

Student Handout: Unit 4 Lesson 3



French-English Relations

Suggested time: 2 Periods

What's important in this lesson:

When two different cultures have to live together, there may be conflict. The history of the English-Canadians and French-Canadians has been one of conflict, compromise and often, resolution. The relationships between these two distinct groups continue to shape the Canadian identity.

Complete these steps:

1. Think about a time that you had a problem or disagreement with someone. Use the “Problem Solving Model” to analyze your problem. Explain the problem, think of two possible solutions to the problem, and think of an advantage and disadvantage for each solution.
2. On the back of the “Problem Solving Model” sheet of paper,
 - Explain the solution you used, or would use, to solve the problem you were thinking of.
 - Explain why you chose the solution?
 - List three (3) ideas on how people could still get along even though they may not agree with a solution to a problem or disagreement.
3. English-French history has been one of disagreements and solutions. Read Handout 1 “English-French Relations”.
 - While you are reading, highlight any words, expressions, or ideas that you do not understand.
 - Work with a partner to help clarify what you do not understand or ask your teacher for help.
 - On the bottom of the handout, write ONE sentence stating your view on English-French relations in Canada – good, bad, or other?
4. You will now research some major issues in English-French relations.
 - Research the topics in the “English-French Relations Chart”, Handout 3, and fill in each section of the chart.
 - Hand your chart in.

Reflection

5. Think about the relationship between the English and the French Canadians. Write a few sentences: What is your prediction about English-French relations? What evidence did you base your answer on?

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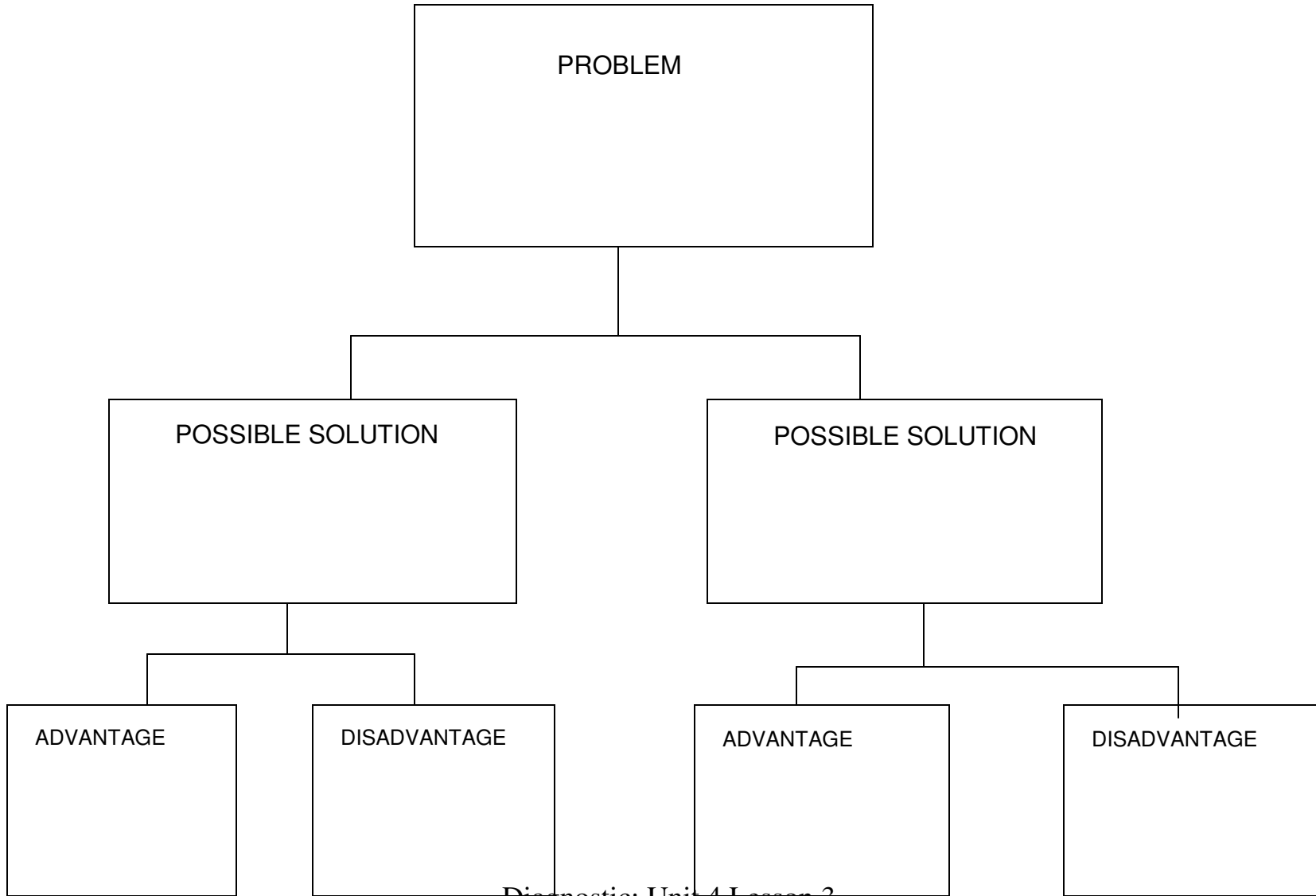
Hand-in the following to your teacher:

1. Your completed “Problem Solving Model” Diagnostic and sentence
2. Your completed research chart on Handout 2 “English-French Relations”
3. Your Reflection answer.

Questions for the teacher:

PROBLEM SOLVING MODEL

English-French Relations Lesson



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English French Relations

--by Colleen Wray

When Britain defeated France in the Seven Years' War, the British gained the colony of New France. The British hoped that these French Canadians would begin to speak English and follow the English way of life. However, the French Canadians wanted to preserve and protect their language and culture.

From the Conquest in 1760 to present day, the English and French have had a number of conflicts they've needed to resolve in order to live together happily.

After the Conquest an Englishman named General James Murray became the governor of the colony. He tried to make the transition of the French to British rule an easy one for the French. This was not an easy task.

The English speaking population in Quebec wanted to buy the French land at a low price. They also expected to have an elected assembly and a law preventing Catholics from holding government jobs. This caused a problem because all the French were Catholic and such a law would give the English control of the colony.

The Quebec Act allowed the French Canadians to keep their land, religion, language, and to participate in politics. This controversial Act made the English angry but protected the rights of the French minority.

After the Quebec Act was passed, a rebellion broke out in the Thirteen Colonies. They wanted to become independent of Britain. People who remained loyal to Great Britain during the rebellion were called Loyalists. When the rebels won, many Loyalists left the United States and moved to Canada.

With the increase of the English population, Britain thought that changes should be made to the Quebec Act. The Constitutional Act was passed in 1791. The Act divided Quebec into two separate colonies, Lower Canada (Quebec) and Upper Canada (Ontario). The Act recognized the culture of both groups. It was fair to both French and English Canadians and seemed to ease the tensions for a while.

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However, by the 1830's, people in Upper and Lower Canada wanted change. They wanted a more democratic system of government and rebelled to get it. The rebellions were quickly stopped but the English sent Lord Durham to Canada to study the problem and make a report. Lord Durham reported that he found "two nations warring in the bosom of a single state." He suggested that the government be made more democratic and the Upper and Lower Canada unite into a single colony. The French did not like this proposal because it would mean that they were the minority. Durham was really hoping that the French would be assimilated into the English language and culture. When the Act of Union was implemented in 1841, the French Canadians fought to ensure that their way of life would not disappear.

By the 1860's there were a number of challenges Canada was facing. Many politicians felt that a solution to this problem would be a union of the British colonies. This plan of union was called Confederation. On July 1, 1867, the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia joined together to form the Dominion of Canada. Confederation would guarantee, in writing, freedom of religion and the right to use French language. Each province would have control over local affairs. This would allow the French Canadians to protect their way of life. It was hoped that English and French Canadians would work together in harmony to produce a strong Canada.

Since Confederation, the French and English have continued to struggle over a number of issues. You will examine some of these issues and make a prediction about the future of the French in Canada.

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English-French Relations - Chart

| Event (explain the problem and solution) | English Reaction | French Reaction | Results |
|--|------------------|-----------------|---------|
| Conscription Crisis (WW I) | | | |
| Conscription Crisis (WW II) | | | |

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| Event (explain the problem and solution) | English Reaction | French Reaction | Results |
|--|------------------|-----------------|---------|
| The October Crisis (1970) | | | |
| Canada Act (1982) | | | |

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| Event (explain the problem and solution) | English Reaction | French Reaction | Results |
|--|------------------|-----------------|---------|
| The Quebec Referendum (1980) | | | |