GET READY FOR THE QUIZ!
WW1 & Interwar: Quiz for Lesson #4

1. Near the end of the war, where did Canada send troops?
2. Who did Canadian troops fight?
3. When did the war end?
4. How many lives did the war cost in total? For Canada?
5. Give evidence of our growing independence at the treaty negotiations.
6. After the war, what happened to the world economy?
7. What union was created in Calgary in March 1919?
8. What type of strike gripped Winnipeg in May & June of 1919?
9. How many people died in that conflict?
10. One result of discontent was the birth of what new federal party?
Lesson #5: PM King & The Twenties

LESSON OUTLINE & OBJECTIVES (don’t copy)

This lesson covers Canada during the twenties. It was a decade of great economic growth and significant political change. At the end of this lesson you will:

- Know the steps Canada took in developing its autonomy from Britain
- Understand issues regarding the King-Byng Crisis
- Describe the growth in the Canadian economy
- Identify elements of Canadian culture
- Explain social change in Canada in this period.
Lesson #5: PM King & The Twenties

The Election of 1921

- William Lyon Mackenzie King leads Liberals & Arthur Meighen is the new Conservative leader.
- Discontent led to a change in government.
- Election Results: Liberals 118
  Progressives 58
  Conservatives 49
  Others 10
- A majority for King, but considered a minority. (threat of by-elections & floor crossings)
- The economy improved from 21 to 25, so King focused on the popular topic of increasing Canada’s autonomy
Lesson #5: PM King & The Twenties

Chanak Crisis

- Sept. 1922, British troops guarding the neutral Dardanelles were threatened by Turkish nationalists.
- The British “asked” the dominions for help.
- PM King was informed by the press, before the gov’t telegram was decoded.
- King insisted that parliament must debate & decide the issue.
- King was determined to push Canadian autonomy further.
Halibut Treaty

- 1923- Canada & the US signed the Halibut Treaty (protected the Pacific Halibut fishery).
- The treaty was signed by Canada’s fisheries minister, but without a counter signature from the British ambassador in Washington.
- Britain protested, but King threatened to send a Can. ambassador to Washington.
- This set the precedent for independent treaty signing authority, which would be formally recognized by Britain later that year.
Lesson #5: PM King & The Twenties

Election of 1925

• Despite an improved economy, King wasn’t very popular.
  Results: Conservatives 115
            Liberals 100
            Progressives 22
            Others 8

• King convinced the Progressives to support the Liberals and refused to step down.

• King immediately made tax cuts to increase his popularity.
Lesson #5: PM King & The Twenties

KING-BYNG CRISIS

• Early 1926- evidence of corruption in the customs department (bribes)
• King fired the minister, then appointed him to the Senate.
• The Progressives threatened a vote of non-confidence.
• King would rather face a general election than face a vote of non-confidence.
• PM King asked Gov. Gen. Byng to dissolve Parliament
• Byng said **NO!**
Lesson #5: PM King & The Twenties

• This is a constitutional Crisis!!! Can the Gov. Gen. Say NO to an elected Prime Minister?!?!?
• Byng insists King face the music!
• Byng asked Meighen’s Conservatives to form gov’t.
• This avoids an election and serves King right-
  
  (after all, he refused to step down before!)

• This was the right way, but not the smart way. (as you will see)
Lesson #5: PM King & The Twenties

- Meighen becomes PM, BUT- King convinced the Progressives to not support Meighen. (*King was a convincing salesman!*)
- Result- Meighen’s gov’t falls and he must ask Byng to dissolve Parliament and call an election.
- King campaigns on the issue of *autonomy*, claiming the Gov. Gen (*appointed & British*) should always follow the advice of the PM (*elected by Canadians*).
- Sept. 14, 1926- King won a Majority government
- Byng’s refusal actually backfired and helped King, who ended up better off!
Lesson #5: PM King & The Twenties

Significance of the King-Byng Crisis

- Focused attention on the role of the Governor General.
- Increased nationalism and a desire for autonomy from Britain.
- The Gov. Gen. has never refused the P.M. since.
- Strengthened role of the Prime Minister; weakened the role of the Governor General.

**In 2008, Stephen Harper was faced with a vote of non-confidence, and opposition parties were prepared to lead with a coalition. Harper tried to avoid losing power by asking the GG to prorogue parliament. Suddenly news casts were talking about the King-Byng crisis, and everybody was wondering what the GG would do. She acted on the advice of the PM and prorogued parliament.**
Lesson #5: PM King & The Twenties

Imperial Conference 1926

• Independence was sought by S. Africa.
• King, seeking autonomy, helped draft the Balfour Report, declaring dominions to be “autonomous communities, …equal in status, …members of the British Commonwealth”
• The term “Commonwealth” soon replaced “Empire”
• The report also changed the role of the Gov. Gen., to represent the Queen, NOT the British gov’t.
Lesson #5: PM King & The Twenties

If you build it…

• 1927- Canada established an independent diplomatic representative (like an ambassador) in Washington, despite protests from Britain.
• 1928, Britain appointed a diplomatic representative to Canada
• Diplomatic posts were also opened in 1928 (France) & 1929 (Japan)
• The US, France & Japan all sent representatives to Ottawa.
• Canada was being treated like an autonomous nation.
Lesson #5: PM King & The Twenties

1931 Statute of Westminster

• 1930- Bennett (an imperialist), replaced King as PM.
• Bennett was more focused on economics than constitutional matters
• He didn’t fight the passage of the British Statute of Westminster in 1931.
• It made matters of the Imperial Conference of 1926 law.
• Canadian autonomy became a matter of British law.
• EXCEPT- power to change the constitution resided in Britain (until 1982).
Lesson #5: PM King & The Twenties

The Roaring Twenties

- 1922- U.S. became the leading investor in Canada
  - Brits previously invested in **Canadian owned** ventures
  - US invested in **American owned & controlled** branch plants
  - This investment helps & hurts-economic growth with low risk, but at the expense of Canadian sovereignty.
- Increased prosperity → more people can afford consumer goods.
- Electricity & electric appliances became common in homes, as did the **telephone**.
Lesson #5: PM King & The Twenties

- Optimism fueled the economy
- Stock investment and growth was unprecedented.
- 1921-1929- Canadian Stock prices tripled
- People began to move to the cities, to the manufacturing jobs (urbanization).
- Some groups, however, did not enjoy the boom of the twenties due to racism, poverty and lack of political representation.
  - First Nations, Immigrants, African Canadians
Lesson #5: PM King & The Twenties

Society & Culture of the 20’s

• Not only our economy, but our culture was being “Americanized”

• Radio use increased, helping to promote & export U.S. culture & fashion

• A new American music style, Jazz, became popular.

• Fashions changed drastically—notably “Flappers”, a style that reflected the spirit of fun and wealth of the time.
Lesson #5: PM King & The Twenties

An Age of Mobility

- Cars were mass-produced on assembly lines invented by Henry Ford (Model-T 1908-1927).
- Lower costs made ownership possible for most families.
- Tourism boomed, aided by rail & air travel.
- The average person now had access to a lifestyle that was previously restricted to the very wealthy.
Lesson #5: PM King & The Twenties

Canadian Culture & Identity: SPORT

- 1923, Foster Hewitt made the first hockey radio broadcast, and was the voice of hockey for sixty years
- He coined the phrase “He shoots, he scores!” & was known for his signature sign in, “Hello, Canada, and hockey fans in the United States and Newfoundland.”
- Vancouver sprinter Percy Williams won two gold medals at the 1928 Olympics.
Lesson #5: PM King & The Twenties

Canadian Culture & Identity: ART

- The “Group of Seven” introduced a new, Canadian painting style.
- The Group of Seven painted Canadian landscapes in bold colours, with broad strokes.
- Emily Carr was a west coast artist, influenced by nature & native culture.
- Their accomplishments helped counter the Americanization of Canada’s culture.
Lesson #5: PM King & The Twenties

Social Change: The Persons Case

• 1916- Emily Murphy’s appointment as a judge in Alberta was challenged; women weren’t “persons”.
• In 1917 Alberta ruled women were persons, (applied in Alberta, not the rest of Canada).
• 1927- Wanting to test this idea nationally, Murphy, with four other petitioners (The “Famous Five”) asked the Supreme Court to rule on the word “persons” in the BNA Act
• 1928, they ruled “persons” didn’t include women.

Emily Murphy: 1st female judge in the Br. Empire
Irene Parlby: 1st female Cabinet minister in Alberta
Nellie McClung: suffragist & Alberta MLA
Louise McKinney: 1st female MLA (Alberta & Br. Empire)
Henrietta Edwards: Activist & founding member of Victorian Order of Nurses)
Lesson #5: PM King & The Twenties

- They appealed to the highest court, the Privy Council in London.
- Oct. 18, 1929: the Privy Council ruled women ARE persons.
Lesson #5: PM King & The Twenties

POSSIBLE QUIZ QUESTIONS NEXT CLASS

1. Name the new leader of the Liberal Party.
2. Name the new leader of the Conservative Party.
3. What message did the PM send in the Chanak Crisis?
4. What power was challenged when Canada signed the Halibut Treaty?
5. The King-Byng Crisis set King up to campaign on what issue in the 1926 election?
6. The 1931 Stature of Westminster made which policy document a matter of law?
7. What were American owned business called?
8. What did the “Famous Five” do?
9. What did the “Group of Seven” do?
10. Name the Canadian sports caster from the twenties.