A symbol is an object that most people recognize as representing a specific idea. The photos on these pages show symbols, such as the crown representing the monarchy, and a town named after a king. Remember that the Loyalists opposed the formation of the American republic and were loyal to the monarchy of England. When they created Upper Canada (later Ontario) in 1791, the Loyalists used symbols of the monarchy wherever they could, to show their devotion to the Crown. Many of these symbols survive today.
What You Will Learn in This Chapter

• Who were the Loyalists?
• When and why did they migrate to British North America, and to which regions?
• Where, when, and why did they settle in Upper Canada?
• How did they influence the future development of Lower and Upper Canada?

Inquiry questions help you to ask for further information, and help you to decide which information is important. In this way, they help with note-taking. They also give a purpose to, or reason for, reading.

Read the “What You Will Learn in This Chapter” inquiry questions, and try to answer them. Revisit the questions while you read this chapter, and see if you can answer them by the end. Use a two-column chart to take notes on each of the questions as you read. Remember to include page numbers and to put notes in your own words!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inquiry Questions</th>
<th>Answers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Québec (divided into Lower and Upper Canada after 1791) was not the only British colony in North America after the United States became independent. There were also Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and (after 1784) New Brunswick. Together with Québec, these colonies were often called **British North America**. Newfoundland, British Columbia, and territory south of the U.S. were also British colonies. But these were too far away to be thought of as being part of the group of colonies referred to as British North America.

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**Who Were the Loyalists?**

Québec (divided into Lower and Upper Canada after 1791) was not the only British colony in North America after the United States became independent. There were also Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and (after 1784) New Brunswick. Together with Québec, these colonies were often called **British North America**. Newfoundland, British Columbia, and territory south of the U.S. were also British colonies. But these were too far away to be thought of as being part of the group of colonies referred to as British North America.

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**Chart: The nations claiming parts of North America before 1791.**

- **Rupert’s Land**
- **Atlantic Ocean**
- **Québec**
- **United States of America**
- **Louisiana (Spain)**

The nations claiming parts of North America before 1791.

---

You already learned a little about the Loyalists when you encountered them in Chapter 4. The table below gives you a summary of some of the numbers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opposition to the American Revolution (approximate figures)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population of the Thirteen Colonies</td>
<td>2.5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage opposed to the Revolution</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number opposed to the Revolution</td>
<td>375 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Loyalists who left</td>
<td>100 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number who went to British North America</td>
<td>50 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**During READING**

**Checkpoint**

A chart helps us retrieve information easily by presenting it according to categories. In this chart, the second column shows the number that is associated with each item in the first column. Remember to scan the information. Why did the author make this information part of a table instead of part of the paragraph?
The Loyalists were a varied group. They had little in common except that they were opposed to the American Revolution. Consider some of the different groups among them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Merchants (store owners) and farmers</td>
<td>• abandoned property in the Thirteen Colonies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small landowners, former British soldiers,</td>
<td>• had little more than their clothing and some small possessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and people hoping for religious tolerance</td>
<td>• hoped to become richer in British North America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indentured servants</td>
<td>• under contract to work for a family for a number of years before becoming free people (refer to Chapter 2, page H 36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black slaves</td>
<td>• accompanied their Loyalist owners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Escaped Black slaves</td>
<td>• used the migration as a way of escaping from their owners and becoming free people</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Many Loyalists sacrificed their entire way of life to move to British North America. One of the most severe difficulties they encountered was isolation. One woman wrote about her arrival in Saint John, New Brunswick:

*I climbed to the top of Chipman’s Hill and watched the sails in the distance, and such a feeling of loneliness came over me that though I had not shed a tear through all the war, I sat down on the damp moss with my baby on my lap and cried bitterly.*

The Loyalists’ early years in their new home were difficult. But they received assistance from the Crown in resettling, and conditions improved for many of them. Their role in keeping British North America loyal to the Crown was highly valued. In 1789, the governor of Québec, Sir Guy Carleton (by now Lord Dorchester), issued an order to honour the Loyalists.
Those Loyalists who have adhered to the Unity of the Empire, and joined the Royal Standard before the Treaty of Separation in the year 1783, and all their Children and their Descendants by either sex, are to be distinguished by the following Capitals, affixed to their names: U.E. Alluding to their great principle The Unity of the Empire.

Even today, some descendants of Loyalists may put the letters U.E. after their names. This shows how important their contribution was considered at the time.

**THINKING It Over**

1. Approximately how many people left the Thirteen Colonies because they were opposed to the Revolution? How many came to British North America?

2. Review the chart that lists the groups that were part of the Loyalist migrations to British North America. Theorize about how the differences illustrated in the chart would affect the ability of the Loyalists to act as a unified group. Explain your theory.

3. a) What conclusion can we draw from the fact that Carleton awarded the Loyalists and their descendants the right to place the letters U.E. after their names?

   b) If you were the descendant of Loyalists and therefore had the right to put the letters U.E. after your name, would you do so? What are your reasons?
The Loyalist migrations concentrated on three locations. One group went to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. A second group settled in Québec. A third group started settlements in what we now call Ontario.

**Loyalist Migration to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick**

In 1776, a shipload of Loyalists left New York for Nova Scotia. This was the first group to leave the Thirteen Colonies because of the revolution. As the Patriots began to win victories in the war against Britain, more Loyalists left. In all, about 30,000 Loyalists settled in Nova Scotia (and in New Brunswick, which was part of Nova Scotia until 1784). Although some of the Loyalists who went to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were well-established professionals, many belonged to minority groups, particularly minority religious groups, who felt they needed protection. These included Huguenots (French Protestants) and Quakers (who were opposed to all forms of violence and war).

Many Black soldiers who had fought for the British in the war also moved to Nova Scotia. When they joined the British forces, they were promised free land at the end of their service. But the promises turned out to be empty ones. White society rejected the Black Loyalists, so many founded their own separate communities. In 1783, Boston King and his wife Violet were part of a group that formed Birchtown, a Black community near Shelburne, Nova Scotia. It soon became the largest free Black community in North America. It was named after General Samuel Birch, who had helped the Black Loyalists move from New York.

In addition to the Black Loyalists who lived in Birchtown, many other Black people remained as slaves in nearby Shelburne. Wealthy white Loyalists had settled there, bringing with them their property, which included slaves. These enslaved people were rented out as labourers. Free Black Loyalists from Birchtown and Shelburne were paid lower than normal rates for the little work they were able to find. Unemployed and poor white Loyalists and disbanded soldiers vented their frustration and anger on the Blacks in Shelburne, and, in 1784, they attacked the Black settlers.
A 10-day riot began in which Blacks were beaten and their homes burned. The rioters literally chased any Black person they could find out of Shelburne. Fear filled the hearts of free Black Loyalists and slaves alike.

Over time, for both Black and white Loyalists, it became clear that Shelburne would not become a strong and thriving community. Many white Loyalists left to try their luck in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, or the new settlements west of Québec.

Boston King had escaped from slavery in South Carolina. He and his wife, who had also escaped a life of slavery, worked hard to establish a life for themselves in Nova Scotia. King worked as a carpenter, a fisher, and at any other job he could find, eventually becoming a Methodist preacher. But the couple became disheartened by the way they were treated and the hardships they faced. In 1791, the Kings left Nova Scotia for good, sailing for Sierra Leone on the west coast of Africa. Many other Black Loyalists were forced to give up their dreams of safety and success in Nova Scotia, as well, and they, too, went to Africa in hope of a better life.
This Could Have Been Me

Hannah Ingraham

Hannah Ingraham is 11 years old when her father joins the British army to fight in the American Revolution.

Almost all of the family's crops and livestock are seized by American rebels.

Father will be back soon, I just know it.

Thousands of families board ships sailing to Nova Scotia and present-day New Brunswick.

Can we ever return, Mother?

After a seven-year absence, Hannah's father returns from the war but the family must flee New York.

For months the newly arrived families live in tents.

Hundreds of Loyalists die from the harsh winter conditions.

What if we don't like the land we've drawn?

Then you trade or sell it—no second chances. Next!

Although they have few tools, together the family cultivates their new property.

The Ingraham's new farm prospers and provides plenty of food.

This is the sweetest meal I have ever tasted!

Near Fredericton, Hannah watches as her father draws a lot for their land.

Hannah lives the rest of her life in the Fredericton area. She dies in 1864 at the age of 47, two years after the creation of Canada.
Loyalist Migrations to Québec

Some Loyalists from the New England area migrated north to the St. Lawrence region of Québec. Much of the land around Montréal and Québec City had already been settled by this time, so they looked for newer areas to develop. If you look at a modern map of Québec, you will see that the majority of places have French names. But if you look at the places due east of Montréal, you will see names based in English history, such as Drummondville, Sherbrooke, and Granby. These communities were founded by the Loyalists and are known today as the Eastern Townships.

Another group of Loyalists migrated to what is now Ontario. You will read about their experiences in the next section of this chapter.

WORDS MATTER

Eastern Townships  the area east of Montréal that was settled by the Loyalists

THINKING It Over

1. Give reasons why many of the Loyalists came from minorities—such as the Huguenots, Quakers, and Black people.

2. What conclusions can you draw from the story of Boston and Violet King, who founded Birchtown and eventually left Nova Scotia for Sierra Leone?

3. Look at the extract from the map of modern Québec. Note the English-sounding names of the Loyalist communities. Use this information to write a paragraph predicting how the Loyalists and Canadiens would get along in the future. Use reasoning and evidence to support your predictions.
Chapter 5: The Influence of the Loyalists on British North America

The Loyalists had an enormous impact on the development of the Lake Ontario and Lake Erie regions. Until the 1780s, these regions were populated by First Nations people. There were few, if any, settlers of European background. But the region had lots of good land, which Loyalist settlers were anxious to find.

**Disbanded Loyalist Regiments**

Many of the first Loyalists were the families of people who had fought for the British in the war. Colonel John Butler was a rich landowner in upper New York. He had organized a regiment, known as Butler’s Rangers, to fight the Patriots. In 1784, Butler led his regiment to the Niagara region of southern Upper Canada, and disbanded it there.

There were many other disbanded regiments that came to what is now Ontario. The map below shows some of them, and the areas they settled in.
First Nations People

Mohawks and other groups of the Iroquois Confederacy fought on the side of the British during the American Revolution. After the war, about 2000 Mohawk people relocated from their ancient lands in Upper New York to the Lake Ontario region. One of their best-known leaders is Thayendanegea, also known as Joseph Brant. He was a Mohawk leader in New York who believed that the future of his people lay in British North America. But the lands of his people were signed away by the British in the second Treaty of Paris in 1783. Brant’s people had been betrayed by the British. Where could they go?

The British commander in Québec, Sir Frederick Haldimand, felt that the loyal service they had provided to the Crown deserved recognition. Some of the land that Haldimand acquired for the Six Nations allies was originally First Nations land. Following the Royal Proclamation of 1763, the Crown had reached agreements, called the Upper Canada Treaties, with some First Nations. Under these treaties, land was transferred from peoples such as the Ojibwe, Mississauga, and others to the Crown in exchange for cash payments.

Thayendanegea settled his followers on a long tract of land about 10 kilometres wide on each side of the Grand River. It was about 2750 square kilometres in area. The Six Nations Reserve (see the map on page H 97) was supposed to be Six Nations land forever, a reward for the loyalty that Thayendanegea and his people had shown toward the Crown.
Succeeding governors had different ideas about the service of First Nations allies. Land freely given to First Nations allies in the 1780s has, over time, been eroded away. Roads, towns, and settlement by non-Aboriginals have taken land away bit by bit. Today, less than one-tenth of the Six Nations Reserve’s original allotment is still within the reserve. Cities like Brantford and Cambridge stand on what was supposed to be Six Nations land forever.

Across Canada similar erosions have occurred. First Nations have begun to take action to preserve what is left of their land.

One such action, near the Six Nations Reserve in Caledonia, caught media attention in 2006. A 40-hectare plot of land was purchased from the government to build a housing development. Representatives of the Six Nations chose this place to make a stand to draw attention to the many land claims disputes across Canada. This land was part of the original Loyalist grant. Today, Six Nations claims state that it was never freely given away.

The Development of the Region

Butler’s followers started the town of Newark, now called Niagara-on-the-Lake. It became Upper Canada’s first capital city, from 1792 until 1796, when the capital was moved to York. The reason for the change was that Newark was too close to the United States border. This concern proved to be well founded; in 1813, Newark was occupied and later destroyed by the Americans.
Butler’s Loyalists planned and developed a settlement with neat houses and well-kept businesses. Other communities were founded by civilian Loyalists. Burlington, between present-day Hamilton and Toronto, is an example of this type of settlement. Loyalists from Burlington, Vermont, came through the river systems to the area. Kingston (originally King’s Town, to honour King George III), farther along Lake Ontario, is another Loyalist settlement.

Loyalists came from all walks of life. This meant that new settlements often had a variety of skilled citizens providing support as blacksmiths, merchants, builders, bankers, farmers, and doctors. This wide variety of skilled citizens ensured that the United Empire Loyalists would succeed in their new communities despite the losses they had suffered in the war.

Some, like Butler’s Rangers and the Six Nations, had travelled directly north from their original homes to occupy the land north of the Great Lakes. Others came by ship, up the St. Lawrence River, past Québec and Montréal, to settle beyond the extent of French settlement. Kingston was one of these settlements. Communities sprang up all along the north shores of the lakes, and a new society, based on British traditions, was established.

By the late 1790s, there were about 12,000 Loyalists settled in what was to become southern Ontario. They felt that they continued to deserve special favours from the Crown, because of their efforts to support it. Now they began to ask the government to change the law of Québec to make it more like the British-based law they were used to. In the next section, you will read about how this led to major changes in government and law.

**THINKING It Over**

1. Why might the British government be especially happy to have former military people settle in the region?  
2. From what you have read in this section, did all Loyalists who came to the Great Lakes Region that later became Ontario receive fair treatment? Explain your answer.  
3. Do you think First Nations should be able to challenge ownership of land that changed hands more than a century ago? Why or why not?  
4. Once they were settled in what was to become Ontario, what did the Loyalists ask the government to change for their benefit?
What the Loyalists Found When They Came to Québec

When the Loyalists arrived in Québec, they quickly took up their free land and built communities. But they were shocked by some of the differences between their new home and what they had known in the United States. The following chart summarizes some of these differences.

### Differences Between Québec and the United States in the 1780s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>In Québec</th>
<th>In the United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The legal system</td>
<td>French civil law governed property. Under the seigneurial system, land could only be leased from the Crown. You could work and live off the land, but not profit from selling it.</td>
<td>English civil law governed property. Land could be held as private property. If you improved your land, you could sell it and pocket the cash. This is known as the freehold system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church support</td>
<td>Roman Catholics were legally required to pay a tithe (tenth of their earnings) to their local church, and could be imprisoned if they refused. There was no support for other churches.</td>
<td>Churches generally competed on an equal basis. People were not legally required to pay taxes to their church. No one church was favoured by the government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>There was a council appointed by the governor to pass laws and run the government. There were no elections.</td>
<td>Practices varied, but there were elections in all the colonies. People voted for representatives to pass laws and run the government.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Loyalists regarded themselves as heroes. They had given up their homeland because of their attachment to the Crown. They had frequently been abused by the Patriots. Many had fought in the British army, and some had lost family members.

“Is this any way to treat heroes?” they asked. “We came here to live in freedom. You give us French land laws and no elections.” They demanded, “You have to change the system.” And the British government listened.
How the British Changed the System in Québec

Eventually, the British agreed to change the system of government and law in Québec. They passed the Constitutional Act, which took effect in 1791. The Act made some changes to the Québec Act of 1774, but the British did not want to give the Loyalists too much. Doing this might reduce the Canadiens’ and First Nations peoples’ support for the British. Here is a summary of the major changes the Constitutional Act introduced.

- It divided Québec into two parts. **Lower Canada** included those parts of New France from the eastern edge as far west as the Ottawa River. **Upper Canada** contained the area from the Ottawa River to the boundary formed by Lakes Ontario, Erie, and Huron, and the north shore of Lake Superior.

- There would be a lieutenant-governor for each Canada.

- Landholders in Lower Canada could hold land under the seigneurial or the freehold system. In Upper Canada, all land would be held under the freehold system.

- Existing First Nations’ grants of land were not available for settlers to move into.

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**Words Matter**

**Lower Canada** those parts of New France from the eastern edge as far west as the Ottawa River

**Upper Canada** the area from the Ottawa River to Lakes Ontario, Erie, and Huron, and the north shore of Lake Superior

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Lower and Upper Canada in 1791. Upper Canada began upstream from Lower Canada along the St. Lawrence River; hence its name.
• Catholics in Lower and Upper Canada had to pay the tithe to their church. The Church of England was given one-seventh of all new lands assigned.

• There was to be a legislative assembly to pass laws in each Canada. Voters, which meant only men who owned property, could choose their representatives at elections. These elected representatives could suggest laws but did not have the power to pass them.

• There would also be a legislative council in Lower and Upper Canada, appointed by the lieutenant-governor, to pass laws.

The Constitutional Act was a success. It kept the competing groups happy. Lower and Upper Canada entered a period of rapid growth.

Checkpoint
Only men were allowed to vote. What does this say about the role of women during this time?

During READING

John Graves Simcoe, lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada, addresses the first meeting of parliament in September, 1792, in this 1955 painting by F.S. Challener. The first session took place in a humble wooden military barracks in what is now Niagara-on-the-Lake.
The Loyalist Influence in Upper Canada

Another organizational method that the Loyalists brought with them from America was the township system. Under this system, surveyors divided large sections of land into individual lots. Unless the landscape prevented it, all roads were drawn in straight lines, and all lots were rectangular. Here is a diagram of a typical township.

Notes about this township:

- Concessions (Con.) run west to east.
- Side roads (S.R.) run north to south.
- All intersections are at 90° angles.
- It is laid out in imperial measurements—miles, yards, and acres.
- It is 6 miles (9.7 kilometres) from north to south and east to west.
- It is 36 square miles (93.2 square kilometres) in area.

Generally, surveyors aligned a township with the nearest major lake. Townships between modern Toronto and Hamilton run parallel to the Lake Ontario shoreline, roughly southwest to northeast. Townships slightly farther north aligned with Lakes Huron and Georgian Bay. This gave them a more east–west and north–south alignment. Sometimes, when you cross a township boundary today, you’ll find that all the roads suddenly change their direction slightly. But you’ll probably find that they still intersect with the other roads in the township at 90° angles.
The Loyalist Heritage in Upper Canada

The Loyalists brought to Upper Canada their ideas about elections, freehold land, and systematic planning of townships. They also brought the English language. They worked hard to establish a few key communities. Later, immigrants would pour in from Britain and Europe. They too added their contribution to the development of Upper Canada. But the Loyalists had begun the process. Upper Canada would probably not have developed as fast as it did without them.

This was very important. You will see in the next chapter that Britain and the United States went to war again in 1812. Much of the fighting took place in Upper Canada. If the Loyalists had not developed it as quickly as they did, the United States might have won the war. So you can see, Canadians owe a lot to the Loyalists and their efforts.

THINKING It Over

1. In your own words, summarize the differences between what the Loyalists left in America and what they found in Québec. Why would this make them unhappy?

2. Look at the map on page H 102. Use it to explain how each of the Canadas got its name. Why do people today often mix up the two names?

3. Write down the following, with your reasons:
   a) Two things that the Loyalists would have liked about the Constitutional Act
   b) Two things that the Canadiens would have liked
   c) One thing that the First Nations would have liked

4. Draw and label a neat sketch of a typical Loyalist township in your notebook. Below your sketch, make a list of differences between this survey system and the system used in New France (page H 15).

5. Obtain an Ontario road map or a street atlas that shows your local area. Look closely at the pattern of roads and communities.
   a) What characteristics of the township survey can still be seen in your area?
   b) Which aspects of the original survey have been changed?
   c) To what extent has the township survey shaped
      i) the road pattern?
      ii) the population pattern?

See page S 6 in the Skills Tool Kit for help.
Equipment

- a game board
- two dice (different colours or sizes)
- a calculator
- a scoring sheet

How To Play

A. With three other people, play the roles of family leaders trying to plan a township and get the best free land for themselves.

B. The game board represents the layout of the new township. Each lot has a value from 1 to 10, depending on its distance from the river system and the quality of the soil. Your first task is to assign the lots that will belong to the Crown and the lots that will belong to the Church of England. According to the Constitution Act of 1791, each must receive one-seventh (or 5 each) of the total number of lots in the township.

Decide which die represents columns A to F (1 = A, 2 = B, etc.), and which one represents rows 1 to 6. Player A rolls the two dice. Find the lot at the intersection of the row and the column indicated, and mark it on the game board as a Crown lot. Roll again, and mark the indicated lot as a Church lot. Take turns rolling the dice until you have assigned 5 lots to the Crown and 5 lots to the Church. If a roll selects a lot that you have already assigned, roll again until you select a vacant lot.

C. You now have 26 lots available for the families. Player A rolls the dice and claims the lot on the board. Player B rolls, and so on. If a player selects a lot that has already been assigned, the player passes the turn without getting a lot.

Go through ten rounds, or until all the lots on the board are taken—whichever comes first.

D. Add up the values of the lots that each player owns at the end of the game. The winner is the one with the most points. Add up the values for the lots owned by (a) the Crown, and (b) the Church of England.

THINKING It Over

Work with your game opponents to answer the following questions.

1. Was what happened in the game predictable or unpredictable? Give a few examples to illustrate your point.

2. How well did the Crown and the Church of England do in the land grab? Do you think it was right that they should have been given land in this way? Why or why not?
You learned about a new group of people—the United Empire Loyalists. You saw how they opposed the American Revolution, and migrated to Québec and Nova Scotia. You read about the impact on First Nations. You examined the Loyalists’ influence on the development of Québec: having it divided into Lower and Upper Canada in 1791, introducing the township system of surveying, holding elections to select representatives to the legislature, and establishing the English language and common law system in Upper Canada. In this way, they gave present-day Ontario many of its modern features.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inquiry Questions</th>
<th>Answers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**PUTTING It All Together**

Imagine that you are a journalist time-travelling back to Upper Canada in the 1790s. Carry out one of these two research projects.

**A. Research Loyalist Life**

1. Use some primary and some secondary materials to research some of the challenges that Loyalist families faced in Upper Canada in the 1790s. See page S 10 in the Skills Tool Kit for help.

2. Choose three major difficulties. Describe each one and identify how it affected the lives of the Loyalists.

**B. Research the Historical Development of Your Own Community**

1. Use some primary and some secondary materials to research its origins, key personalities, and the contributions of various cultural groups. See page S 10 in the Skills Tool Kit for help.

2. Find out whether Loyalists were part of your community history.

3. Find out what First Nations historically occupied your area.

Follow your teacher’s instructions about the format in which you are to present your findings.

**Tie It Together**

Write any missing answers into the inquiry question chart you created at the beginning of the chapter. Use these and your map notes to write a summary of what you have learned.