

The LOXLEYS and **CONFEDERATION**

STUDY GUIDE



RENEGADE
ARTS ENTERTAINMENT

This study guide is designed to be used with **The Loxleys and Confederation** graphic novel, written by Mark Zuehlke, Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair & Alexander Finbow. Art by Claude St. Aubin and Christopher Chuckry.

Publisher: Renegade Arts Entertainment
Format: Hardcover. Full color. Pages: 104
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The Loxleys and Confederation is suitable for students aged 12 to 19. Its educational focus corresponds best with Canadian History 12 courses, which include Confederation in their curriculum guidelines. Lillian's diary entries provide further reading and insight into the events of Confederation suitable for this age range.

Overview

The Loxleys and Confederation is a story about Canadian people and their struggle for a national identity. The story is told through the eyes of Lillian Stock, the 15-year-old granddaughter of George Loxley, one of the heroes from *The Loxleys and the War of 1812*. Lillian's personal journey begins as the American Civil War rages and the colonies once again must defend against invasion by America. At the same time, confederation is being contemplated throughout Canada, prompting strong opinions from those who support and those who are opposed to confederation.

In 1864, Lillian is thrilled to be allowed to travel with her mother, Ruth, and grandfather, George, to the confederation conferences, where George will submit reports to the *Globe and Mail*. Their journey takes them to Charlottetown, Quebec City and London, where eventually the Dominion of Canada is finally declared in 1867. Lillian's story of the journey to that historic day and the events along the way brings the history of our nation to life.

Key Themes

Confederation, Indigenous Canadians, Racism, Reciprocity Treaty, Fathers of Confederation, Fenians, Nation building, Democratic Process.



Preview Activity

Small groups of students each research one of the historical events (below). The groups should present their information in chronological order, adding their historical event to a timeline and making connections and associations among the events.

Historical Events

- Charlottetown confederation Conference – September 1864
- Quebec City confederation Conference – October 1864
- London Confederation conference – December 1866 (British North America Act)
- Indian Island Fenian raid – April 1866
- Battle of Ridgeway – June 1866
- Confederation – July 1, 1867

Discussion Questions



1. Why does this graphic novel begin in 1534? What do these events have to do with confederation?
2. What were you most surprised to learn about the events leading to Confederation? Why?
3. Who were the Fenians? What were they trying to achieve? Was their goal ever realized?
4. What do you envision would have happened if Abraham Lincoln had not been assassinated?
5. What was the Reciprocity Treaty? Why was it important?
6. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of Confederation as they were seen at the time.
7. What would the next graphic novel in the Loxleys series be about if you were the author and what would the title be?

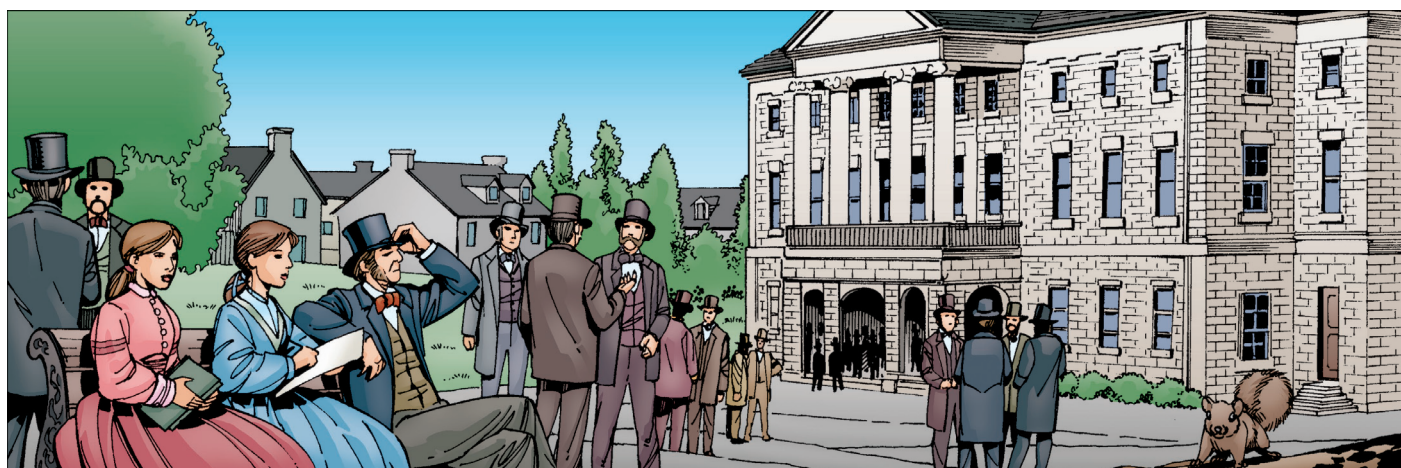
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Suggested activities

The suggested activities could be presented in a variety of ways, connecting to Art, Music/Drama, Technology, Language Arts, presented as a poster, play, oral presentation or video.

1. Although they were not given a voice at the confederation conferences, Canada's indigenous people were greatly affected by Confederation. Imagine you are the one Native Canadian who has been invited to speak to the Fathers of Confederation on behalf of your people. You have ten minutes allotted to speak. Include all relevant issues to your people and make those in charge understand the impact of their decisions.
2. Compare the technology of the time to present day. Compare the length of time it took to get news out, and the methods used to do so, as compared to today's technological advancements. Discuss how people formed opinions at the time, as compared to how people form opinions today (people then obtained their facts and information from each other and from the reported news, as compared to today's many ways of obtaining information. May include a discussion of how people, then and now, decide what is fact and what is opinion).

3. Research and become one of the Fathers of Confederation. Convince your opposition, in an oral presentation, to support confederation, addressing all of their possible concerns.
4. Create a movie trailer to be included as part of the teacher's guide to this graphic novel. Make it dynamic and entertaining, while including the pertinent facts as an overview.
5. Write (and illustrate if you wish) George Loxley's reports for the Globe and Mail on the confederation conferences in Charlottetown, Quebec City and London. Research the language of the day and use George's 'voice'.
6. Create a presentation for the Grade 5 class on Confederation, including the relevant details, simplifying the information. (Could be a play, a power point, an oral presentation that may or may not include illustration, etc).
7. Capture the time period (fashion, transportation, furnishings, language personal interaction). Create a presentation using music from that time period as a sound track.



Additional Resources:

Library and archives Canada information for Confederation:

<https://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/confederation/kids/023002-1020-e.html>

Parliament of Canada website's page on Confederation:

http://www.lop.parl.gc.ca/About/Parliament/Education/ourcountryourparliament/html_booklet/confederation-e.html

Further reading on the background to Confederation at the Canadian Encyclopedia:

<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/confederation/>

Information on Confederation at the history project website:

<http://www.canadahistoryproject.ca/1867/>

More about the creators of The Loxleys and Confederation:

<http://www.renegadeartsentertainment.com/confederation>