Timeline of Key Dates

Read down the list. Cover the right side and test yourself on each year.

Year	What happened	Lesson
1215	Magna Carta is signed in England. Canada's freedoms go back to it.	1
1497	John Cabot, for England, is the first to map Canada's Atlantic coast.	3
1534	Jacques Cartier makes the first of three voyages, from 1534 to 1542.	3
1604	French settlers arrive in what is now the Maritimes: the start of the Acadians.	2
1608	Champlain builds a fortress at what is now Québec City.	3
1670	King Charles the Second gives the Hudson's Bay Company its trading rights.	3
1759	The British win the Battle of the Plains of Abraham at Québec City.	3
1763	The Royal Proclamation first guarantees Aboriginal land rights.	2
1774	The Quebec Act: religious freedom for Catholics and French civil law.	4
1791	The Constitutional Act creates Upper Canada and Lower Canada.	4
1793	Upper Canada becomes the first province in the British Empire to move toward abolishing slavery.	4
1812	The United States invades Canada: the War of 1812.	4
1840	Upper and Lower Canada are united as the Province of Canada.	4
1848	Responsible government in Nova Scotia (1847 to 1848) and in the united Canada (1848 to 1849).	4
1857	Queen Victoria chooses Ottawa as the capital.	12
1867	Confederation, July 1: Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Sir John A. Macdonald is the first Prime Minister.	5
1870	Manitoba and the Northwest Territories join Canada.	5
1871	British Columbia joins Canada.	5
1873	Prince Edward Island joins. Macdonald creates the North West Mounted Police.	5
1885	The last spike of the railway is driven on November 7. A second Métis rebellion takes place.	5
1898	Yukon becomes a separate territory.	5

Year	What happened	Lesson
1905	Alberta and Saskatchewan join Canada.	5
1914	The First World War begins.	6
1917	The Canadian Corps captures Vimy Ridge in April (Vimy Day, April 9).	6
1918	The First World War ends on November 11.	6
1929	The stock market crash leads to the Great Depression.	6
1939	The Second World War begins.	6
1944	D-Day, June 6: Canadians capture Juno Beach.	6
1949	Newfoundland and Labrador joins: the last province.	5
1960	Aboriginal people are granted the vote.	7
1965	The national flag is first raised. The Canada and Quebec Pension Plans begin.	7, 11
1969	The Official Languages Act.	7
1980	O Canada is proclaimed the national anthem. The first Quebec referendum. Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope.	7, 11
1982	The Charter of Rights and Freedoms becomes part of the Constitution.	1, 7
1999	Nunavut is created: the newest territory.	5

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