

## 1763 – 1867 -Activity 6: Exploring the Lives of Individuals: Historical Significance

What makes someone or something historically significant? People and events in the past have historical significance if they created change that affected many people over time, or if they reveal something about larger issues in history or the present day. Note that historical significance is subjective: what is significant to one group may not be significant to another.

Using the criteria for historical significance (see purple sidebar) to structure your research, investigate an individual from the list below to explore why they are historically significant. Consider what details about their life might be missing from the written record. Begin your research on The Canadian Encyclopedia.

**Create a short biography, news article, speech, or presentation exploring the individual's life and significance. Include information on their early life (if available) and important events, and an assessment of their significance in the historical narrative.**

- Mary (Molly) Brant (Konwatsi'tsiaienni)
- Joseph Brant (Thayendanegea)
- Tecumseh
- Pauline Johnson (Tekahionwake)
- Nahneebahwequa (Catharine Sutton)
- Louis Riel
- Mistahimaskwa (Big Bear)
- Shawnadithit
- Pitikwahanapiwiyin (Poundmaker)
- Qitdlarssuaq
  - Red Crow
  - Tattannoeuck (Augustus)
  - Gabriel Dumont
  - Sara Riel
  - Thunderchild
- Charles Edenshaw (Tahayren)



Mistahimaskwa (Big Bear),



Catharine Sutton/  
Nahneebahwequa

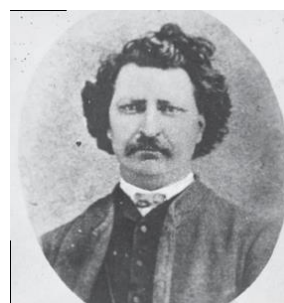
E. Pauline Johnson



Joseph Tayadaneega  
called the Brant



Métis leader Louis Riel,



Poundmaker, also known  
as The Drummer,



**Historical Significance Criteria:** In what ways is this person or event historically significant?

**Resulting in Change:**

*Profundity:* How were the people affected by the event or person?

*Quantity:* How many people's lives were affected?

*Consequences:* What effect(s) did the person or event cause?

*Durability:* How long lasting were the changes?

*Impact:* How widespread was the person or event's impact?

**Revealing:** How does the person or event help us understand the past?

*Prominence:* Was the person or event recognized as significant at the time?

*Historical Context:* How does the event or person shed light on issues or problems that concern us today or are a concern for our future? (What does the person or event reveal about the "big picture" and/or current issues?)