



The Prime Ministers – Charles Tupper
Sixth Prime Minister of Canada
Episode 14

Overview

This lesson is based on viewing the Charles Tupper biography *The Prime Ministers*.

Aims

Students will study Charles Tupper's life story, term/s as prime minister, accomplishments and or failures and consider his contributions to Canadian history.

Time Allowance

Approximately 30 minutes to view the video.

15 – 20 minutes to complete student worksheet.

1 – 5 hours to complete activities.

Bibliography & Resources

- 1) Durant, Vincent "War Horse of Cumberland, the Life and Times of Sir Charles Tupper" 1985 Lancelot
- 2) "Makers of Canada", Vol. VIII, 1926 Oxford University Press
- 3) Murray, Jock and Murray, Janet "Sir Charles Tupper, Fighting Doctor to Father of Confederation" 1999 Assoc. Medical Services
- 4) Tupper, Charles "The Life and Letters of the Rt. Hon. Sir Charles Tupper" Vol. I and II, 1916 Cassel & Co.
- 5) Tupper, Charles "Recollections of Sixty Years in Canada" 1914 Cassel & Co.
- 6) Fathers of Confederation, <http://collections.ic.gc.ca/charlottetown/fathers/>
- 7) The Famous Five, <http://www.edukits.ca/famous/students.html>

Background

He was a Father of Confederation; he helped build the country by force of personality. But his private life scandalized colleagues. He was called "The Old Lion". In his lifetime, Charles Tupper was rated a great statesman. He changed the map of Canada. And he championed the most progressive reforms of his day. Yet, he was prime minister only a few weeks. And he is remembered not for his public role, but rather a reckless private life.

Born: July 2, 1821 Amherst, NS

Died: October 30, 1915 (Buried: Halifax, NS)

Political Party: Conservative

Term of Office: May 1, 1896 - July 8, 1896

Suggested Activities

Teachers: have students complete one or more of the following activities:

1. Confederation was the federal union of provinces and territories forming Canada, originally including Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and subsequently expanded to include the present provinces and territories. Using PowerPoint, create a timeline highlighting the major historical events of Confederation. Include the following details: when each province joined Confederation, the major events that led to Confederation, the key people involved and any external factors that contributed to the uniting of the British North American colonies. Do you believe Confederation had a positive influence on Canada? Why or why not?

2. Tupper's mother was a temperance movement supporter; she often dragged Tupper to temperance meetings to "rail against the evils of booze". The temperance movement was a social movement dedicated to the control of alcohol consumption. Research the history of the suffrage movement, Women's Christian Temperance Union and the temperance movement. In a group of

four, write and present a short skit highlighting these key aspects from the point of view of a woman involved in the temperance movement or an outsider opposing suffrage and temperance.

Student Worksheet
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1. Charles Tupper pioneered free schooling in Nova Scotia. What was free schooling?
2. What year did Tupper bring Nova Scotia into Confederation?
3. Fill in the blank: Tupper was _____ right hand man.
4. Describe some of Tupper's political shortcomings.
5. What was Tupper called while in office? Do you think he deserved this nickname? Explain why or why not.
6. Describe Tupper's personal history (e.g. family, religion, upbringing etc.)
7. What did people most admire about Tupper?
8. What was Tupper's role in the Canadian Pacific Railway?
9. How long did Tupper last as prime minister?
10. In what scandal was it rumoured that Tupper was involved?