The 1800s were a period of great change for Canada. As the century started, people were building and growing communities. Canada soon found itself in the middle of conflict as the War of 1812 broke out between Britain and the United States. Following the war, more and more people moved to Canada, and the colonies quickly faced the challenges of a rapidly growing population. Social and political tensions began to rise, leading to conflicts in Upper and Lower Canada. During this time, many Canadians worked toward social and political change.

This photo shows The Encampment, rows of 200 tents set up at Fort York in Toronto as part of the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812. Each tent contains an exhibit that tells the story of the many civilians who were affected by the war. In this unit, you will explore how different people and groups responded to the many conflicts and challenges of the time. Did these conflicts and challenges make Canada a better place to live by the 1850s?
UNIT 2: 1800–1850

The United States declares war on Britain, beginning the War of 1812.

Conflict between the North West Company and Hudson's Bay Company erupts in the Battle of Seven Oaks.

The Treaty of Ghent ends the War of 1812.

Hudson's Bay Company merges with the North West Company.

Mackenzie and Reformers launch Upper Canada Rebellion.

Patriotes fight in the Lower Canada Rebellion.

Lord Selkirk receives Red River land grant from Hudson’s Bay Company.

The Act of Union unites Upper Canada and Lower Canada.

Responsible government is established in the Province of Canada.

The cholera epidemic causes the death of over 7500 people.

Hudson’s Bay Company merges with the North West Company.

The Treaty of Ghent ends the War of 1812.

Large numbers of immigrants begin arriving in Canada from England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

The Act of Union unites Upper Canada and Lower Canada.

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Hudson’s Bay Company merges with the North West Company.

What to Consider
Your timeline will have a horizontal axis and a vertical axis. The dates of events and developments will be plotted on the horizontal axis. You will determine criteria to measure how strongly the events or developments represented progress or decline and then plot these values on the vertical axis. Positive changes will be plotted above the timeline and negative changes below the timeline.

Your timeline should include the following features:
- Purpose: How will you identify significant events and developments on your timeline? How will you explain the criteria you use to do this?
- Historical thinking: Why are the events and developments historically significant? What caused each event or development, and what were the consequences?
- Research: Which sources will you use to gather information and evidence? How will you check the evidence you find?
- Perspective: From whose perspective did the event or development result in progress? From whose perspective did it lead to decline? What evidence will you use to support your judgments?
- Conclusion: What conclusion will you make about whether Canada was a better place to live by 1850? What evidence will you use to support your conclusion?