BLACK CANADIAN HISTORY

1750-1800

CULTURE TALK

TIMELINE

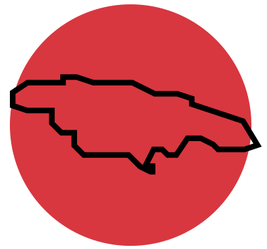
ARRIVAL AND GROWTH OF BLACK COMMUNITY IN CANADA

1760: Britain passed the Articles of Capitulation, confirmed slavery in New France since France ceded territory to Britain.

1776: Blacks escape to Canada to seek freedom and some of them served in the Revolutionary War.

1784: Shelburne Race Riots. Canadian residents in Nova Scotia attacked Black neighborhoods.

1793: Canadian Legislature passed a bill that would prevent Canadians to bring slaves in.



1796: Maroons (escaped slave community) from Jamaica arrived to Nova Scotia

ARTICLE OF CAPITULATION

BRITISH JUSTIFIED SLAVERY IN NEW FRANCE

1760

- When the French ceded their territory to Britain, Britain passed this article to emphasize that Black and Pawnee individuals are still slaves

- Marked the surrender of British forces to French and American soldiers in Yorktown, Virginia

REVOLUTIONARY WAR

BLACK CANADIANS PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

1775-1777

- Lord Dunmore's Proclamation
  - if Black Canadians fight in the British side, they were guaranteed for their freedom.
  - became known as the Black Loyalists (ones who support British)
- Black Canadians have also served many roles in the Revolutionary War
  - were part of the Black Corps
  - serving as boatmen, woodsmen, general labourers, buglers and musicians
- Slaves from America also began to escape to Canada, specifically to Nova Scotia to seek freedom

SHELBURNE RACE RIOTS

ONE OF THE EARLIER RACE RIOTS IN NORTH AMERICA

1784

- first conflict between Black and White Canadians
- took place in Shelburne, Nova Scotia
  - largest free Black population
- it began when a White Loyalist arrived at a Black preacher's home armed
- lasted for 10 days
- Led to the restriction of Black's rights
  - forbidded "Negro Frolicks and Dances"

LEGAL HISTORY

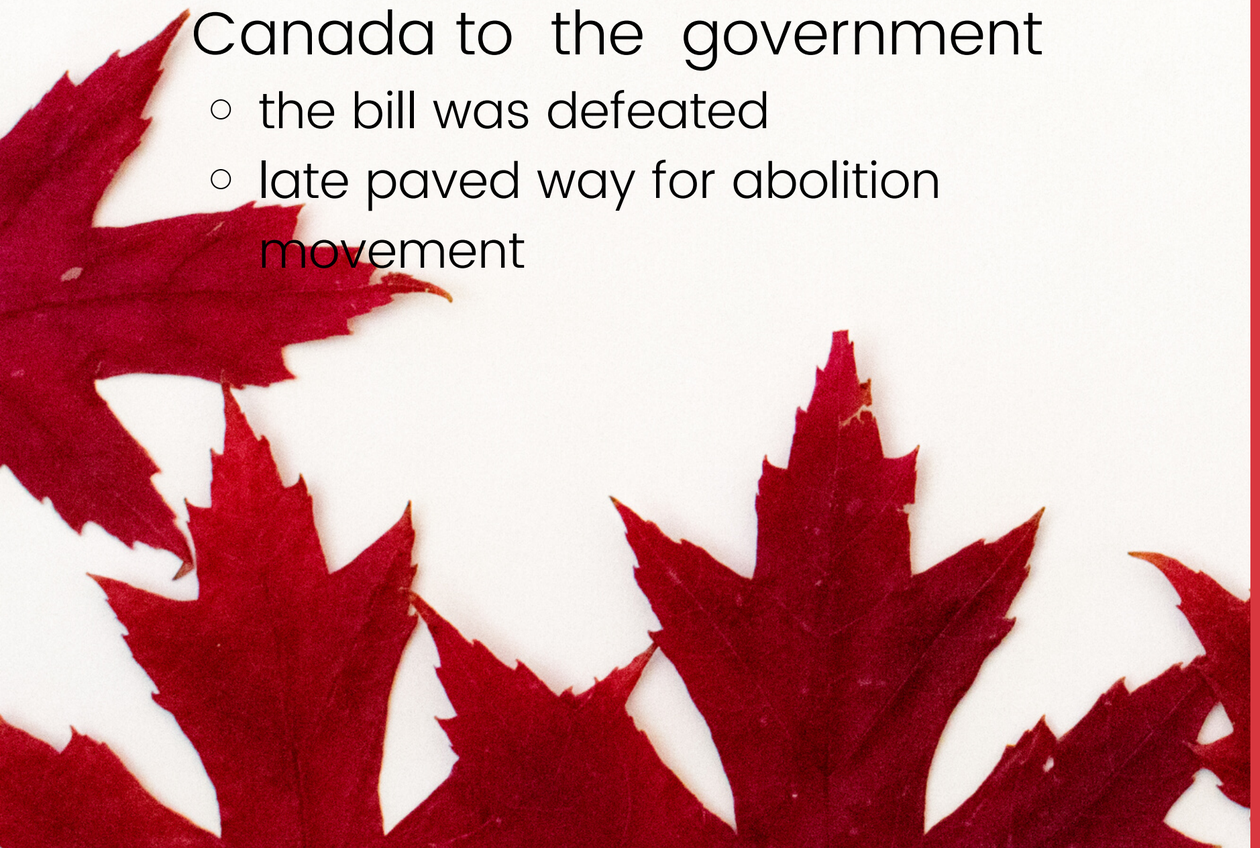
SLAVERY LAWS AND CASES DECIDED

1790S

- Imperial Statute of 1790
  - passed for settlers to bring in more slaves to Upper Canada.
- The Chloe Cooley Case
  - an enslaved women who was forced to go to U.S. to be sold as a slave
  - convinced the Lt. Governor that slavery needs to be abolished
- Act to Limit Slavery in Upper Canada (1793)
  - restricted the slave trade
  - slavery was still legal

- Simcoe's Anti-Slave Trade Bill (1793)
  - led to a gradual abolition of slavery

- Joseph Papineau took a petition signed by citizens from Lower Canada to the government
  - the bill was defeated
  - late paved way for abolition movement



ABOLISHMENT OF SLAVERY

SLOW RISE IN THE ABOLITION MOVEMENT

1793-1800

- 543 escaped Jamaican slaves landed in Nova Scotia

- They joined military units in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

- helped build the Halifax Citadel and Government House

- Because of harsh winters, a good majority of the Maroon population left Nova Scotia.

MAROON ARRIVAL

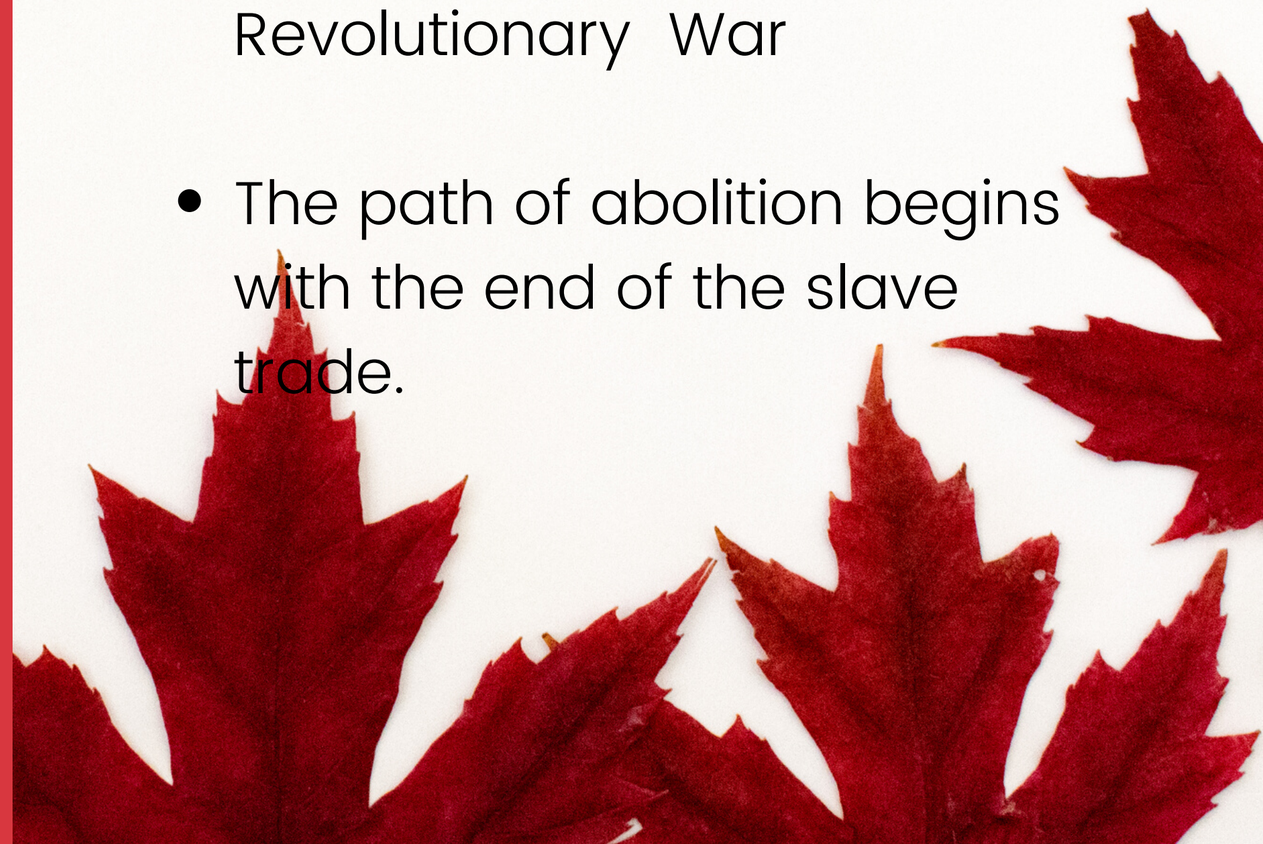
ESCAPED JAMAICAN SLAVES WHO ESCAPED SLAVERY

1796

SUMMARY

KEY IDEAS

- Britain still maintained slavery in the French territories

- Britain offered a path of freedom for slaves if they supported their side in the Revolutionary War

- The path of abolition begins with the end of the slave trade.