Buffer Lessons: Unit Overview

CHC2D, Canadian History since World War I, Grade 10 (Academic), Buffer Lessons. Five stand-alone 75-minute lessons for flex days: an assembly-shortened week, the day before a holiday, a catch-up day or a supply teacher.

The big question

How can one class period still build real historical thinking?

Each lesson works on its own, needs no earlier lesson and uses only the materials included. Together they practise the Strand A skills (questions, sources, the four concepts of historical thinking, communication) through a team review game, an oral history skill-builder, a current-events lesson on Arctic sovereignty, a creative what-if lab and a supply-teacher lesson on Newfoundland's 1948 referendums. All practice sources, interviews and examples are original; every historical fact was checked in November 2026.

Lessons

#	Lesson	Classes	Question	Expectations	What's inside
1	**Historian's Challenge**	1	Can we use the historian's tools quickly and well?	A1.1, A1.3, A1.5, A1.9	Team review game: question types, concepts, source judgements, timelines, clues and a significance final; works in any unit
2	**Memory as Evidence**	1	How far can we trust a memory?	A1.1, A1.3, A1.4, A2.2	Two original interviews about September 1972 checked against a fact file; strong and leading questions; partner interviews
3	**Who Controls the Arctic?**	1	Why is the Arctic in the headlines, and whose is it?	A2.3, D2.5, E2.3, E2.5, E3.4	2025–26 headlines; roots from 1880 to 2022; Ottawa, US and Inuit perspectives; briefing note (check for updates)
4	**What If?**	1	How much did one cause really matter?	A1.5, A1.6, A1.7, A2.2	Counterfactual rules; six turning-point cards from 1917 to 2003; consequence chains; news bulletins
5	**Newfoundland's Choice**	1	Why did Newfoundland join Canada?	D1.4, D1.5, D1.6, A1.4	Supply-teacher ready, no tech: reading, real referendum results, two practice sources, six questions, radio speech

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Assessment

Type	In this unit
Assessment for learning	Team Answer Sheet, Check the Memories, Headlines and Roots, Briefing Note, Consequence Chain, the Lesson 5 questions and exit tickets
Assessment as learning	Self-checks on success criteria, reflections, partner interviews and peer reality checks
Assessment of learning	None: these lessons are formative and flexible, and fit Ontario's 2026 policy (classroom work is evaluated through the unit summatives).

Sources and facts

Included:

- **Original practice sources:** two invented oral history interviews (Lesson 2), six turning-point cards and a model what-if (Lesson 4), and two invented 1948 letters (Lesson 5), all labelled
- **Verified facts:** fact files, timelines, referendum results and answer keys, checked against The Canadian Encyclopedia, Heritage Newfoundland and Labrador, Government of Canada releases and other sources in November 2026
- **Current events:** the Lesson 3 headlines (radar, Greenland, the Nuuk consulate, submarines, Operation NANOOK) can change: check for updates before teaching

Lesson 5 can be run by a supply teacher from the handout alone: the script is in the plan and the slide notes, and the answer key is in the plan. Lessons 2, 3 and 5 include Indigenous content; review it with your board's Indigenous education lead.

What's in each lesson

- Teacher lesson plan with expectations, timed sequence, differentiation, look-fors and answer guides
- Slides with speaker notes
- Student handouts and organizers
- Editable Word and PowerPoint files, plus PDFs

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