



# **The Maple Leaf**

**Symbol of Canada**



# Symbols

- **Symbols originated as a means of human communication and identification centuries before printing, photography, and other technologies existed.**
- **In the words of the Department of Canadian Heritage, “emblems and symbols [are] important for preserving traditions and inspiring love of country.”**

# Symbols

**Some symbols of Canada are:**

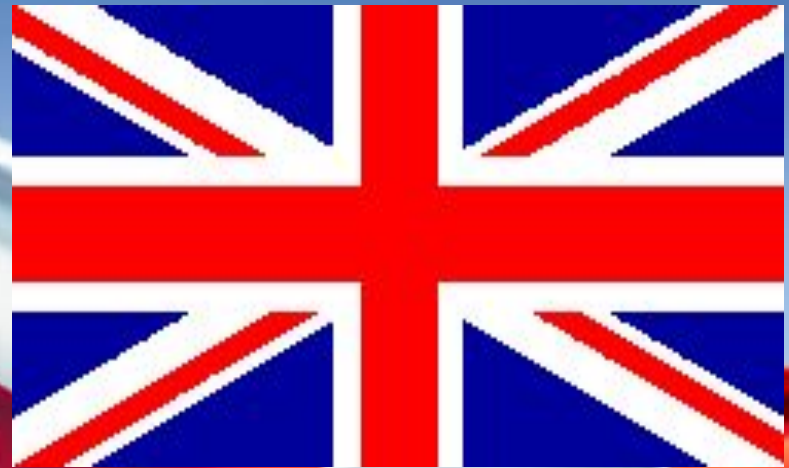
- 1. The Canadian Coat of Arms;**
- 2. the maple leaf;**
- 3. Canada's national colours;**
- 4. the maple tree itself;**
- 5. and the Canadian flag.**

# The Maple Leaf

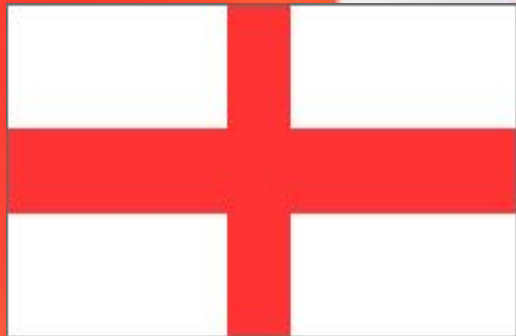




**Flag of France 1743**



**Great Britain's Union Jack in 1801**



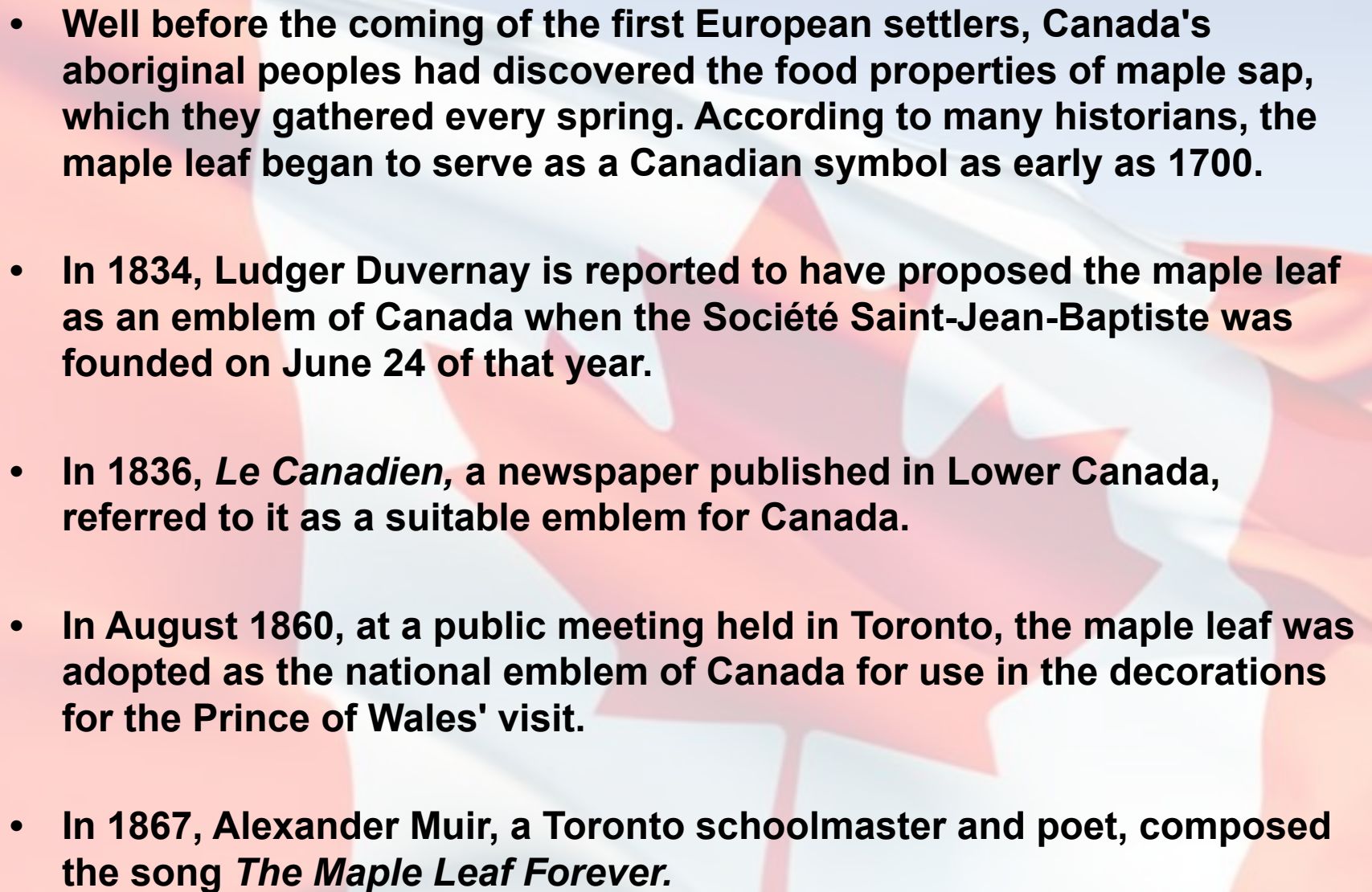
**Flag of England**



**Great Britain's Union Jack in 1606**



**Canadian Red Ensign was first used in 1870**

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- **Well before the coming of the first European settlers, Canada's aboriginal peoples had discovered the food properties of maple sap, which they gathered every spring. According to many historians, the maple leaf began to serve as a Canadian symbol as early as 1700.**
  - **In 1834, Ludger Duvernay is reported to have proposed the maple leaf as an emblem of Canada when the Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste was founded on June 24 of that year.**
  - **In 1836, *Le Canadien*, a newspaper published in Lower Canada, referred to it as a suitable emblem for Canada.**
  - **In August 1860, at a public meeting held in Toronto, the maple leaf was adopted as the national emblem of Canada for use in the decorations for the Prince of Wales' visit.**
  - **In 1867, Alexander Muir, a Toronto schoolmaster and poet, composed the song *The Maple Leaf Forever*.**

# The Maple Leaf Forever

In Days of yore, From Britain's shore Wolfe the dauntless hero came  
And planted firm Britannia's flag On Canada's fair domain. Here  
may it wave, Our boast, our pride And joined in love together, The  
thistle, shamrock, rose entwined, The Maple Leaf Forever.

[CHORUS] The Maple Leaf Our Emblem Dear, The Maple Leaf Forever.  
God save our Queen and heaven bless, The Maple Leaf Forever. At  
Queenston Heights and Lundy's Lane Our brave fathers side by  
side For freedom's home and loved ones dear, Firmly stood and  
nobly died. And so their rights which they maintained, We swear to  
yeild them never. Our watchword ever more shall be The Maple  
Leaf Forever

[CHORUS] Our fair Dominion now extends From Cape Race to Nootka  
Sound May peace forever be our lot And plenty a store abound And  
may those ties of love be ours Which discord cannot sever And  
flourish green for freedom's home The Maple Leaf Forever  
[CHORUS]



# The Maple Leaf and the Military

**In 1914, many Canadian soldiers wore the maple leaf on their military badges, and it was the dominant symbol used by many Canadian regiments serving in the Great War (World War I).**

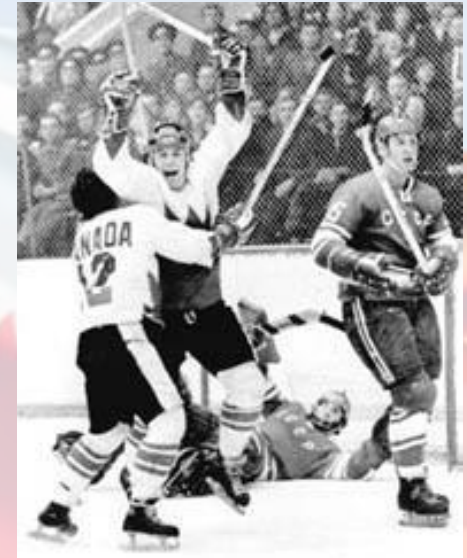


# The Maple Leaf and the Military

**In 1939, at the beginning of World War II, numerous Canadian troops once again used the maple leaf as a distinctive emblem, displaying it on regimental badges and Canadian army and naval equipment.**



# Red and White: Canada's National Colours



- History records that in the first crusade, Bohemund I, a Norman lord, had red crosses cut from his mantles and distributed to the 12,000 crusaders, who then wore them as a distinctive badge on their garments.
- In subsequent crusades, each nation was distinguished by a cross of a different colour. France long had a red cross on its banners while England used a white cross. Time and again in history, red and white are found as the colours of France or of England.

# Canada's Coat of Arms



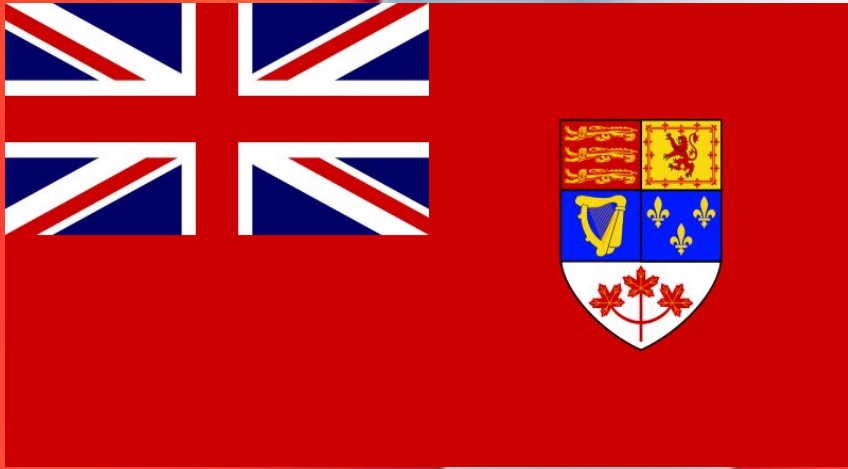
Coat of Arms of Canada, 1957 version

- Red and white were approved as Canada's official colours in the proclamation of the royal arms of Canada in 1921 by King George V.
- In 1957, the colour of the maple leaves on the shield of the Royal Arms of Canada was changed from green on a white ground to red on a white ground in recognition of Canada's official colours.

# Canada's Flag

**Pearson informed the House of Commons that the government wished to adopt a distinctive national flag. The 1967 centennial celebration of Confederation was, after all, approaching. As a result, a Senate and House of Commons Committee was formed and submissions were called for once again.**

# Canada's Flag



**In October 1964, after eliminating various proposals, the committee was left with three possible designs -- a Red Ensign with the fleur-de-lis and the Union Jack, a design incorporating three red maple leaves, and a red flag with a single, stylized red maple leaf on a white square. (Pearson himself preferred a design with three red maple leaves between two blue borders.)**

# Canada's Flag



The committee eventually decided to recommend the single-leaf design, which was approved by resolution of the House of Commons on December 15, 1964, followed by the Senate on December 17, 1964, and proclaimed by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, to take effect on February 15, 1965.

# Canada's Flag

**At the raising of the flag in Ottawa, the Honourable Maurice Bourget, Speaker of the Senate, said, “The flag is the symbol of the nation’s unity, for it, beyond any doubt, represents all the citizens of Canada without distinction of race, language, belief, or opinion.”**



# Assignment

- **Think of 6 Canadian Symbols**
- **Make your own personal version of the Canadian Coat of Arms using at least 4 symbols.**