Red River Rebellion
Ms. Bryan Cheat Sheet

What: Uprising against the Canadian government by the Metis in the Red River Valley (now Manitoba).

Who: The Metis, their heritage is half-First People, half-French origins from the fur trade and start of HBC.

Leader: Louis Riel

When: Fall 1869 to summer 1870, last 10 months.

Why: The HBC sold Ruperts Land (which included Red River Valley to the Canadian government- in 1869). Since the Metis lived on the land, they did not want changes to be applied to their way of life. \*\*\* Remember the Metis were also excluded from all the treaties made during confederation!\*\*\*

What: During confederation the colonies wanted to protect themselves to avoid invasion from America.

Confederation: United the colonies, helped grow the economy, share railway debt, create a stronger unified government… but now they need to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_the area by getting more people to settle on the expanding West to avoid Americans. Red River Valley (In Rupert’s Land) had 12,00 settlers more than half of them were Metis.

Now back to the RRR: Sir John A Macdonald (Canadas first \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) was afraid America would take land, so he sent \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ surveyors to go divide the land as quickly as possible.

The land surveyors were going to divide the land into individual plots, to entice more settlers to come start a new life there. This would disrupt the bison hunt, Metis had no proof that the RRV belonged to them.

Problems:

Who would this affect:

How would it affect them:

What could they do:

However, Louis Riel did not let the surveyors in because the government did not consider how the Metis people felt and what they wanted. WHAT THE WHAT --- FIRST TIME CANADIAN GOVERNMENT DID NOT TAKE THE METIS OR FIRST PEOPLES INTO CONSIDERATION , RIGHT? No seems to be a common theme….
Anyways back to the story…
The Metis annexed (took over) Fort Garry and took everyone as hostages to get the government’s attention. In hopes of getting their voices heard. Thomas Scott (the land surveyor in Fort Garry) then responded by saying the Metis had no right to be heard...no voice in confederation, no voice in land agreements… Well this didn’t go so well, Louis Riel ordered for Scott to be killer. March 4th, 1870 the Metis executed him. The Caucasian Canadians were very upset and ordered for L.R. to be hung. An eye for an eye.

What did Louis Riel do? He fled to America before Canadian troops could catch him.

What happened to the RRR without their leader? The Metis reluctantly agreed to join Canada and RED River Valley was renamed Manitoba.

What ere the goals of RRR? Metis wanted to enter confederation as their own province, wanted to represent themselves in Parliament, wanted French and English to be recognized as official languages, wanted to control their own local affairs, and the right to maintain their traditional way of life.

