

## Louis Riel Radio Drama

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Not long after Confederation, our old buddy Guglielmo Marconi transmitted radio waves across the Atlantic and - not long after that - radio became the main form of family entertainment. Central to radio's success was the RADIO DRAMA, whereby actors would read from scripts and entertain listeners with tales of the Lone Ranger, Fibber McGee (what we call Ms McGee around here sometimes), the Shadow, and tales from world history.

Your task today is to take one part of the story of Louis Riel (from your texts, notes, required readings, and videos) and create a 3-minute radio drama (including a script and any necessary sound effects). You will be divided into groups of two students (one of you will be responsible for writing the script) and you will choose (via lethal lottery) one part of Riel's story from the MRHS Megabowl.

You will have to create a drama which centers around an event from the Riel story and - on Monday - we shall hear the radio dramas in chronological order. Remember to time your script so that it takes somewhere between 3 and 4 minutes and only the members of your group will fill the speaking roles (although it is ok if members want to play more than one role).

The Events (one choice per group - after everyone has chosen, students may make one (and only one) trade:

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- Louis Riel leaves his training for the priesthood and returns to Red River
- Louis Riel (and his buddies) meet the Canadian surveyors (Riel's line 'You go no further' should be part of the script)
- Riel and his buddies discuss the formation of their provisional government (make it a debate over its legality, how it would work, possible repercussions, etc)
- The seizing of Upper Fort Garry and the establishment of Riel's provisional government, including Riel's first address to the citizens of Red River
- The arrest, detention, bad behaviour, and final execution of Thomas Scott
- John A Macdonald speaks with his closest advisors about possible actions they could take against Riel's provisional government in the Red River
- Father Noel-Joseph Ritchot's negotiations with the government, concluding with Manitoba entering Confederation (begin with Riel's final instructions to the priest)
- Members of the Red River Expedition traveling west in order to apprehend Riel; you are cold, angry, and you miss your families
- Riel: the Lost Years. Try to imagine Louis Riel's life from the time he fled to Montana in 1869 until his return to Batoche in 1885. Focus on family and his going mad.
- Gabriel Dumont travels to Montana and convinces Riel that his people need him in Batoche for the Northwest Rebellion in 1885.
- Riel tries to enlist the support of Aboriginals, white settlers, and the church for the 1885 rebellion, with little success.
- The buffalo discuss their declining numbers and what appears to be an uprising among the men who once hunted them (can trade if you don't want this one)
- A Canadian surveyor tries to explain the benefits of SQUARE CONCESSION while a Metis argues for the SEIGNEURIAL SYSTEM of land division.
- The Northwest Mounted Police barracks near Batoche; your lazy day has been interrupted by news of a Metis uprising; what will you do?
- The capture of Louis Riel by the NWMP and soldiers from Canada
- The Riel trial - the arguments by the accused and the prosecution
- The death of Louis Riel - include his last words, the prayers by a priest, the executioner (who has a morbid sense of humor, by the way) and the crowd.
- Canadian Prime Ministers (through the ages) debate whether or not Riel deserves exoneration and whether Riel deserves to be called a Father of Confederation