

Map Tour: The Quest for Universal Schooling

Æ The Quest for Universal Schooling, 1851-1891

For a great many citizens in 19th-century Canada, seeking a better life meant focusing upon learning and scholarship and the relentless drive for universal, free public education. Early in the 21 st century some Canadians take their wide-ranging educational opportunities for granted, and greet them with indifference. This attitude is an insult to the strides taken by citizens more than a century earlier.

Æ To start this map tour, navigate to The Quest for Universal Schooling, 1851-1891 chapter page. *Browse > National Perspectives - Society > The Quest for Universal Schooling, 1851-1891*

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The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the 'Historical Atlas of Canada Online Learning Project' website. The page title is 'The Quest for Universal Schooling, 1851-1891'. The main content area features a preview map of Canada with three highlighted regions: 'Female Teachers in the Maritimes', 'Students in School', and 'Schools with Blackboards'. Below the map is a timeline from 1800 AD to 2000 AD. To the right of the map is an 'Overview' section with text and a 'More' link. Below the overview is an 'Interactive Maps' section with three map tour options: 'Students in School: 1851, 1881', 'Schools with Blackboards in Canada West: 1856, 1861, 1866', and 'Female Teachers in the Maritimes: 1851, 1871, 1891'. Further down are sections for 'Graphs', 'Illustrations', and 'More Resources', each with a link to related content.

Map Tour: The Quest for Universal Schooling

Rising School Attendance



Try This:

- Open the interactive map "Students in School: 1851, 1881."
- Under LAYER CONTROLS, turn on the checkbox for "1851 Attendance by CD." (Census division)



Notice ...

- The proportion of the total population attending school in Canada is highest around the shores of Lake Ontario.



Try This:

- Under LAYER CONTROLS, turn on the checkbox for "1881 Enrolment by CD."



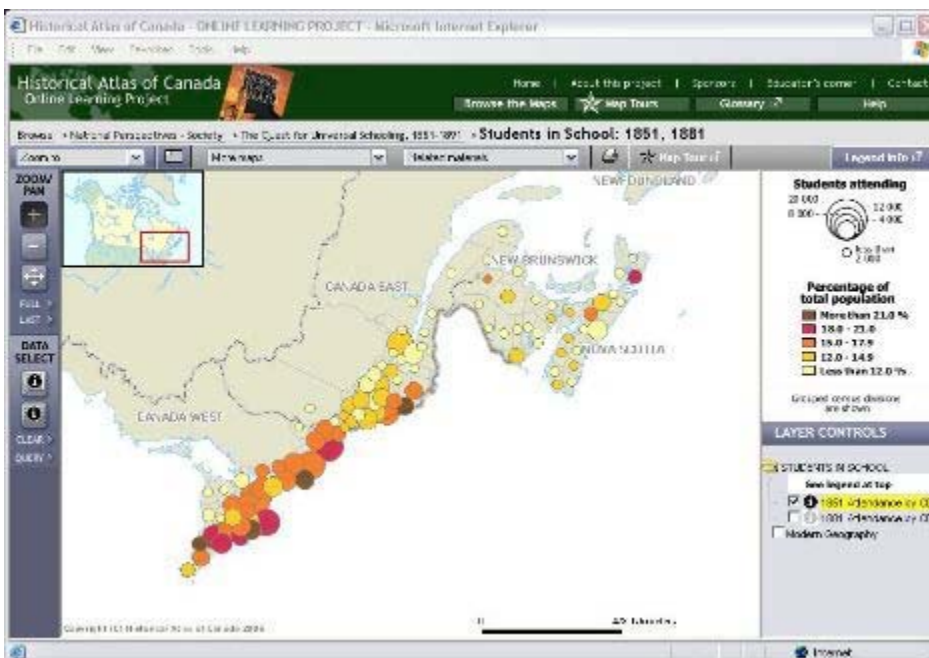
Notice ...

- The emphasis on education throughout Canada has intensified substantially between 1851 and 1881.
- Québec appears to have a relatively lower attendance rate than Ontario or the Maritimes.



Consider!

- These figures will be influenced by the distribution of age groups in the unit areas of observation.
- Québec, long established, may have a relatively older population than Ontario, still undergoing settlement.



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Canada's Census a Treasure Trove



Try This:

- Keep open the map "Students in School: 1851, 1881."
- Under LAYER CONTROLS, turn on the checkbox for "1881 Enrolment by CD."
- On the DATA SELECT toolbar, click on the Identify tool and then click on any circle on the map to popup its information.



Notice ...

- A popup box opens giving you the name of the Census Division.



Try This:

- On the DATA SELECT toolbar, click on the "QUERY" button to popup the Query box. Select the options of your choice and then Submit Query.



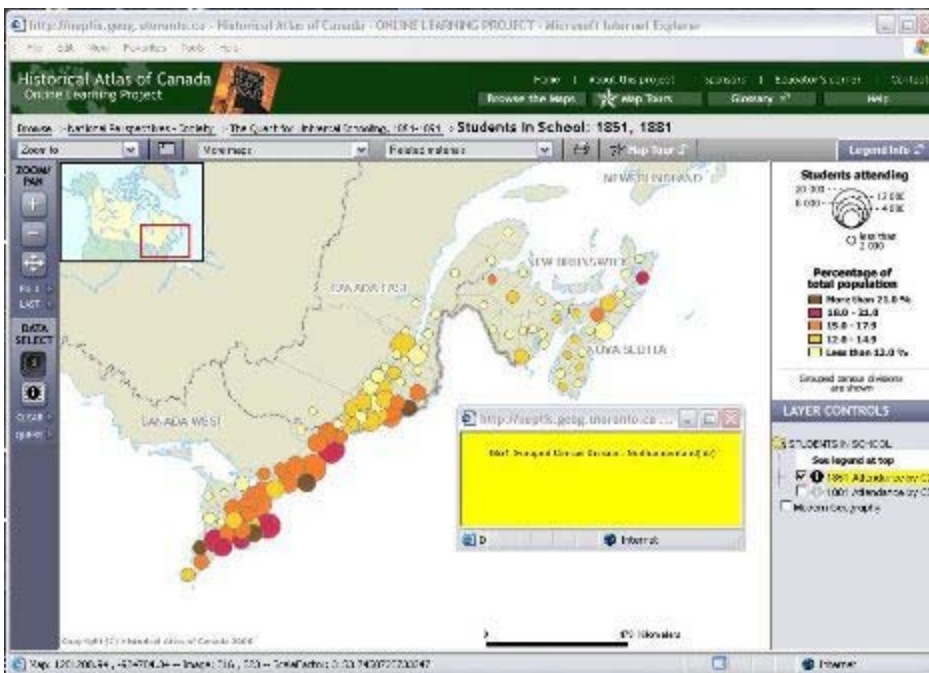
Notice ...

- A table box opens giving details of all the Census Divisions which meet your Query criteria.



Consider!

- Canada's published decennial censuses are a remarkably rich resource, and the census manuscripts offer even more extensive detail.



Map Tour: The Quest for Universal Schooling

Blackboards



Try This:

- Click on the "More Maps" drop-down menu and select "Schools with Blackboards in Canada West."
- Under LAYER CONTROLS, turn on the checkboxes for "1856 Counties, 1861 Counties, 1866 Counties," one after the other, Watching the changes in the map as you do it.



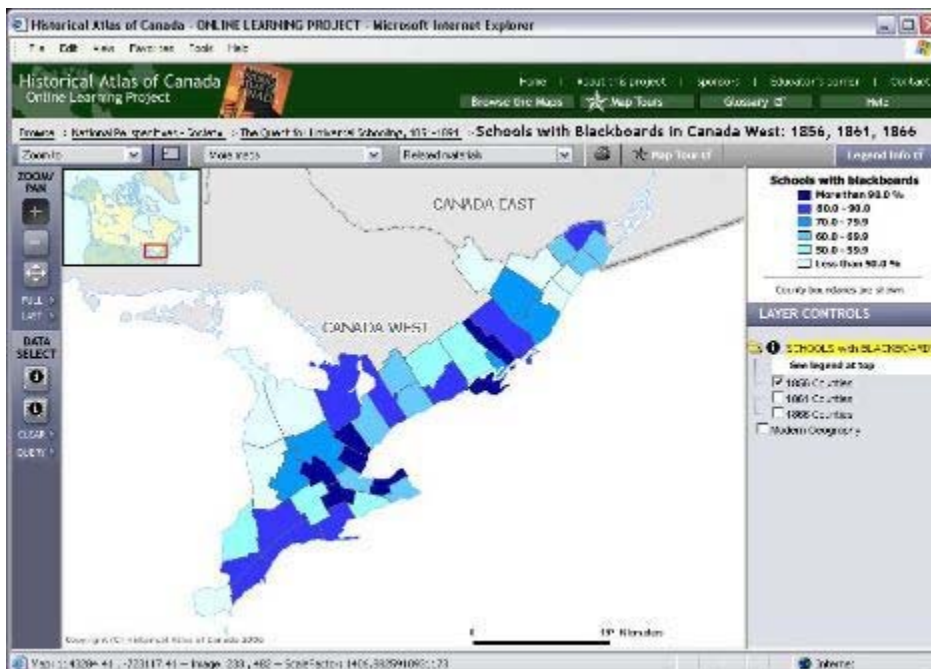
Notice ...

- The installation of schoolroom blackboards was well under way in Canada West (Ontario) in 1856, and nearly complete ten years later.
- The western part of Canada West was the first region to achieve virtually total installation of blackboards.



Consider!

- Blackboards stood for educational reform.
- Blackboards focused the attention of students on the teacher rather than on their individual slates.
- Blackboards permitted teachers to instruct many students simultaneously.



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Female Teachers



Try This:

- Click on the "More Maps" drop-down menu and select "Female Teachers in the Maritimes."
- Under LAYER CONTROLS, turn on the checkboxes for "1851 Counties, 1871 Counties, 1891 Counties," each in turn, watching the changes in the map as you do *it*.



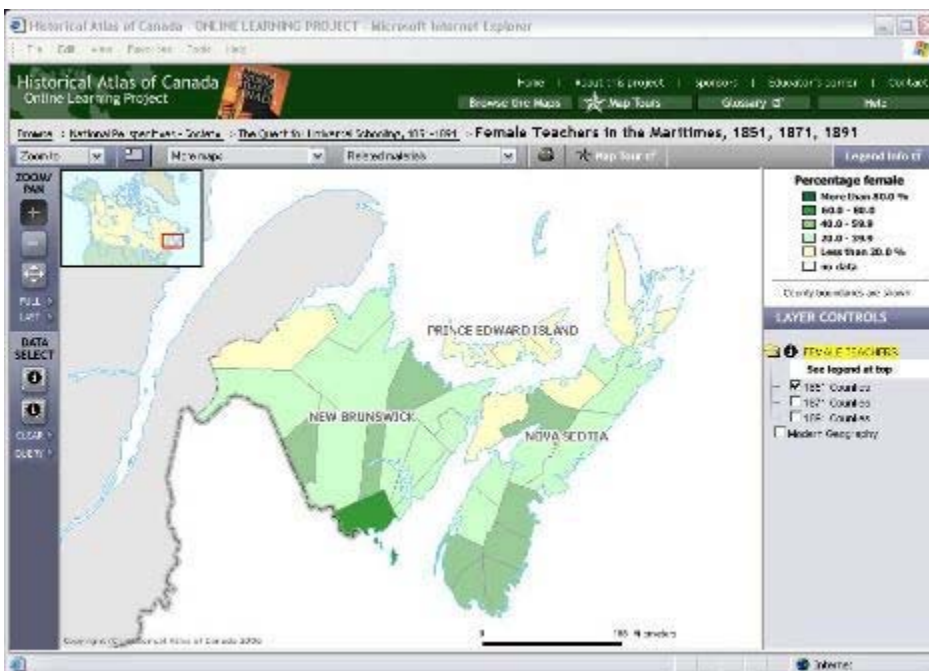
Notice ...

- The proportion of male teachers in the Maritimes dropped significantly over this forty-year period.



Consider!

- Teaching had many of the hallmarks of child care, which was women's work in the 19th century.
- There was an English tradition of male school masters, and it faded only gradually.
- Women may have been reluctant to take assignments in remote locations



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"A New Model for Advanced Pupils"



Try This:

- Click on the "Related Materials" drop-down menu and select Illustrations - "Hamilton Central School, 1852."
- Scroll down and examine the floor plan of the school.



Notice ...

- The plan calls for separate entrances and separate floors for boys and girls, with the girls upstairs.
- The girls section has a classroom with 180 places. The largest boys' room holds 28
- There is a needlework room for girls, but nothing equivalent (such as a workshop) for boys.



Consider!

- Boys have been perceived as less controllable than girls.
- Gender segregation for schooling is consistent with mid-Victorian social standards.
- Building layout - a sort of miniature map of a confined world - can tell us a great deal about social conditions.

Historical Atlas of Canada Online Learning Project - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Historical Atlas of Canada Online Learning Project

The Quest for Universal Schooling, 1851-1891

Hamilton Central School, 1852

HAMILTON CENTRAL SCHOOL, 1852

A new model for advanced pupils



"The building is commodious, well-ventilated, and delightfully situated; and adjacent to it are the respective playgrounds and gymnasiums for the male and female scholars. All drink of the same fountain and of mind-invigorating knowledge, and judging from the happy faces and cleanly appearance of the whole, we should say that none have perished in vain."
- (Item from press notice, 1855)



local time

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Interprovincial Registration



Try This:

- Click on the "Related Materials" drop-down menu and select Graph - "School Registrations, 1851-1891"



Notice ...

- Any anticipated rise in the proportion of school registrations in conjunction with increased literacy and larger populations seems to apply only partially in this case.



Consider!

- Maturing societies tend to have fewer people of school age and more people in older age brackets.

These are just a few of the questions that these maps and data can address.

If you have ideas for other questions, please use our Feedback page to send them to us, and they may be posted on the website in the future.

