



Sir Charles Metcalfe opening Parliament  
© Library and Archives Canada / C00035K

## STUDENT WORKSHEETS

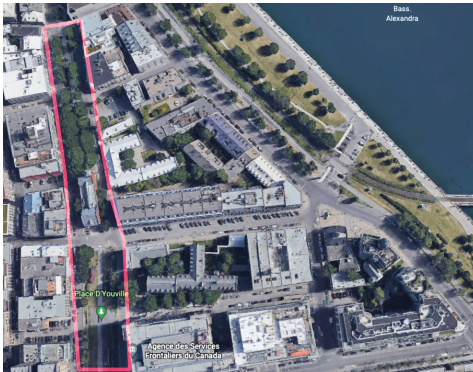
# Montréal, Capital of the Province of Canada, 1844-1849

### ACTIVITY 1 Anatomy of a dig site

In the historical district of **Old Montréal**, not far from Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Archaeology and History Complex, is one of the most significant urban **archaeological** sites in Canada. Like a time capsule, this site contains a treasure trove of information about the short period during which **Montréal was the capital of the Province of Canada**. Let's learn more about this fascinating period of Canadian history.

### REVEALING REMAINS

From **2010 to 2017**, archaeologists excavated remnants dating from 1834 to 1849, a tumultuous period in the history of Montréal and Canada. What are these remnants? The walls of a building measuring 104 metres long, with foundations extending up to 5 metres into the ground, and over 350,000 **artifacts** and **ecofacts**.



© Images ©2021 Google Earth

Place D'Youville is located in Old Montréal, near Pointe-à-Callière.



Photo: Alain Vandai, © Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Archaeology and History Complex

Archaeologists working on the dig site at Place D'Youville.



1 Notice the archaeologists at work in the right-hand image. Certain terms related to this field are used frequently in this workbook. Match each term with the correct definition.

Artifacts

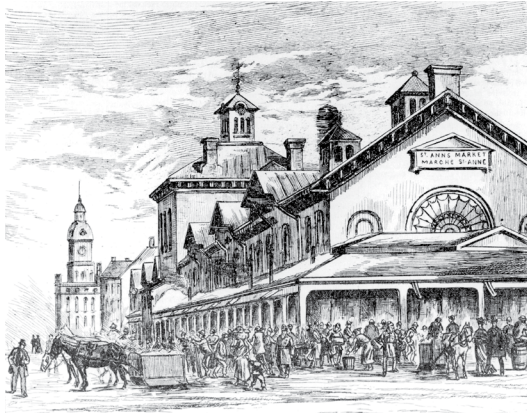
Physical traces of animal, plant, or mineral origin

Ecofacts

Traces of human activity, including structures, objects, and signs left behind by human beings

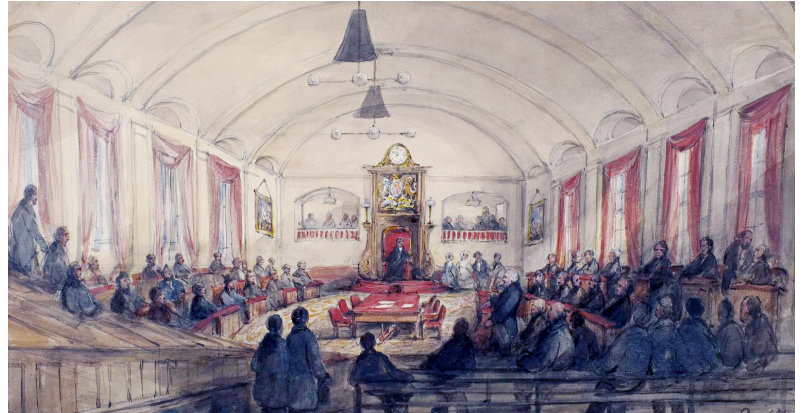
Remains

Objects made by human beings


 Images of Montréal, Canadian Metropolis 1872-1898  
 © Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Archaeology and History Complex

St. Anne's Market, Montréal

*L'Opinion publique*, a weekly newspaper published in Montréal from 1870 to 1883



© National Gallery of Canada, 28066

The House of Assembly, Montréal, circa 1848, by James Duncan, National Gallery of Canada

The site described here had **two major functions** during the 19th century.

- From 1834 to 1844, it was home to **St. Anne's Market**, Montréal's first indoor market.
- From 1844 to 1849, it became the **seat of parliament** of the Province of Canada.

Immerse yourself in the historical events that took place in this majestic building.

## ACTIVITY 2 St. Anne's Market – 1834-1844

In the 19th century, Montréal's population was growing steadily, increasing from 9,000 inhabitants in 1800 to 40,290 in 1842. That was a lot of stomachs that needed to be filled.

- 1 Where did people buy food in 19th-century Montréal?
- The grocery store
  - The mercery
  - The public market

Opened in 1834, **St. Anne's Market** was a place where local farmers and producers could sell their wares. It was the largest, most modern, and certainly the most prestigious building in Montréal of the day.

Did you know that there were farms on the Island of Montréal at that time?



**St. Anne's Market** consisted of a central section flanked by two symmetrical wings ending in columned porticoes.

- 2 Circle the central section in blue and the wings in black.  
Draw a vertical line to show the building's symmetry.



This type of architecture was once reserved for buildings of great importance. But starting in the 1820s, it was used for certain public buildings in North America, including indoor markets. Designed by architects John Wells and Francis Thompson, St. Anne's Market was inspired by Covent Garden Market in London, England, and Quincy Market in Boston. It was the **largest public building** in Montréal and the city's **first indoor market**.

St. Anne's Market was more than just a commercial space. Montrealers gathered there to meet and share news, attend concerts and dances in its various rooms, and mark important events. For instance, On August 1, 1834, citizens gathered there to celebrate the *Slavery Abolition Act's* coming into effect. It was an important part of 19th-century Montrealers' everyday lives.



Quincy Public Market, Source: Boston Public Library

© Boston Public Library

### ACTIVITY 3 The political environment of the Province of Canada – 1837-1840

From 1837 to 1840, several events led to social tensions in Upper Canada (today Ontario) and Lower Canada (today Québec).



**The Battle of Saint-Eustache**

*Back View Church of St. Eustache and Dispersion of the Insurgents.* Artist: Lord Charles Beauclerk, December 14, 1837. In *Lithographic Views of Military Operations in Canada*. A. Flint: London, 1840. Beauclerk, Charles; Hartnell, Nathaniel. Photograph: Luc Bouvrette

1 Which of the events below is illustrated here?

The coronation of Queen Victoria

The Louisiana Purchase

The American Revolution

The Act of Union

Passage of a law compensating the families of rebels (Patriotes)

The Rebellions of 1837-38

2 What were the causes of this historical event?

- The popularity of republican and liberal ideas
- The desire for change in government
- Agricultural crisis
- Riot in Montréal in 1832
- All of the above

What is **liberalism**?

Liberalism challenges the notion that the monarchy or the **monarch** (king or queen) **should hold all power**. It advocates the participation of all electors in political affairs and the division of power (legislative, executive, and judiciary).

What is **republicanism**?

Republicanism is a more radical form of liberalism.

### ACTIVITY 4 Durham Report – 1839

Sent by the queen to govern and investigate the rebellions of the *Patriotes*, **Lord** John George Lambton, 1st Earl of **Durham**, proposed several controversial ideas, including the union of Lower and Upper Canada into a single British province called the Province of Canada, along with the concept of “**responsible government**.”

What is **responsible government**?

It is a system under which representatives are elected by the people and are accountable to them rather than only to the monarch.

- 1 What is the name of the new constitution passed by the queen and British parliament to put the proposals of Lord Durham into effect, and when did it come into effect?

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To achieve responsible government, **reformists** in Lower Canada, led by **Louis-Hippolyte La Fontaine**, united with reformists in Upper Canada, led by **Robert Baldwin**. This alliance would form the government in 1841. The principle of **responsible government** came into effect after the Union of Upper and Lower Canada. But it was only truly applied **in 1848**, when James Bruce, the 8th Earl of Elgin, bowed to the will of the legislature.

- 2 What is **Reformism**?

Search your history books and the Internet to explain what the **reformist** political movement meant at this time in Canada’s history.

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- 3 What was the name of the political movement that opposed the reformists. Circle the correct answer.

Victorian

Democrat

Tory

- 4 Use these two phrases to complete the following two sentences.

external affairs (army, international relations, international trade)

internal matters (taxation, income taxes, education)

Achieving responsible government gave the **colony greater autonomy**

over \_\_\_\_\_.

However, the **queen retained significant power**

over \_\_\_\_\_.

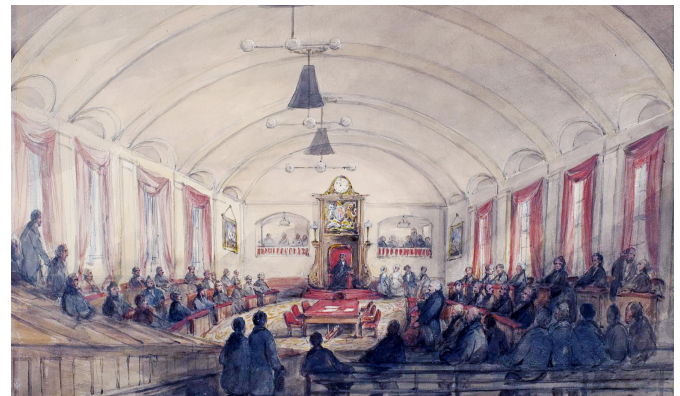
## ACTIVITY 5 The Parliament in Montréal – 1844-1849

**1843.** The parliament in Kingston, Upper Canada (Ontario today) moves to Montréal. The following year, **Montréal** thus becomes the **capital** of the Province of Canada.

- ① Why did this move happen? Circle the correct answer.
- a) Because Montréal was farther from the U.S. border than Kingston, and the Parliament would be better protected in case of a conflict.
  - b) Because there was no suitable parliament building for the parliamentarians.
  - c) Because there was a lack of lodging (hotels, boarding houses, etc.) in Kingston.
  - d) Because Montréal was the most prosperous city at the time.
  - e) All of the above.



3D model of the parliament building, 1844-1849



*The House of Assembly, Montréal*  
(fr : *Chambre de l'Assemblée législative, Montréal*)  
James Duncan, vers 1848

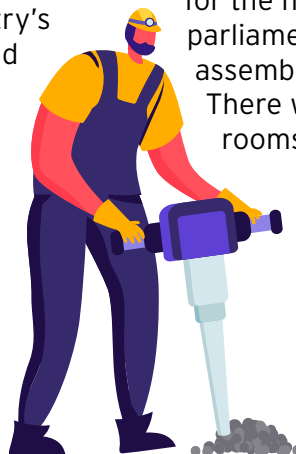
### Parliament or parlement?

When referring to a specific parliamentary institution, buildings, or parliamentarian (e.g., Parliament of Canada; Jill Smith, Member of Parliament), use a capital p. In more general contexts, use a lower-case p (e.g., When visiting the country's parliament building... Both federal and provincial parliaments...)

The St. Anne's Market building was chosen to house the **Parliament of the Province of Canada** because of its modern character. Architect George William Richardson Browne was given the job of converting

the interior. The changes made were both functional and aesthetic.

A historical document outlined the specific needs for the number and type of rooms required for a parliament building. For example, the legislative assembly hall had to be 15 metres by 30 metres. There were also some 20 rooms for committee rooms and staff, two libraries, a smoking room, a salon, a conference room, and a room for journalists. All of this was being set up on the site in Montréal.



## Who wrote, debated, amended, and voted on legislation?

- ② The elected members of parliament had a duty to defend the public interest. Who were these politicians? Match the following names with the portraits. For each person, write their title or position and their political movement.

### NAMES

Robert Baldwin

Victoria

Louis-Hippolyte La Fontaine

 James Bruce,  
8th Earl of Elgin

 Sir Allan  
Napier MacNab

### POLITICAL MOVEMENT

Reformist

Tory

Monarchist

### TITLE OR POSITION




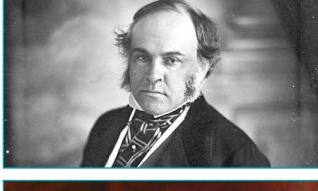

Co-leader of Canada's "responsible government", 1848 to 1851

Lord and Governor General of the Province of Canada, 1847 to 1854

Canadian politician and Premier of the Province of Canada, 1854 to 1856

Co-leader of Canada's "responsible government", 1848 to 1851

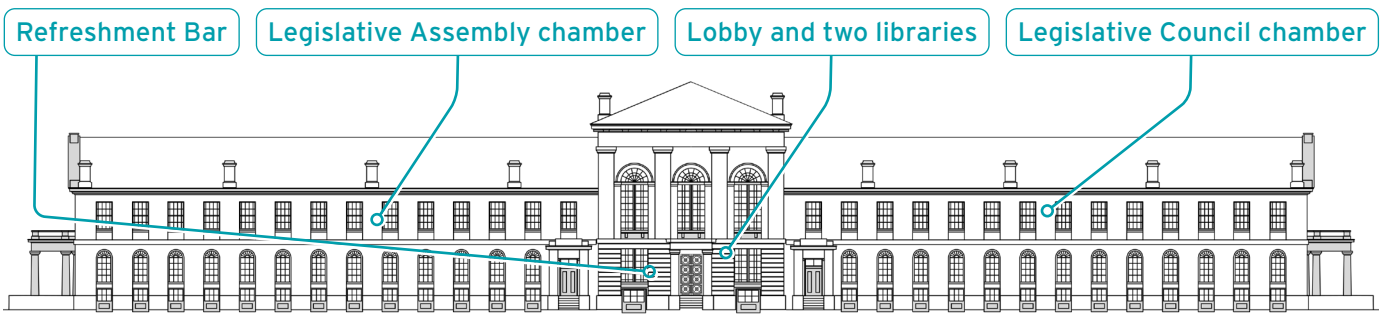
Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland from 1837 and, starting July 1, 1867, Queen of Canada

|   | NAME | POLITICAL MOVEMENT | TITLE OR POSITION |
|---|------|--------------------|-------------------|
|  |      |                    |                   |
|  |      |                    |                   |
|  |      |                    |                   |
|  |      |                    |                   |
|  |      |                    |                   |

## Archaeological research – Unearthing parliament

- 3 Do research to identify the various rooms of the building and their functions. Here is an illustration of the building and some of the artifacts discovered at the archaeological site. In the table below, write the name of each room, the artifacts discovered, and the function of the room or the object.





Choose from among the following rooms



Choose from among the following objects

- Eyeglasses
Burned books
Inkpot
Seal

*Hint: an object may have been used in more than one room and may have several different functions.*

| ROOM | ARTIFACT  | NAME | DESCRIPTION (MATERIALS)  | PROBABLE USE OF OBJECT AND FUNCTION OF ROOM       |
|------|---|------|--|---|
|      |  |      | Burned book or sheaf of papers. Stabilized and restored between 2013 and 2017. |   |
|      |  |      |  |   |
|      |  |      |  |   |
|      |  |      |  | The seal was also used as a postal service stamp. |



**ACTIVITY 6 Responsible government – 1848**

The **Parliament in Montréal** bore witness to a major event in Canadian history. In 1848, the La Fontaine-Baldwin ministry was recognized as a **“responsible government”**. Having local autonomy within the British Empire was a significant move away from the old colonial political regime and toward the birth of a modern liberal state.

Many reforms moved forward. Numerous important bills were passed, including:

- The *Rebellion Losses Bill* (also known as the Act to provide for the Indemnification of Parties in Lower Canada whose Property was destroyed during the Rebellion in the years 1837 and 1838)

The passage of the Rebellion Losses Bill led to a series of events with historical consequences.

- 1 What makes a “responsible government”? In the new responsible government, the powers and management of the Province of Canada were handled differently.

**Complete** this organizational chart by adding the missing names and terms.

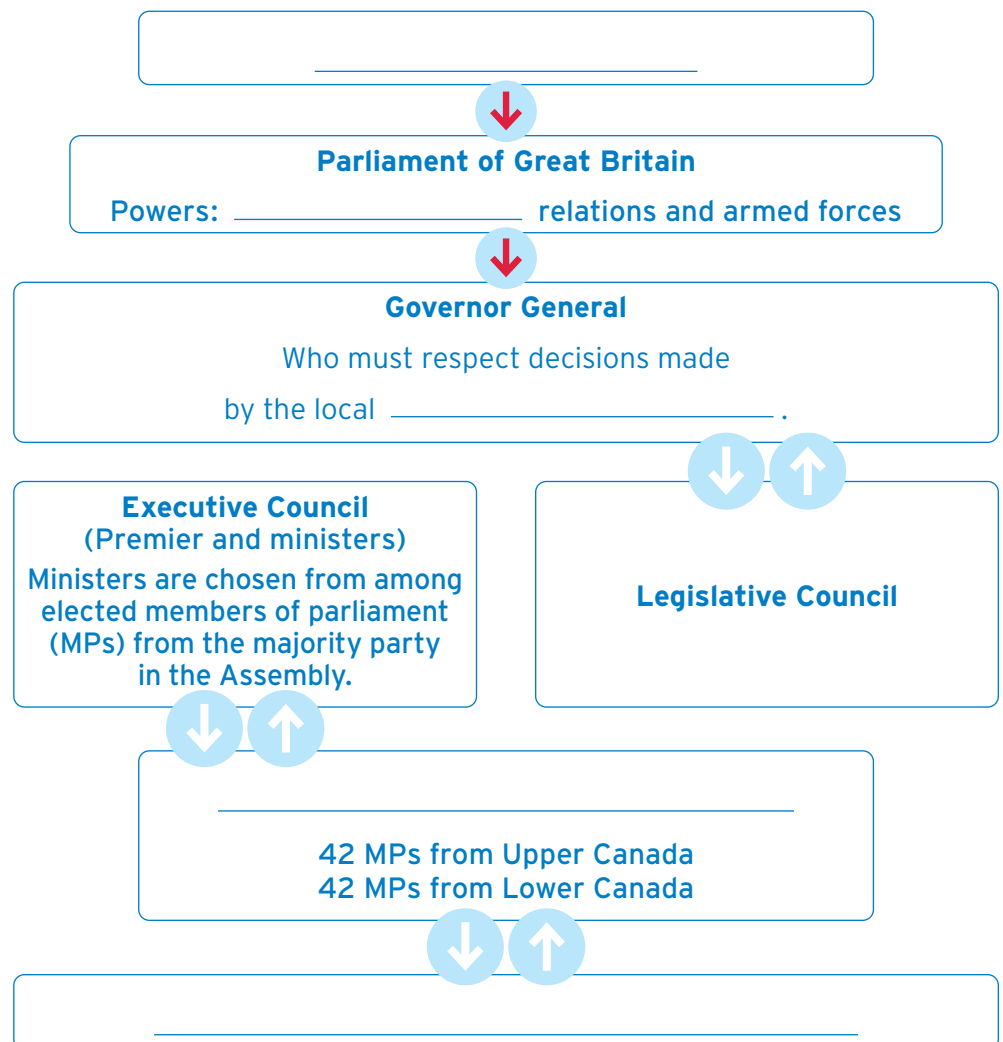
**Circle** the arrows that indicate the direction of power.

Choose from the following terms

- Legislative Assembly
- Electorate
- Parliament
- Queen Victoria
- international

In Great Britain

In the Province of Canada



## ACTIVITY 7 Destruction of the Parliament Building in Montréal – 1849

January 29, 1849. **La Fontaine** introduces a motion to the Assembly to create a committee to “take into consideration the necessity of establishing the **amount of losses** incurred by certain inhabitants in Lower Canada during the political troubles of 1837 and 1838, and of providing for the payment thereof.” This motion was not unanimously supported and was postponed several times. Tory supporters opposed it, fearing that by indemnifying citizens who had incurred losses, they would also be paying people who had taken part in the rebellions or were rebel sympathizers.

March 9, 1849, the Assembly passed the *Act to provide for the Indemnification of Parties in Lower Canada whose Property was destroyed during the Rebellion* in the years 1837 and 1838, also known as the Rebellion Losses Bill, by a vote of 47 to 18. The Assembly authorized an expenditure of £90,000. The bill was given **royal assent** by **Governor General Elgin** on **April 25, 1849**.

What is **royal assent**?

A legal or official approval and the final step in the process of passing a bill.



Remains of the Houses of Assembly at Montréal.  
Illustrated London News, N° 371, Vol. XIV, 1849, p. 320.

© Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Archaeology and History Complex, 2017.59

Many people expressed their opposition to potentially compensating the families of rebels, (or *Patriotes*), even though families in Upper Canada had already been indemnified. For English Canadians, it was the straw that broke the camel's back. Since the *Act of Union*, English Canadians, especially those from wealthier families, were seeing their privileges decline, sometimes in favour of French Canadians. After the passage of controversial bills such as the restoration of French as an official language of the Assembly, the *Montréal Gazette* encouraged citizens to protest the bill.

At 8 p.m., a crowd gathered at Champs de Mars and, at around 9 p.m., marched to the Parliament Building just as Lord Elgin was leaving. The Governor General was confronted by over 1,500 people, including many members of the English-speaking business community. A dozen rioters entered the building and began to ransack the interior. A fire broke out and spread quickly. The rioters blocked firefighters from dowsing the fire. Fortunately, no one was killed, but the building was completely destroyed.



© Collection Pointe-à-Callière, 2017.07

Franked letter, April 16, 1849.

Written in Montréal, mailed on April 17, and received in London on April 29 or 30, stamped with the Legislative Assembly seal.

Use this excerpt of an article from the *Montréal Gazette* to study this major historical event.

**FRENCH TRANSLATION**

Le **bilan des pertes** est la honte éternelle de la Grande-Bretagne. La rébellion est la loi du sol. Anglo-Saxons, vous devez vivre pour l'avenir; votre sang et votre race seront désormais votre loi suprême, si vous êtes [fidèles] à vous-mêmes. Vous serez anglais, dussiez-vous n'être plus britanniques. Dans le langage de Guillaume IV, le Canada est perdu et livré. La foule doit **s'assembler sur la place d'Armes ce soir à huit heures**. Au combat, c'est le moment<sup>1</sup>.

**ORIGINAL VERSION**

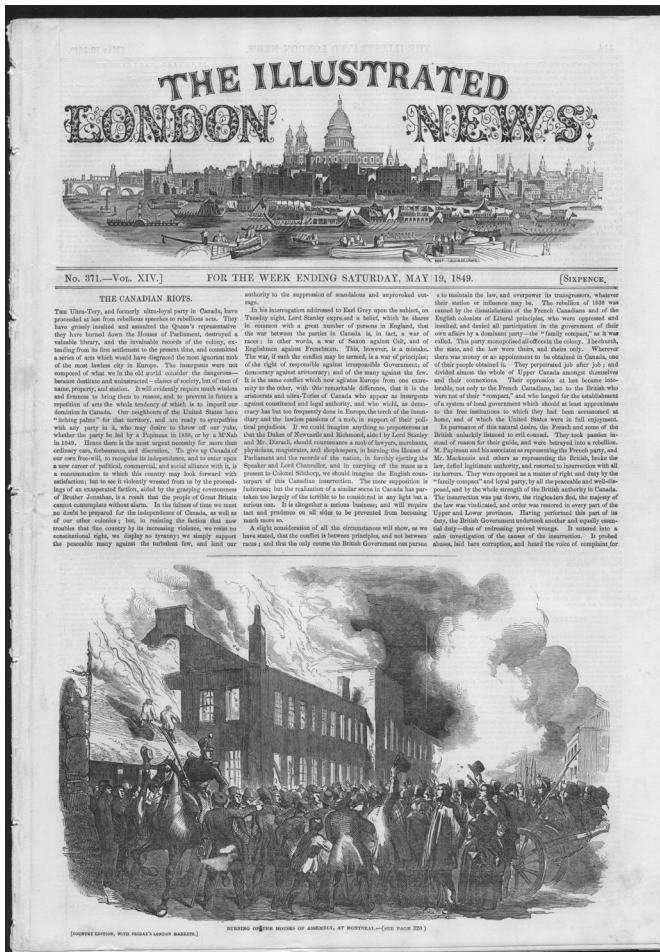
The Rebellion Losses Bill! And to the eternal and damnable disgrace of Great Britain, Rebellion is the Law of the Land! The End has begun. [...]

Anglo-Saxons! you must live for the future. Your blood and race will now be supreme, if true to yourselves. You will be English "at the expense of not being British." To whom and what, is your allegiance now? Answer each man for himself. [...]

In the language of William the Fourth, "Canada is lost, and given away."

A Mass Meeting will be held on the Place d'Armes this evening at 8 o'clock. Anglo-Saxons to the struggle, now is your time<sup>2</sup>.

The *Montréal Gazette*, special edition, April 25, 1849



© Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Archaeology and History Complex, 2011.60

The *Illustrated London News*, No 371, vol XIV, p.313 à 328.

English-language newspaper featuring an illustrated article, dated May 19, 1849, describing the events surrounding the burning down of the Parliament Building.

1. <https://histoire-du-quebec.ca/incendie-parlement-1849/>
2. [https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The\\_Disgrace\\_of\\_Great\\_Britain\\_accomplished!?match=fr](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The_Disgrace_of_Great_Britain_accomplished!?match=fr)

## April 25, 1849, Montréal, Québec

① What **incited** the protesters to meet and protest here?

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② What were the **reasons** for the crowd's displeasure?

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③ What were the **consequences** of this historical event?

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④ **What do you think?** Does it anger you or are you indifferent? Why?

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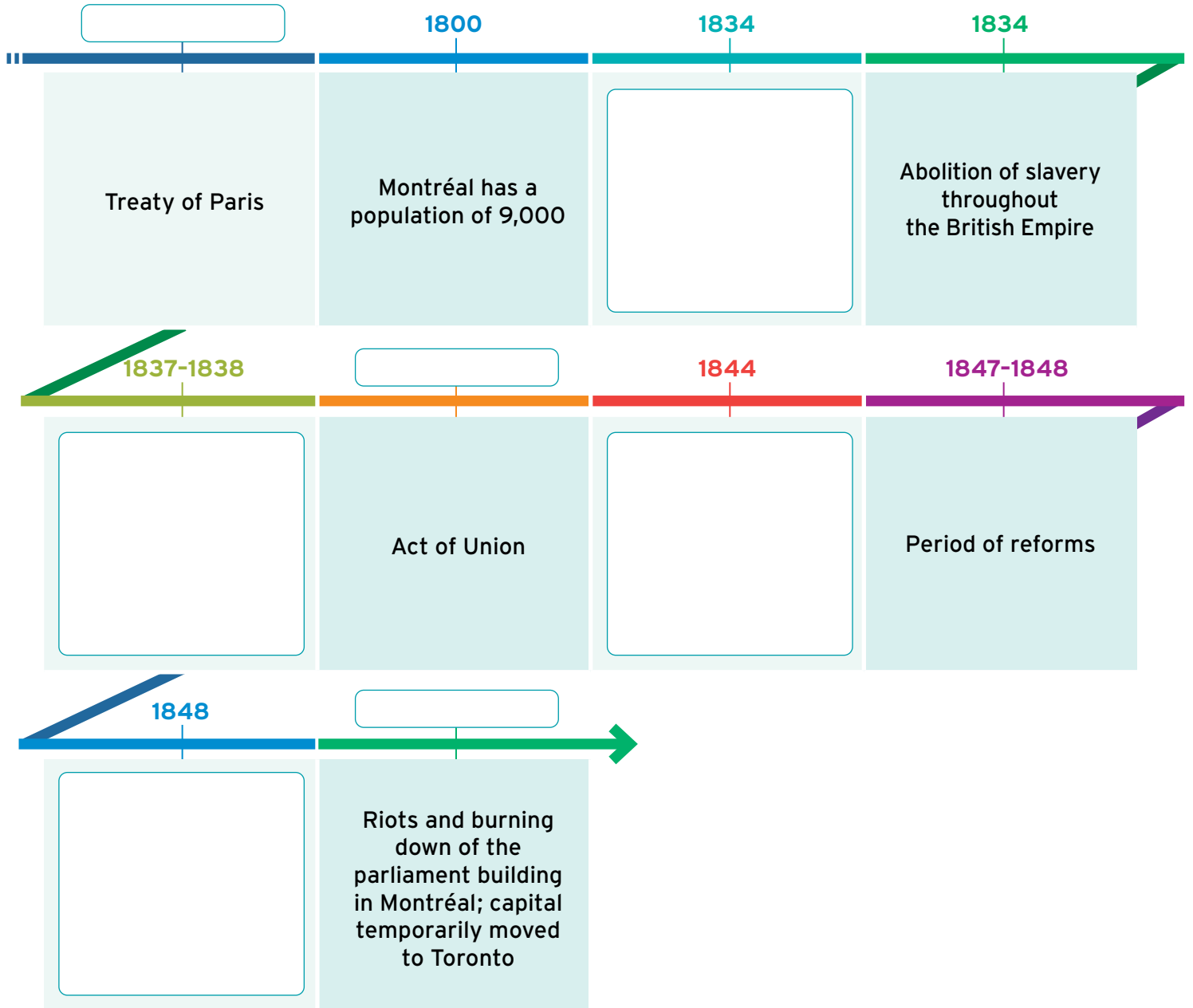
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The fire of April 25, 1849 had dramatic consequences. **Montréal lost its status as capital city.** The Parliament moved to Toronto. Some good did come out of the fire, however. Through archaeological excavations, we have discovered thousands of objects related to parliamentary life and the history of this period—objects that were preserved in the ashes until the present day.

**ACTIVITY 8 Conclusion**

History is full of dramatic events and surprising developments. A knowledge of history helps us better understand the causes and effects of events taking place today. Complete this timeline to review the dates and important events you have explored in this workbook.



**SOURCES*****Page 7, table of political figures***

Queen Victoria, John Partridge

© House of Commons Collection, Ottawa, Canada.

Théophile Hamel

Sir Louis-Hippolyte LaFontaine, 1848

Oil on canvas, 76.7 X 61.5 cm

Musée national des beaux-arts de Québec  
collection, purchase, 1979.115

Photo: MNBAQ, Idra Labrie

Robert Baldwin

Library and Archives Canada/National Archives  
of Canada Print collection/c010671k

James Bruce, The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine  
Library and Archives Canada/James Bruce,  
Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, and family fonds/  
c000291

Sir Allan Napier McNab, Library and Archives  
Canada/c005317k

***Page 8, table of artifacts***

Fragments of burned books excavated  
from the parliament dig site

Photo: Julie Toupin 2020, Creative Commons 4.0  
(BY-NC-ND)

Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Archaeology  
and History Complex

Ville de Montréal archaeological collection

Pair of eyeglasses

Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Archaeology  
and History Complex

Ville de Montréal archaeological collection

BjFj-4.276 / Photo: François Gignac

Ink pot

© Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Archaeology  
and History Complex

Ville de Montréal collections, BjFj-4.1001

Photo: François Gignac

Seal

© Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Archaeology  
and History Complex

Ville de Montréal collections, BjFj-4.700

Photo: Paul Litherland



Sir Charles Metcalfe opening Parliament  
© Library and Archives Canada/  
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## TEACHER INFORMATION

# Montréal, Capital of the Province of Canada, 1844-1849

From 2010 to 2017, Pointe-à-Callière conducted archaeological digs at **Place D'Youville** not far from the **museum** in Old Montréal. It was one of the largest urban archaeological sites in Canada of the decade, and a highly fruitful one, unearthing some 350,000 historical artifacts. As a result, we can now journey through an eventful period of Canada's history—a time of reform and great change that gave rise to Canadian democracy.

### HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Montréal, 1840. The Port of Montréal has already been expanded once. The railroad system is growing, and the city is becoming a hub of international trade, primarily for wood and grain. After the British government abolishes the Corn Laws in 1846, a new form of economic policy emerges to replace the more protectionist system of mercantilism: free trade. 1840 was also the year the Act of Union was passed. This teaching resource explores the parliament building in Montréal, which was initially built as a public market and then adapted to accommodate parliamentary work and debates. It also covers the fraught political and social context of this period.

### ABOUT THIS TEACHING RESOURCE

Produced by Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Archaeology and History Complex, this resource will immerse your students into 19th-century Montréal. They will examine artifacts, images, and texts from the period to learn about the archaeological site of the St. Anne's market/parliament building of the Province of Canada and the historical events of national importance that took place there.

We recommend using the student workbook in class (either printed or with an interactive whiteboard). The activities can be used as either a

primer for diving into this historical period or to recap, and they can be done either individually or in groups. Feel free to review the answers with the entire class and take the opportunity to engage in further discussion about Canadian democracy.

This resource includes the “correct” answers to the questions. However, students are occasionally asked to give their opinions and think about their answers, so responses may vary. Enjoy your exploration!

### MAIN PURPOSE OF RESOURCE

To better understand the political and historical context that resulted in Montréal's designation as the capital of the Province of Canada for a time.

### METHODOLOGICAL GOALS

Take a historical approach, analyze artifacts and images, and reflect on the causes and consequences of historical events.

### MATERIALS REQUIRED

Student workbook

### SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Computer or tablet to conduct online research, history textbook

**Archaeological and historical message:** The St. Anne's Market building was converted into the seat of the Parliament of the Province of Canada. At the time, it was Montréal's most modern and prestigious building.

**Message for the secondary IV History of Québec and Canadian course:** Ministerial responsibility was the first step along the way to creating Canadian democracy.

### GENERAL PEDAGOGICAL OBJECTIVES

- Provide a background of 19th-century Montréal: historical events and political debates.
- Position oneself on a historical timeline.
- Examine social phenomena from a historical perspective.

### TARGETED LEARNING OUTCOMES FROM THE QUÉBEC EDUCATION PROGRAM

#### SUBJECT AREAS

- Social sciences
  - Characterize a period in the history of Québec and Canada
  - Interpret a social phenomenon
  - Situate facts in time and space
  - Consider different interpretations • Interpret causes, changes, consequences, contexts, continuities, differences, facts, and similarities
  - Specific concepts related to social periods/ phenomena

#### BROAD AREAS OF LEARNING

- Media literacy: understand the role and influence of media in one's daily life and in society, today and in the past.

### GETTING STARTED

For an introduction to the topic, we suggest you watch this video produced by par Pointe-à-Callière.

[Click on this link to view the video.](#)

Duration: 3:34

You might also want to take in the podcast below. We suggest that you prepare a sheet of questions to answer while the students listen.

Podcast produced by Pointe-à-Callière.

[Click on this link to listen to the podcast.](#)

Duration: 23:20 (in French only)



Here are the answers to the questions from the student workbook, along with extra information to supplement the answers and explore the topic more thoroughly.



## ACTIVITY 1 Anatomy of a dig site, p. 1



Sir Charles Metcalfe opening Parliament  
© Library and Archives Canada/  
C000355k

© Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Archaeology and History Complex, Ville de Montréal archaeological collection, BFF-4700 Photo: Paul Litherland

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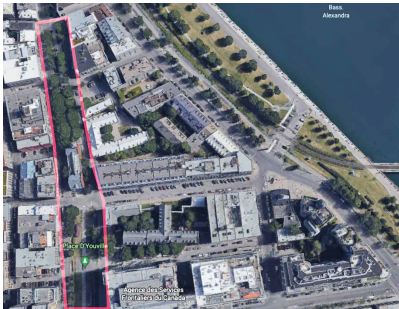
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## REVEALING REMAINS

From **2010 to 2017**, archaeologists excavated remnants dating from 1834 to 1849, a tumultuous period in the history of Montréal and Canada. What are these remnants? The walls of a building measuring 104 metres long, with foundations extending up to 5 metres into the ground, and over 350,000 **artifacts** and **ecofacts**.



© Images ©2021 Google Earth

Place D'Youville is located in Old Montréal, near Pointe-à-Callière.



Photo: Alain Vandal, © Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Archaeology and History Complex

Archaeologists working on the dig site at Place D'Youville.



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## ACTIVITY 2 St. Anne's Market – 1834-1844, p. 2



## STUDENT WORKSHEETS



Images of Montréal, Canadian Metropolis 1872-1898  
© Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Archaeology and History Complex



© National Gallery of Canada, 28066

St. Anne's Market, Montréal

*L'Opinion publique*, a weekly newspaper published in Montréal from 1870 to 1883

The House of Assembly, Montréal, circa 1848, by James Duncan, National Gallery of Canada

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Immerse yourself in the historical events that took place in this majestic building.

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- The grocery store
- The mercery
- The public market

Opened in 1834, **St. Anne's Market** was a place where local farmers and producers could sell their wares. It was the largest, most modern, and certainly the most prestigious building in Montréal of the day.

Did you know that there were farms on the Island of Montréal at that time?



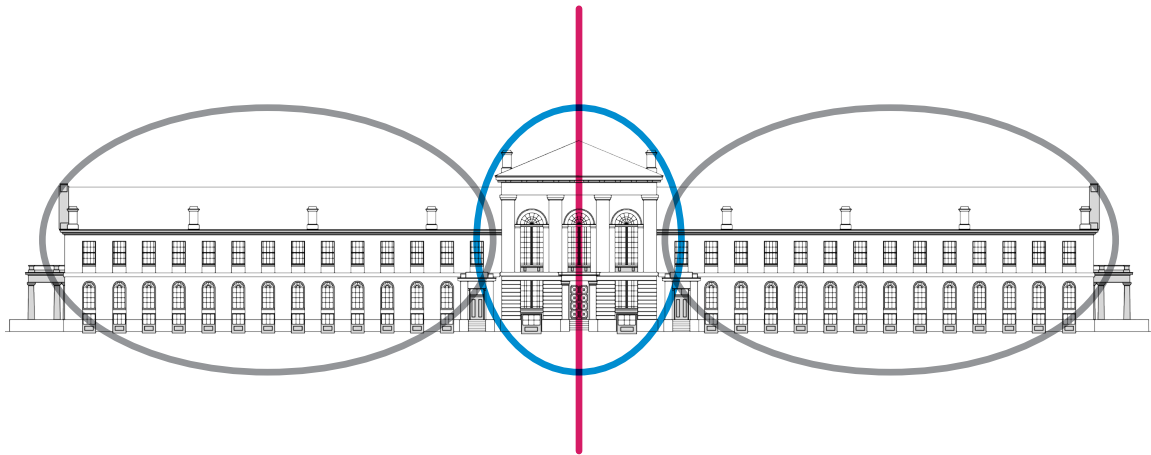
## ACTIVITY 2 St. Anne's Market – 1834-1844, p. 3



## STUDENT WORKSHEETS

**St. Anne's Market** consisted of a central section flanked by two symmetrical wings ending in columned porticoes.

- ② Circle the central section in blue and the wings in black. Draw a vertical line to show the building's symmetry.



This type of architecture was once reserved for buildings of great importance. But starting in the 1820s, it was used for certain public buildings in North America, including indoor markets. Designed by architects John Wells and Francis Thompson, St. Anne's Market was inspired by Covent Garden Market in London, England, and Quincy Market in Boston. It was the **largest public building** in Montréal and the city's **first indoor market**.

St. Anne's Market was more than just a commercial space. Montrealers gathered there to meet and share news, attend concerts and dances in its various rooms, and mark important events. For instance, On August 1, 1834, citizens gathered there to celebrate the *Slavery Abolition Act's* coming into effect. It was an important part of 19th-century Montrealers' everyday lives.



Quincy Public Market, Source: Boston Public Library

© Boston Public Library

### ACTIVITY 3 The political environment of the Province of Canada – 1837-1840, p. 4



#### STUDENT WORKSHEETS

### ACTIVITY 3 The political environment of the Province of Canada – 1837-1840

From 1837 to 1840, several events led to social tensions in Upper Canada (today Ontario) and Lower Canada (today Québec).



**The Battle of Saint-Eustache**

*Back View Church of St. Eustache and Dispersion of the Insurgents.* Artist: Lord Charles Beauclerk, December 14, 1837. In *Lithographic Views of Military Operations in Canada*. A. Flint: London, 1840. Beauclerk, Charles; Hartnell, Nathaniel. Photograph: Luc Bouvrette

1 Which of the events below is illustrated here?

The coronation of Queen Victoria

The Louisiana Purchase

The American Revolution

The Act of Union

Passage of a law compensating the families of rebels (Patriotes)

The Rebellions of 1837-38

2 What were the causes of this historical event?

- The popularity of republican and liberal ideas
- The desire for change in government
- Agricultural crisis
- Riot in Montréal in 1832
- All of the above

What is **liberalism**?

Liberalism challenges the notion that the monarchy or the **monarch** (king or queen) **should hold all power**. It advocates the participation of all electors in political affairs and the division of power (legislative, executive, and judiciary).

What is **republicanism**?

Republicanism is a more radical form of liberalism.

## ACTIVITY 4 Durham Report – 1839, p. 5



POINTE-À-CALLIÈRE

## STUDENT WORKSHEETS

## ACTIVITY 4 Durham Report – 1839

Sent by the queen to govern and investigate the rebellions of the *Patriotes*, **Lord John George Lambton**, 1st Earl of **Durham**, proposed several controversial ideas, including the union of Lower and Upper Canada into a single British province called the Province of Canada, along with the concept of “**responsible government**.”

What is **responsible government**?

It is a system under which representatives are elected by the people and are accountable to them rather than only to the monarch.

- ① What is the name of the new constitution passed by the queen and British parliament to put the proposals of Lord Durham into effect, and when did it come into effect?

Act of Union 1840

To achieve responsible government, **reformists** in Lower Canada, led by **Louis-Hippolyte La Fontaine**, united with reformists in Upper Canada, led by **Robert Baldwin**. This alliance would form the government in 1841. The principle of **responsible government** came into effect after the Union of Upper and Lower Canada. But it was only truly applied in **1848**, when James Bruce, the 8th Earl of Elgin, bowed to the will of the legislature.

- ② What is **Reformism**?

Search your history books and the Internet to explain what the **reformist** political movement meant at this time in Canada’s history.

Definition: **Reformism**

A political movement advocating institutional **reform**. For example, the reformists led by La Fontaine and Baldwin called for responsible government.

- ③ What was the name of the political movement that opposed the reformists. Circle the correct answer.

Victorian

Democrat

Tory

- ④ Use these two phrases to complete the following two sentences.

external affairs (army, international relations, international trade)

internal matters (taxation, income taxes, education)

Achieving responsible government gave the **colony greater autonomy** over internal matters (taxation, income taxes, education).

However, the **queen retained significant power** over external affairs (army, international relations, international trade).

## ACTIVITY 5 The Parliament in Montréal – 1844-1849, p. 6



POINTE-À-CALLIÈRE

## STUDENT WORKSHEETS

## ACTIVITY 5 The Parliament in Montréal – 1844-1849

**1843.** The parliament in Kingston, Upper Canada (Ontario today) moves to Montréal. The following year, **Montréal** thus becomes the **capital** of the Province of Canada.

- 1 Why did this move happen? Circle the correct answer.
- a) Because Montréal was farther from the U.S. border than Kingston, and the Parliament would be better protected in case of a conflict.
  - b) Because there was no suitable parliament building for the parliamentarians.
  - c) Because there was a lack of lodging (hotels, boarding houses, etc.) in Kingston.
  - d) Because Montréal was the most prosperous city at the time.
  - e) All of the above.**



3D model of the parliament building, 1844-1849



*The House of Assembly, Montréal*  
(fr : Chambre de l'Assemblée législative, Montréal)  
James Duncan, vers 1848

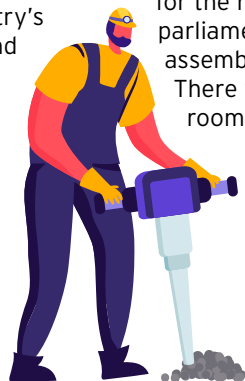
**Parliament** or **parliament**?

When referring to a specific parliamentary institution, buildings, or parliamentarian (e.g., Parliament of Canada; Jill Smith, Member of Parliament), use a capital p. In more general contexts, use a lower-case p (e.g., When visiting the country's parliament building... Both federal and provincial parliaments...)

The St. Anne's Market building was chosen to house the **Parliament of the Province of Canada** because of its modern character. Architect George William Richardson Browne was given the job of converting

the interior. The changes made were both functional and aesthetic.

A historical document outlined the specific needs for the number and type of rooms required for a parliament building. For example, the legislative assembly hall had to be 15 metres by 30 metres. There were also some 20 rooms for committee rooms and staff, two libraries, a smoking room, a salon, a conference room, and a room for journalists. All of this was being set up on the site in Montréal.



## ACTIVITY 5 The Parliament in Montréal – 1844-1849, p. 7



## STUDENT WORKSHEETS

## Who wrote, debated, amended, and voted on legislation?

- ② The elected members of parliament had a duty to defend the public interest. Who were these politicians? Match the following names with the portraits. For each person, write their title or position and their political movement.

## NAMES

Robert Baldwin

Victoria

Louis-Hippolyte La Fontaine

James Bruce,  
8th Earl of ElginSir Allan  
Napier MacNab

## POLITICAL MOVEMENT

Reformist

Tory

Monarchist

## TITLE OR POSITION






Co-leader of Canada's "responsible government", 1848 to 1851

Lord and Governor General of the Province of Canada, 1847 to 1854

Canadian politician and Premier of the Province of Canada, 1854 to 1856

Co-leader of Canada's "responsible government", 1848 to 1851

Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland from 1837 and, starting July 1, 1967, Queen of Canada

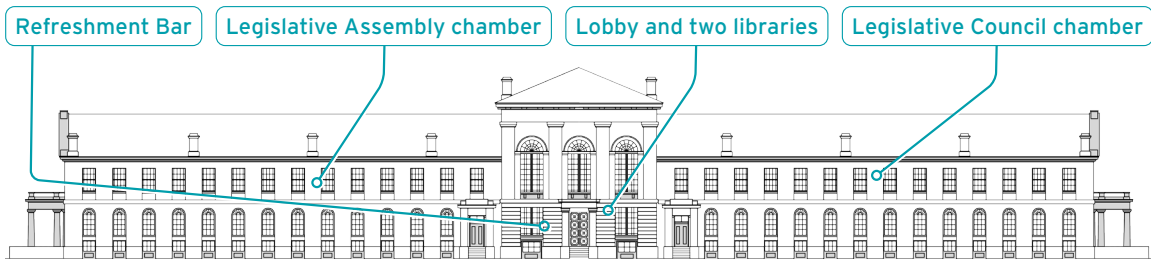
|   | NAME                           | POLITICAL MOVEMENT | TITLE OR POSITION  |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------|--|
|  | Victoria                       | Monarchist         | Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland from 1837 and, starting July 1, 1967, Queen of Canada |
|  | Louis-Hippolyte La Fontaine    | Reformist          | Co-leader of Canada's "responsible government", 1848 to 1851   |
|  | Robert Baldwin                 | Reformist          | Co-leader of Canada's "responsible government", 1848 to 1851   |
|  | James Bruce, 8th Earl of Elgin | Reformist          | Lord and Governor General of the Province of Canada, 1847 to 1854  |
|  | Sir Allan Napier MacNab        | Tory               | Canadian politician and Premier of the Province of Canada, 1854 to 1856  |

**ACTIVITY 5** The Parliament in Montréal – 1844-1849, p. 8

**STUDENT WORKSHEETS**
**Archaeological research – Unearthing parliament**

- 3 Do research to identify the various rooms of the building and their functions. Here is an illustration of the building and some of the artifacts discovered at the archaeological site. In the table below, write the name of each room, the artifacts discovered, and the function of the room or the object.

Choose from among the following rooms



Choose from among the following objects

Eyeglasses    Burned books    Inkpot    Seal

*Hint: an object may have been used in more than one room and may have several different functions.*

| ROOM  | ARTIFACT  | NAME       | DESCRIPTION (MATERIALS)  | PROBABLE USE OF OBJECT AND FUNCTION OF ROOM  |
|---|---|------------|--|--|
| Libraries   |  | Books      | Burned book or sheaf of papers. Stabilized and restored between 2013 and 2017.                                   | A parliament usually has a library.  |
| Libraries<br>Legislative Assembly chamber and Legislative Council chamber |  | Eyeglasses | Small pair of oval eyeglasses with copper alloy frames. A portion of one temple and its hinge is still attached. | For reading. Used to improve vision and magnify small characters.  |
| Legislative Assembly chamber and Legislative Council chamber              |  | Inkpot     | Small cylindrical inkpot. Apparently altered by heat.  | Printing existed at this time, but typewriters had not yet been invented. To write, you had to dip a quill tip in ink. |
| Legislative Assembly chamber and Legislative Council chamber              |  | Seal       | Oval in shape and bearing the reverse relief inscription "ASSEMBLY / LEGISLATIVE" around "CANADA" in the middle. | The seal was also used as a postal service stamp.  |



**ACTIVITY 5** The Parliament in Montréal – 1844-1849, p. 8 (additional notes)

| NAME       | DESCRIPTION (MATERIALS)  | PROBABLE USE OF OBJECT AND FUNCTION OF ROOM   |
|------------|--|---|
| Books      | Burned book or sheaf of papers. Stabilized and restored between 2013 and 2017.   | <p>A parliament usually has a library. The parliament in Montréal had two: one for the Assembly and one for the Council. Between them, the libraries held 22,000 volumes, including a collection of old books, some of which dated back to the New France era.</p> <p>Parliamentarians referred to these works before voting on legislation.</p> <p>The libraries were also a mark of prestige and prosperity. Gathering so much human knowledge together in one place, including literary works and encyclopedias, was a major accomplishment.</p> <p>On the day of the fire, only 200 volumes were saved from the flames. During the digs, archaeologists found 76 clusters of books, which have been restored.</p> <p>Outstanding discoveries!</p> |
| Eyeglasses | Small pair of oval eyeglasses with copper alloy frames. A portion of one temple and its hinge is still attached.   | <p>For reading. Used to improve vision and magnify small characters. A parliamentarian had to browse through many legal documents.</p> <p>Many documents at the time were in manuscript form, and good vision was essential in order to make out the text.</p>  |
| Inkpot     | Small cylindrical inkpot. Apparently altered by heat.  | <p>Printing existed at this time, but typewriters had not yet been invented. To write, you had to dip a quill tip in ink.</p> <p>Since parliamentarians debated and voted on legislation, writing and translation were vital activities.</p> <p>Most of the parliamentary secretarial work was done by a team of writers, translators, clerks, and other staff.</p>   |
| Seal       | <p>Oval in shape and bearing the reverse relief inscription "ASSEMBLY / LEGISLATIVE" around "CANADA" in the middle.</p> <p>Ink seal or stamp. On the other side is the attachment stem for the handle.</p> | <p>At the time, communication was in written form and sent by mail.</p> <p>This seal was used to formalize and certify documents produced at the Legislative Assembly before they were sent to London.</p> <p>The seal was also used as a postal service stamp. Parliamentarians had "franking privilege," meaning that they could send mail without paying a postal fee.</p>   |

## ACTIVITY 6 Responsible government – 1848, p. 9



POINTE-À-CALLIÈRE

## STUDENT WORKSHEETS

## ACTIVITY 6 Responsible government – 1848

**The Parliament in Montréal** bore witness to a major event in Canadian history. In 1848, the La Fontaine-Baldwin ministry was recognized as a **“responsible government”**. Having local autonomy within the British Empire was a significant move away from the old colonial political regime and toward the birth of a modern liberal state.

Many reforms moved forward. Numerous important bills were passed, including:

- The *Rebellion Losses Bill* (also known as the Act to provide for the Indemnification of Parties in Lower Canada whose Property was destroyed during the Rebellion in the years 1837 and 1838)

The passage of the Rebellion Losses Bill led to a series of events with historical consequences.

- 1 What makes a “responsible government”? In the new responsible government, the powers and management of the Province of Canada were handled differently.

**Complete** this organizational chart by adding the missing names and terms.

**Circle** the arrows that indicate the direction of power.

Choose from the following terms

Legislative Assembly

Electorate

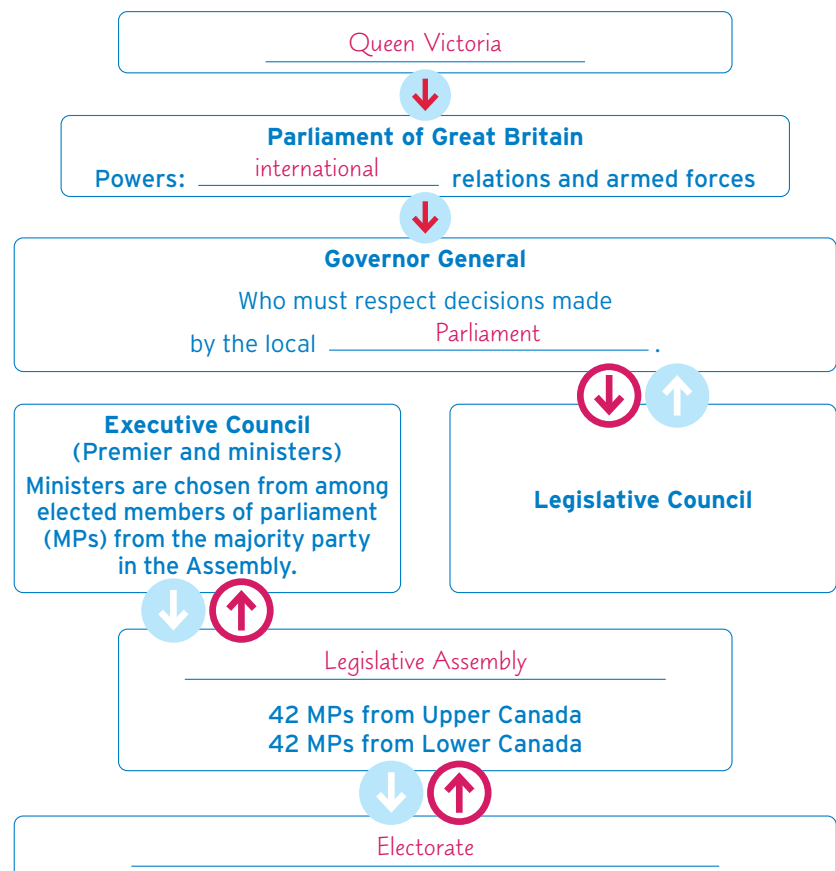
Parliament

Queen Victoria

international

In Great Britain

In the Province of Canada



## ACTIVITY 7 Destruction of the parliament building in Montréal – 1849, p. 12



POINTE-À-CALLIÈRE

## STUDENT WORKSHEETS

## April 25, 1849, Montréal, Québec

- 1 What **incited** the protesters to meet and protest here?

The passage of controversial bills such as the return of French as an official language of Parliament, compensation for the victims of the 1837–1838 rebellions in Lower Canada, and the loss of privileges for the merchant class and Tory middle class, who saw in these acts a threat to their English identity. The media also played an important role, in particular, an article from the editor-in-chief of the *Montréal Gazette*.

- 2 What were the **reasons** for the crowd's displeasure?

Merchants and the Tory middle class opposed free trade because it meant the loss of preferential grain prices. They also opposed compensation for citizens who had suffered losses to property during the rebellions. They felt that this might also indemnify those who took part in the rebellions or who were rebellion sympathizers.

- 3 What were the **consequences** of this historical event?

The loss of Montréal's status as capital city (which moved to Toronto and Québec City, in alternation).  
Uncertainty and distrust between Tories and Reformers.  
Several rioters injured.  
Loss of an important building and its contents, including the valuable libraries and archives.

- 4 **What do you think?** Does it anger you or are you indifferent? Why?

Personal answer.

The fire of April 25, 1849 had dramatic consequences. **Montréal lost its status as capital city.** The Parliament moved to Toronto. Some good did come out of the fire, however. Through archaeological excavations, we have discovered thousands of objects related to parliamentary life and the history of this period—objects that were preserved in the ashes until the present day.

## ACTIVITY 8 Conclusion, p. 13

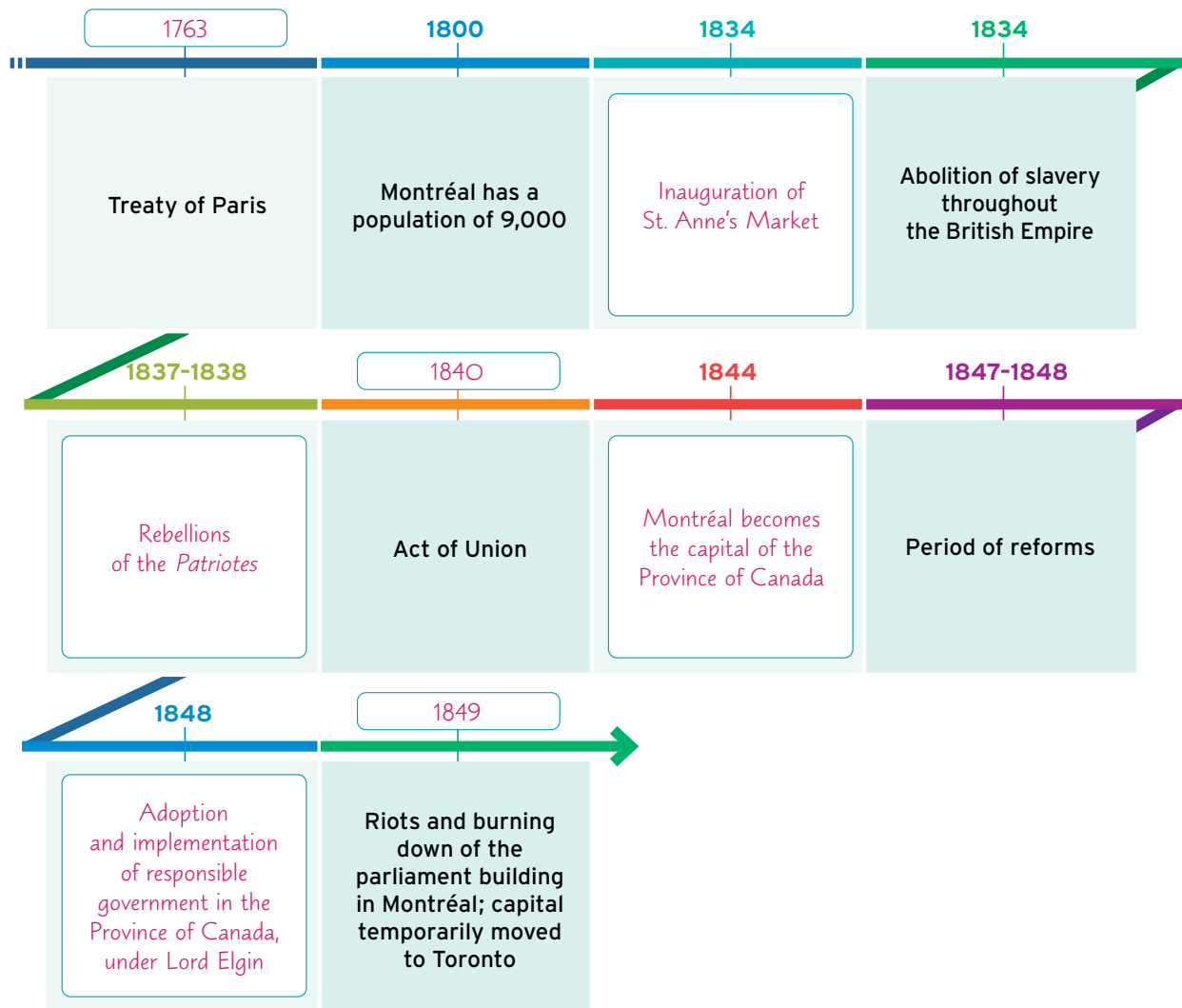


POINTE-À-CALLIÈRE

STUDENT WORKSHEETS

## ACTIVITY 8 Conclusion

History is full of dramatic events and surprising developments. A knowledge of history helps us better understand the causes and effects of events taking place today. Complete this timeline to review the dates and important events you have explored in this workbook.



**Thank you** for taking this trip to the 19th century to relive an important period in Canada's history. The entire **Pointe-à-Callière** team wishes you many other equally fascinating voyages to other periods.

**SOURCES*****Page 7, table of political figures***

Queen Victoria, John Partridge

© House of Commons Collection, Ottawa, Canada.

Théophile Hamel

Sir Louis-Hippolyte LaFontaine, 1848

Oil on canvas, 76.7 X 61.5 cm

Musée national des beaux-arts de Québec  
collection, purchase, 1979.115

Photo: MNBAQ, Idra Labrie

Robert Baldwin

Library and Archives Canada/National Archives  
of Canada Print collection/c010671k

James Bruce, The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine  
Library and Archives Canada/James Bruce,  
Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, and family fonds/  
c000291

Sir Allan Napier McNab, Library and Archives  
Canada/c005317k

***Page 8, table of artifacts***

Fragments of burned books excavated  
from the parliament dig site

Photo: Julie Toupin 2020, Creative Commons 4.0  
(BY-NC-ND)

Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Archaeology  
and History Complex

Ville de Montréal archaeological collection

Pair of eyeglasses

Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Archaeology  
and History Complex

Ville de Montréal archaeological collection

BjFj-4.276 / Photo: François Gignac

Ink pot

© Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Archaeology  
and History Complex

Ville de Montréal collections, BjFj-4.1001

Photo: François Gignac

Seal

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and History Complex

Ville de Montréal collections, BjFj-4.700

Photo: Paul Litherland