

MÉTIS HISTORY • MÉTIS HEROES • MÉTIS HERO ACTIVITY

Learning goal: Students will be able to understand the characteristics of what makes someone a hero and be able to identify a Métis hero based on these characteristics.

Suggested timeline: 2 x 75-minute periods

Subjects: Canadian History, Law

Lesson opener

See it:

Discuss the meaning of the word “hero.”

Definition:

noun

a person who is admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities.

Synonyms:

brave person, brave man/woman, man/woman of courage, man/woman of the hour, lionheart, warrior, knight; champion, victor, conqueror, star, superstar, megastar, idol, celebrity, luminary; ideal, paragon, shining example, demigod; favorite, darling; informal celeb.

In small groups, create a mind map on the topic of “What are the qualities and/or characteristics of a ‘Hero’?” Write the word “HERO” in the centre of the page and list all of the qualities and/or characteristics of a HERO. After completing this activity in small groups, share the mindmaps with the entire class.

Strategy/Lesson activity

Feel it:

Louis Riel is probably one of the most, if not the most, well-known Métis in Canadian history. Was Louis Riel a “Hero”?

Pre-Reading Activity #1 WORD WALL

Create a “Word Wall” using the following words:

democrat, revolutionary, visionary, sedition, provisional government, Orangemen (who were they?), Thomas Scott (who was he?), traitor, amnesty, euphoria, asylum, secession, constabulary, zealot, high treason, bona-fide, patriot, turbulent, controversial, folk-hero, rebellion, charismatic, contentious negotiations, exile, “Prophet of the New World,” oath of allegiance, grievances, surrender, executive, political ramifications, exonerate, condemn, pardon, travesty of Justice, The Crown, legacy, execution

Assign each student one word and have them look up its meaning and significance or importance. Give each student a blank piece of paper. They fold it in half lengthwise. They write the vocabulary word on the outside of the flap and on the inside of the flap, they write the word’s meaning and significance or importance.

Post-Viewing Activity #1

Watch the video, “Did you Know? The History of Louis Riel” [youtube.com/watch?v=t5YrtvO7FDs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5YrtvO7FDs).

Know it:

As a class or in small groups, discuss why Riel was viewed by the Métis as a Hero, and why the government viewed him as a traitor? Discuss why different people might see the same person in a different light.

To wrap up, show the students the Historica Heritage Minute, “Louis Riel” historicanada.ca/content/heritage-minutes/louis-riel

Assessment

Do it:

Each student will select a Métis Hero. They will do a brief research of their hero, using the “WORKSHEET Métis Hero Video Organizer.” After completing their brief research, students create a short video to highlight the life of their hero using a mobile device or computer.

Extension:

Create a “Heritage Minute” about their Métis Hero. For tips on making a “Heritage Minute,” refer to gotaminute.ca/docs/Tips-EN.pdf

Suggested Resources:

Louis Riel: A Canadian Hero

[youtube.com/watch?v=ulbgx-7J0w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulbgx-7J0w)

The Fate of Louis Riel

Madman or hero? The trial of the Metis leader

[cbc.ca/history/EPISCONTENTSE1EP10CH4PA4LE.html](https://www.cbc.ca/history/EPISCONTENTSE1EP10CH4PA4LE.html)

The Life of Louis Riel in Pictures

by Dr. Peter Charlebois

The Trial of Louis Riel: Justice and Mercy Denied

by George Goulet

Canada and the Métis, 1869–1885

by D.N. Sprague

The North-West is Our Mother

by Jean Teillet

Métis—The Canadian Encyclopedia:

thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/metis

Library and Archives Canada—Louis Riel:

bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/aboriginal-heritage/metis/Pages/louis-riel.aspx

“Did you Know? The History of Louis Riel”

[youtube.com/watch?v=t5YrtvO7FDs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5YrtvO7FDs)

The Powley Case

[youtube.com/watch?v=12K7IO-IHXA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12K7IO-IHXA)

Historica Heritage Minute: Louis Riel

historicanada.ca/content/heritage-minutes/louis-riel

CBC Archives “Rethinking Riel” (this link will bring you to 20 different links on Riel)

[cbc.ca/archives/entry/louis-riel-chester-browns-comic-book-hero](https://www.cbc.ca/archives/entry/louis-riel-chester-browns-comic-book-hero)

Treaty Six Education: First Nations and Métis Role Models

treaty6education.lskysd.ca/sites/treaty6education.lskysd.ca/files/ELA%20gr%206.pdf

CBC-TV News in Review “Louis Riel: Changing Perceptions”

media.curio.ca/filer_public/19/58/1958f95b-973a-4bcf-80a8-99299a9d57c3/apr92_riel.pdf

Métis Hero List

Cuthbert Grant

Elizabeth Mitchell

Jerry Potts

Pierre Falcon

Louis Riel Sr.

Louis Riel

Gabriel Dumont

Harry Daniels

Steve Powley

Dr. Suzanne Rochon-Burnett

Marion Larkman

Tony Belcourt

Gary Lipinski

Jean Teillet

Jason Madden

Christi Belcourt

Theoren Fleury

Henry Louis Norwest