Video Notes on the Northwest Uprising

1. What are two examples of transportation improvements that signalled the Metis’ way of life coming to an end?

Steamboats and the Railway.

1. What was the root cause of the rebellion the video mentions?

Cultural Conflict.

1. Who kept Dumont from attacking the retreating Mounties force?

Louis Riel.

1. What point caused the First Nations to finally unite with the Metis in response to their frustrations against the Canadian government?

When the Metis held Batoche for a few days.

1. Which First Nation group decided to respond first in helping the Metis? What did their group do?

 Poundmaker: Chief of a Cree reserve in Battleford. After a winter of starvation and government refusal to live up to treaty obligations, decided to march on Battleford and take what they needed.

1. Which First Nation group joined after? Who lead them?

Crees of Big Bear at Frog Lake also joined the revolt. Lead by war chief: Wandering Spirit.

1. Colonel Otter decided to teach Poundmaker a lesson: 325men hoped to surprise the Cree when they were sleeping. What was the result of this battle? Who was the one that stopped their forces from annihilating the enemy forces?

The Cree who anticipated that attack had moved to the top of Cut-knife Hill. Otter’s forces were surrounded on 3 sides. After 7 hours of fighting, Otter admitted defeat and left through an escape route. Poundmaker was the one who stopped his crew from attacking the militia who were retreating.

1. How did the militia win at Batoche?

Ignored General Middleton’s orders to retire. The army found out they ran out of ammo and have ben shooting pebbles and scrap iron.

1. What did Gabriel Dumont do after he was exiled into the United States? Where did he die?

Gabriel Dumont was exiled in the U.S.---he joined Buffalo Bill’s wild west show. Granted amnesty and returned to batoche years after.

1. What did Louis Riel say when he was arrested after the Northwest Uprising?

He plans to vindicate himself with a spectacular trial he wants held in Quebec— I was not taken prisoner, I surrendered on purpose. I wanted to be judged from the merits of his actions, did not make any aggressive military moves—in Batoche we defended ourselves.

1. Why did Riel not want to be found insane by the jury?

If Riel is found guilty for high treason, he can say he is a prophet of the New World.

1. What was John. A. Macdonald’s response to Riel’s hanging?

He shall hang, though every dog in Quebec will bark in his favour.

1. How did the French respond to the death of Louis Riel?

50,000 people in Montreal jammed the Champs de Mar to condemn Riel’s execution. They burned Macdonald’s effigy.

1. How did the English-dominant places respond to Riel’s death?

Celebrated his death.

1. What was the moral story behind Riel’s casket being brought back to Winnipeg on the CPR?