mostly people of French heritage) and Canada West (mostly people of British heritage).

Great Britain includes England, Wales, and Scotland.

READING HINT

As you read this section, check back to the map on page 76 to help you understand the information.

