

The Birth of a Country

Pre-Viewing Activity

Define:

The Great Coalition –

Character	Position/Role
John A. MacDonald	Lawyer and career politician, member of the Liberal-Conservative party, Father of Confederation. First prime minister of Canada. Intensely disliked George Brown
George-Etienne Cartier	Powerful French-Canadian politician, leader of the Parti Bleu, Father of Confederation. Close friend and confidant of John A. Macdonald.
George Brown	Journalist and publisher, career politician, member of the Clear Grit party. Loathed John A. but agreed to John A.'s compromise to ensure the success of Confederation.
Anne Nelson	Wife of George Brown. Helped change his attitude towards French Canadians, which ultimately lead to his desire for Confederation.
Antoine-Aime Dorian	Lawyer and French-Canadian politician, member of the Parti Rouge. Briefly copremier of the Province of Canada with George Brown, and then again with John Sandfield Macdonald. Refused to support the Great Coalition government and opposed Confederation.
Isabella Clark	John A. Macdonald's first wife, became chronically ill during the second year of the couple's marriage

Activity

1. Take a few minutes to think about and record the three most significant historical events that have happened in your lifetime. Work on your list by yourself, and explain why you selected each event below.

Historically Significant Events in my Lifetime
Event #1:
Reason:
Event #2:
Reason:
Event #3:
Reason:

2. Compare your answers with a classmate or two. Make notes in response to the following:
 - a. how many significant events did you have in common?
 - b. How do you account for the differences?
3. Spend some time discussion the events, and select three events you both (or all) feel were the most significant. Be prepared to share you final selection with your teacher and classmates.

When historians seek to determine whether something is historically significant they using consider a number of criteria. This criteria usually includes the following:

1. Did the event or person result in change? (This includes how people were affected the event or person, how many people's lives were affected, and how long the changes lasted.)
2. How does this event or person help us understand the past?
3. How does this event or person shed light on issues or problems that concern us?

➤ **What is confederation? Does it fit all three of these criteria? Explain.**