Border Dispute in Canada: The Labrador-Quebec Border

Lesson Overview
This lesson explores the historical and geographical development of the Labrador-Quebec border, as well as the continuing disputes since the border decision.

Grade Level
Intermediate 7-9. This lesson could be easily modified for the secondary level.

Time Required
One or two classes.

Curriculum Connection
Atlantic Provinces Curriculum for Social Studies: Council of Atlantic Ministers of Education and Training (CAMET): Prince Edward Island:

Link to the Canadian Atlas Online (CAOL)
http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/atlas/

Additional Resources, Materials and Equipment Required:
- Computers
- Internet access
- The following URLs:
  - Historical Atlas of Canada:
    http://www.historicalatlas.ca/website/hacolp/national_perspectives/boundaries/UNIT_17/UNIT_17_Terr_Evol_6799/UNIT_17_frame_TE6799.htm
    - 1825
    - 1867
    - 1898
    - 1925
    - 1927
  - Atlas of Canada Website:
    http://atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/english/maps/historical/territorialevolution/1927/1
  - Canadian Encyclopedia Online:
    http://www.canadianencyclopedia.ca/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=A1ARTA0004433
  - Library and Archives Canada:
    http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/confederation/023001-2980-e.html
  - Heritage Newfoundland and Labrador:
    http://www.heritage.nf.ca/law/boundary.html
  - Canadian Broadcasting Company:
Main Objective:
The main objective of this lesson is to understand the deep historical roots of the dispute between Newfoundland/Labrador and Quebec concerning the Labrador Border, which can be traced back to the French/English struggle for North America, the Treaty of Utrecht, the Plains of Abraham, Confederation, the 1927 Privy Council decision, and Newfoundland’s entry into Confederation in 1949. This dispute is now about resources and who controls them. Also today's climate will be analyzed.

Learning Outcomes:
By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- access online information through various websites.
- understand through map study where Newfoundland/Labrador and Quebec are located.
- understand through map study where the Quebec-Labrador border is located.
- understand how the border dispute occurred.
- understand what the Privy Council is.
- understand the decision the Privy Council made and why.
- understand why Quebec does not recognize the Privy Council decision.

The Lesson

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<th>TEACHER</th>
<th>STUDENT</th>
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<td>A familiarity with the websites listed in the resources is necessary before beginning.</td>
<td>Students would be asked to view a current map of Canada to see the current border. Discussions of the historical tensions between the English and French would be encouraged here, as this dispute has its roots in this conflict: <a href="http://www.pch.gc.ca/pgm/ceem-cced/symbl/101/110-eng.cfm">http://www.pch.gc.ca/pgm/ceem-cced/symbl/101/110-eng.cfm</a>. Discussion about the natural resources abundant in this area should also be encouraged. (Hydroelectric, Iron Ore, Forestry)</td>
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Lesson Development

The teacher should have the information on these websites reviewed and ready for student discussion. It is also important to have students in the classroom with the teacher using a computer and LCD projector to demonstrate many of the maps and websites listed.

Start the lesson by reviewing the borders of Canada and Newfoundland from the Historical Atlas of Canada
http://www.historicalatlas.ca/website/hacolp/national_perspectives/boundaries/UNIT_17/UNIT_17_Terr_Evol_6799/UNIT_17_frame_TE6799.htm
Then click on the following dates: 1825, 1867, 1898, 1925, and 1927. This will give the student a timeline of changes in the Quebec-Labrador border.

A discussion of the dispute between Canada and Newfoundland is warranted. The events leading up to the Privy Council Decision can be found at the following web sites:

- **Atlas of Canada Website:**
  http://atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/english/maps/historical/territorial_evolution/1927/1
- **Canadian Encyclopedia Online:**
  http://www.canadianencyclopedia.ca/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=A1ARTA0004433
- **Library and Archives Canada:**
  http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/confederation/023001-2980-e.html
- **Heritage Newfoundland and Labrador:**
  http://www.heritage.nf.ca/law/boundary.html

The decision is outlined at this website:

The decision has not been fully recognized by Québec, as shown on these maps:

The dispute does flare up from time to time. This can be seen here:
- **Canadian Broadcasting Company:**

Conclusion

The lesson will conclude when the tasks for assessment are completed.

Read the Western Star article located at
http://www.thewesternstar.com/index.cfm?sid=215239&sc=506
Completion of the questions for assessment.

Assessment

Have students complete the following for assessment:

1. What is a watershed? How was the definition of a watershed area important in the Privy Council decision?

2. How do you think the Innu of Quebec and Labrador feel about this border dispute?
3. Why do you think Quebec is still not accepting of this decision?

4. If you were the Prime Minister of Canada, what could you do to settle this matter?

5. Draw a map showing the location of the Quebec-Labrador at the times discovered in your research. Label significant water forms and landforms.

Lesson Extension

• Research the Red Wine Caribou Herd of Northern Labrador. What disputes have the Innu in Quebec had with the government of Newfoundland and Labrador? What has been done to solve these issues?

• Research the Romaine River. The southern border of Labrador is the biggest issue that the province of Quebec has with the border at this time. Why is this still being contested in this area? What developments are being developed by Quebec in this area?

• Debate this issue and write a letter to the Prime Minister about the class majority opinion on this dispute.

Link to Canadian National Standards for Geography:

Essential Element #1: The World in Spatial Terms
• Using maps (computer and print) to determine the border between Quebec and Labrador at different times in history.
• Spatial graphics (various map types)
• Interpret satellite-produced images to locate and identify physical and human features.

Essential Elements #2: Places and Regions
• Physical and human characteristics of places and regions within the province and Canada
• Changes in Places and regions over time

Essential Element #4: Human Systems
• The use of borders to define areas
• The definition of what defines an area as a part of a province or nation.

Essential Element #6: Uses of Geography
• Interaction of physical and human systems and influence on current and future conditions

Geographic Skill #1: Asking Geographic Questions
• Ask geographic questions.
• Distinguish between geographic and non-geographic questions.

Geographic Skill #2: Acquiring Geographic Information
• Locate, gather and process information from a variety of primary and secondary sources including maps.
• Make and record observations about the physical and human characteristics of places.
Geographic Skill #3: Organizing Geographic Information
- Prepare maps to display geographic information.
- Construct graphs, tables and diagrams to display geographic information.

Geographic Skill #4: Analyzing Geographic Information
- Use maps to observe and interpret geographic relationships
- Use tables and graphs to observe and interpret geographic trends and relationships
- Use texts, photographs and documents to observe and interpret geographic trends and relationships.
- Use simple mathematics to analyze geographic data.