

## 5B: Indigenous Issues in the Modern Era



**Source:** <http://www.cdnmilitarycollectors.com/t551-the-oka-crisis-1990>

### Lesson Focus Question

- How did Canadian society change from 1980 to the present?
- How did Aboriginal Canadians address new challenges and opportunities during this time?

**Main Reference:** Cranny, M., Moles, G. (2010). *Counterpoints: Exploring Canadian Issues*. Toronto: Pearson.

**Reading:** Ch. 7 p. 250-256 (try to read first)

**Teacher Presentation:** Keynote slideshow

**Image:** Stare-down at the Oka Crisis, 1990

### Questions

1. In your own words, what is the legacy of residential schools? (p. 250-251). You have probably learned about Indigenous residential schools from a variety of sources — do not limit your response to what you get from the textbook.

2. How did the idea of self-government come about? (p. 251)

3. What are the two types of land claims? (p. 251)

4. Why are land claim issues somewhat different in BC? (p. 252-253)

5. What is significant about the creation of Nunavut? (p. 253)

6. Why is it important to single out and celebrate the work of Indigenous artists? (p. 254-255)

7. What was the Oka Crisis (p. 241 and 256 and video clip from Canada Peoples History — lots of other sources available online). The event was a turning point, or at least a significant event for Canada, so it is worth taking some time to learn about this event.

Context (the problem)	Conflict (the events)	Consequence (the impact)

8. Regarding the significance of the Oka Crisis, see what you can find out...

- Was the event recognized as important at the time? (provide evidence)
  
- Were there important aspects of this story that did not seem to be reported or known by the public? (provide evidence)
  
- How deep was the impact of this event? You could mention how many people were affected, or long-lasting effects, or other things that come to mind.
  
- Does the event shed light on larger issues in Canada?

9. Compare the Oka Crisis to another event involving Indigenous land rights or other issues in Canada. Some examples might included the 2012 Idle No More Movement, the 2019 pipeline protests on Wet'suwet'en territory, or the 2021 discovery of 215 unmarked graves at a former Kamloops Residential School.

- Name of event:
- Was the event recognized as important at the time?
- Were there important aspects of this story that did not seem to be reported or known by the public?
- How deep was the impact of this event? You could mention how many people were affected, or long-lasting effects, or other things that come to mind.
- Does the event shed light on a larger issues in Canada?

10. What did the 1991 Royal Commission recommend (in 1996)? According to the Assembly of First Nations in 2006, what progress was made? (p. 256)

11. Practice Questions, p. 256 - try #1, 2, 3

## Food for thought: 21 Things You May Not Know About The Indian Act

1. Denied women status
2. Introduced residential schools
3. Created reserves
4. Renamed individuals with European names
5. Restricted First Nations from leaving reserve without permission from Indian agent
6. Enforced enfranchisement of any First Nation admitted to university
7. Could expropriate portions of reserves for roads, railways and other public works, as well as move an entire reserve away from a municipality if it was deemed expedient
8. Could lease out uncultivated reserve lands to non-First Nations if the new leaseholder would use it for farming or pasture
9. Forbade First Nations from forming political organizations
10. Prohibited anyone, First Nation or non-First Nation, from soliciting funds for First Nation legal claims without special license from the Superintendent General. (this 1927 amendment granted the government control over the ability of First Nations to pursue land claims)
11. Prohibited the sale of alcohol to First Nations
12. Prohibited sale of ammunition to First Nations
13. Prohibited pool hall owners from allowing First Nations entrance
14. Imposed the "band council" system
15. Forbade First Nations from speaking their native language
16. Forbade First Nations from practicing their traditional religion
17. Forbade western First Nations from appearing in any public dance, show, exhibition, stampede or pageant wearing traditional regalia
18. Declared potlatch and other cultural ceremonies illegal
19. Denied First Nations the right to vote
20. Created permit system to control First Nations ability to sell products from farms
21. Created under the British rule for the purpose of subjugating one race — Aboriginal Peoples

Source: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/21-things-you-may-not-know-about-the-indian-act-1.3533613> based on Bob Joseph's book 21 Things You May Not Know About The Indian Act

### Follow-on questions:

Were any of these items news for you? Do any of them really surprise you? As far as you know, are some of these items still active?