The American Revolution

- The British won the Seven Years’ War in 1763 leaving them in control of the East coast of the U.S.
- Britain was victorious over the French
- The British tightened their control of the American colonies
  - Stop smuggling and enforce customs duties
- The Americans felt the British were making unacceptable demands and ruining colonial trade because prices were rising
- They felt it was not the right of the British to make laws for the Thirteen colonies because they were not represented in Parliament
- Between 1765 and 1775 there were many riots against British laws
  - Boycotts of British goods, British officials were attacked, their houses and offices were burned
- Great Britain closed the port of Boston and sent in troops
- April 1775, the American Revolution began as violence increased
- July 4, 1776 the Declaration of Independence was signed
- There was hope that Quebec, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland would join the fight, but they did not
  - Britain had granted Quebec religious and legal rights in 1774, they had no reason to fight them
  - Nova Scotia and Newfoundland relied on Britain for trade and economic support

Who were the Loyalists?

- About 1/5 of the colonists opposed the American Revolution
- Many of the Loyalists had a great love for Great Britain and respect for British institutions
- Reasons for loyalty:
  - Some Loyalists did not agree with Britain’s policies, but did not agree with armed rebellion
  - Some relied on British business
  - Some were recent immigrants to America and did not feel a part of the new nation
  - Aboriginal people feared expansion of American settlers and relied on British protection
  - Some wanted to remain neutral, but were persecuted because of it
- People accuse of loyalty to Britain were considered traitors
  - They were beaten, robbed, tarred and feathered, put in jail
- Many fled to Canada
  - Arriving on foot or horseback they gathered in camps to wait until the war ended
- The British lost → the Loyalists stayed in Canada
**Loyalists in Nova Scotia**

- Joseph Durfee was a shipowner and merchant living in Rhode Island
- He joined the Loyalists to fight against the revolution
- When the war ended he, his wife, and their five children were living in New York City
  - Their property and ships in Rhode Island had been seized
- They feared for their safety in the United States and joined a group of Loyalists travelling to Port Roseway, Nova Scotia
- When he arrived he received a plot of land and two years worth of provisions
- In August the governor came to rename Port Roseway, Shelburne (after Lord Shelburne, the Prime Minister of Great Britain during the American Revolution)
- The town was not developed (tents, log huts, muddy streets), but refugees from New York continued to come
  - In one year the population grew to 15,000
- About 10% of the Loyalists travelling to Nova Scotia were Black slaves
  - They formed a town in 1783
  - They received rations of pork and flour, but their land rations were delayed
  - Many took jobs in Shelburne
- The land in and around Shelburne was not fertile
  - Many Loyalists left
  - Many of the Black Loyalists went to Africa
- Joseph Durfee stayed and died in Shelburne in 1801
- Many Loyalists were unhappy in Nova Scotia
  - They were angry that Nova Scotia had not helped them in the war
  - Many towns were already established, land was occupied, jobs were hard to find
- The Loyalists were granted their own colony, by Britain, in 1784 → New Brunswick

**Loyalists in Quebec**

- Over 50,000 Loyalists came to British North America during the Revolutionary War
- Many settled in Nova Scotia
- About 9,500 travelled to Quebec
- Frederick Haldimand was responsible for finding a solution for the increase in population
- The Loyalists were not happy in Quebec
  - Most of the land was occupied
  - They were uncomfortable in a place where French was spoken and French laws were followed
- Haldimand did not want the Loyalists to move west, as he hoped to preserve that land for the First Nations
  - He changed his mind
- May 1783, Major Samuel Holland was sent to scout out the land for the best places for settlement to begin
• The Loyalists moved west in 1784 and settled along the southern edge of what is now Ontario.
• The British made agreements to buy this land from the Aboriginals.
• The Loyalists travelled in boats pulled by ropes along the banks, at night they slept on the banks.
• They were given basic farming tools, food, clothing, seed, and livestock.
• They were assigned a lot of land based on a random draw.
  o Loyalists who fought in the war received more land.
  o They had to clear trees and build shelter.
• It was not easy living.
  o Delayed supplied, scarce food, dying crops.
  o After 3 years the government cut off free rations.
  o They suffered from famine.
• The British treated the Loyalists well.
  o Spending the equivalent of over 2 billion dollars to settle the Loyalists in British North America.

The Impact of the Loyalists

• Quebec received almost 10,000 English-speaking people.
• Many settled in the west, but wanted a place where they could live according to their customs (as opposed to the French way of life in Quebec).
  o In 1791 their own colony was created (Upper Canada).
• The Loyalists in British North America reaffirmed the ties with Britain.
  o They brought their respect for British institutions with them.
  o They brought their resentment and hatred of the United States.
    ▪ Contributing two tendencies to the Canadian point of view.
      • Affection for Britain and suspicion of the U.S.
• They boosted the economy of British North America.
• Most of them were capable farmers, tradespeople, merchants, and professionals.
• New towns were formed.
• Labour was available.
• While the number of immigrants to come later is much larger than the number of Loyalists, they played a large role in the establishment of Canada.