Confederation – Class Conference

You are a leader of one of the British North America colonies in the 1860’s. The political conditions are such that it is reasonable to begin a discussion about joining the colonies to form a union – a Confederation. It is time for the leaders to meet to discuss their needs and concerns about such a union.

What to do:

1. You will be put into a group that represents one of the BNA colonies: Canada East, Canada West, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island.
2. Your group will receive a list of items that are important for your colony. This list describes your interests and concerns regarding Confederation. These concerns must be dealt with if your colony is to be prosperous as a united Canada.
3. You must prepare a position paper – a paper that describes the positive as well as negative aspects of Confederation from your colony’s point of view. Using the list you have been given, as well as the textbook and the websites that follow these instructions, you and your group must research the positive and negative aspects about Confederation from your colony’s pointof iew.
   1. This paper will consist of 4 paragraphs:
      1. An introduction, which introduces yourself (the leader of the colony) and gives a summary of your personal and political background
      2. A paragraph explaining positive aspects of Confederation from your colony’s point of view
      3. A paragraph explaining negative aspects of Confederation from your colony’s point of view
      4. A conclusion which states your position and opinion about Confederation.
4. When all of the colonies have position papers written, then it is time for all of them to meet up in a conference where they will express their positions and opinions about Confederation and whether they think it is a good idea or not.
5. After every group explains their position, we will have a discussion in which everyone will have a chance to convince the other groups to choose if they are for or against Confederation. You may find yourself in a situation where you are trying to convince another colony to agree with you – this is fine.
6. After the conference, we will see how close our class conference came to what really happened in real life.

Fathers of Confederation – Biographic information:

Canada West – [Sir John A Macdonald](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/confederation/kids/023002-3060-e.html)

Canada East - [Sir George-Etienne Cartier](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/confederation/kids/023002-3010-e.html)

New Brunswick – [Sir Samuel Leonard Tilley](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/confederation/kids/023002-3120-e.html)

Nova Scotia – [Sir Charles Tupper](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/confederation/023001-4000.80-e.html), [Joseph Howe](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/confederation/023001-4000.36-e.html)

Prince Edward Island – [John Hamilton Gray](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/confederation/023001-4000.31-e.html)

Newfoundland – [Sir Frederick Bowker Terrington Carter](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/confederation/023001-4000.11-e.html)

Background Information on the BNA colonies:

New Brunswick

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/confederation/023001-3050-e.html#b>

Nova Scotia

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/confederation/023001-3080-e.html>

Newfoundland

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/confederation/023001-3060-e.html>

Prince Edward Island

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/confederation/023001-3110-e.html>

Canada West (Ontario)

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/confederation/023001-3100-e.html>

Canada East (Quebec)

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/confederation/023001-3120-e.html>

Confederation for Kids – Research Information

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/confederation/kids/index-e.html>