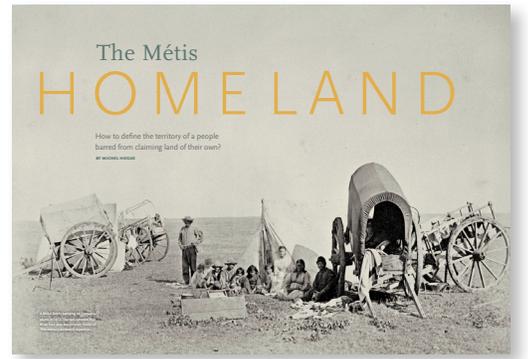


CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC IN THE CLASSROOM

Article 'The Métis Homeland'

Issue November/December 2017



Lesson Description/Outcomes

One of the first interactions between the Métis Nation and the newly formed Dominion of Canada federal government was during land surveys of Manitoba. Louis Riel took a stand — literally — for Métis land rights when he stood on the surveyors' chain, preventing them from further dividing the traditional lands into square mile sections. To appreciate the differences between these viewpoints, students will compare and contrast the permeable and fluid geography of the Métis traditional lifestyle with the rigid and defined British-Canadian sectional land charts.

Grade Levels:

7 and 8

Activity:

ACTIVATING (15-60 min – at teacher's discretion)

Have students watch the episode "From Sea to Sea" from *Canada: A People's History* (specifically, the section titled "If we are rebels..." beginning at 13:00) describing the meeting between the Canadian surveyors and the Métis led by Louis Riel. For access to the episode, check if your school/district/school board/local library are subscribers to curio.ca here (curio.ca/en/subscribers/).

Afterwards, as a class, discuss reasons why the meeting could be seen as a clash, including different practices concerning the following:

- lifestyles/economies
- legal systems
- language
- land use

ACQUIRING (60 min)

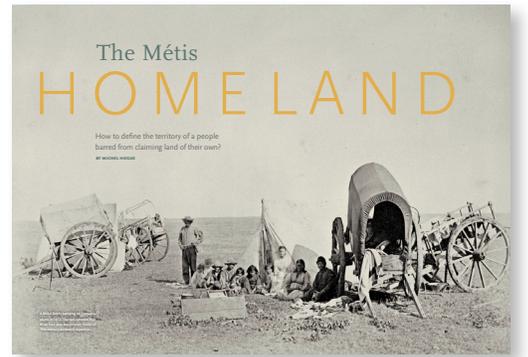
Post the following questions for reference: What is the purpose of these maps? Is the information clear? How could the maps be improved upon to better convey their intended meaning? How are they similar? How are they different?

Have students in groups of four read the following articles/websites, paying specific attention to the maps: "The Métis Homeland," "Toward a Métis homeland" (to appreciate Métis land use), "5.0 Settlement Groups" and "Township and Range Survey System" (to appreciate Anglo-Canadian land use). The articles/websites can be found in the Resource section at the end of this document.

CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC IN THE CLASSROOM

Article 'The Métis Homeland'

Issue November/December 2017



APPLYING (15 min)

Afterward, as a class, discuss the differences between the style of the Métis Homeland map found in “The Métis Homeland”/“Toward a Métis homeland” and the Township/Range map described in “5.0 Settlement Groups” and “Township and Range Survey System.” Consider the reasons and benefits of the different systems in regards to the following:

- navigation
- measurement
- activity/lifestyle

Review with students how to use the township and range survey coordinate system using the techniques described in the “Township and Range Survey System” online article. Ask students to practice using this system in pairs, with one student choosing a point on the grid and the other student determining the coordinates. After both students have had a turn, have them verify each other’s work.

ASSESSMENT/WRAP-UP (30 min)

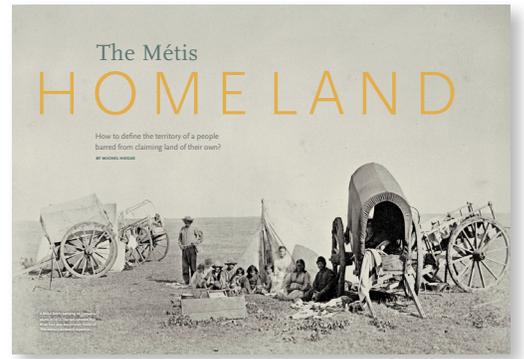
Print out and distribute the worksheet “Township and Range Practice” found under the Resources section, and allow students to identify the coordinates of points A-H.

Print out and distribute the map “1867 Canada” found under the Resources section, and have students shade in areas of Rupert’s Land according to areas occupied/used by the Métis, Dakota, Assiniboine, Ojibwa, and Cree peoples. Ask students to take a blank map of Canada (cangeoeducation.ca/resources/tiled_maps/docs/Education-Map.pdf) and to draw/shade in how they see those regions being occupied/used today. Who lives there? How do they use the space? Do they stay or live elsewhere? As a class, discuss the differences and similarities between their map of today and their shaded map from 1867. Have students reflect on the importance of territory for identity, livelihood, culture, survival, etc. What does territory mean to them? What if they did not have a space to call their own?

CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC IN THE CLASSROOM

Article 'The Métis Homeland'

Issue November/December 2017



Resources

- Article - "The Métis Homeland" by Michel Hogue. *Canadian Geographic*, Nov/Dec 2017
- Online Article - "Toward a Métis homeland" by Darren O'Toole. cangeo.ca/nd17/homeland
- Online Article - "The Mtis (sic) Resistance: The Capture of Fort Garry" from CBC's website *Canada: A People's History*. Available at website: cbc.ca/history/EPCONTENTSE1EP9CH2PA2LE.html
- Online Article - "Township and Range Survey System" from *Jacksonville State University Geography Dept.* Available at website: jsu.edu/dept/geography/mhill/phygeogone/trprac.html
- Video - "From Sea to Sea" Episode 9 of series *Canada: A People's History*. Available at website: curio.ca.libcat.merlin.mb.ca/en/video/from-sea-to-sea-1744/
- Map - "1867 Canada," *Library and Archives Canada*. Available at website: bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/politics-government/canadian-confederation/Pages/maps-1667-1999.aspx
- Map - "5.0 Settlement Groups," *Manitoba Historic Resources Branch: Internal Reports*. Available at website: gov.mb.ca/chc/hrb/internal_reports/pdfs/crow_wing_settlement_groups.pdf
- Worksheet - "Township and Range Practice" from *Jacksonville State University Geography Dept.* Available at website: jsu.edu/dept/geography/mhill/phygeogone/trf.html