



**Sir John A. MacDonal**  
**Conservative**  
**(1867-1873) (1878-1891)**  
**(DRAFT)**

## Sir John A MacDonal

### Biography

Sir John Alexander Macdonald GCB KCMG PC PCc QC was the first Prime Minister of Canada. The dominant figure of Canadian Confederation, he had a political career which spanned almost half a century. [Wikipedia](#)

**Born**: January 11, 1815, [Merchant City, United Kingdom](#)

**Died**: June 6, 1891, [Ottawa](#)

**Battles/wars**: Rebellions of 1837: Upper Canada Rebellion

**Political party**: Conservative

**Spouse**: [Agnes Macdonald, 1st Baroness Macdonald of Earnscliffe](#) (m. 1867–1891), [Isabella Macdonald](#) (m. 1843–1857)

**Children**: [Hugh John Macdonald](#), [John Alexander Macdonald Jr.](#), [Margaret Mary Theodora Macdonald](#)

**Previous offices**: Prime Minister of Canada (1878–1891), Prime Minister of Canada (1867–1873)

# Sir John A MacDonald

## Educational Activities

Teachers may engage students in some of the following:

1. What is a majority government? Write a list of the pros and cons of having a majority government.
2. Summarize the treatment of Canada's Indigenous peoples during Sir John A MacDonald's terms as Prime Minister with five key words and provide examples.
3. In a small group, dramatize a press conference may have taken place during Sir John A MacDonald's leadership reign. Be sure to focus on 1 or 2 key issues. (1 person to play the PM and others play the role of the media)
4. Create an alternative policy to the Indian Act and explain how it would have affected the outcome of Canada's history.
5. Compare and/or contrast Sir John A MacDonald to our current Prime Minister.
6. Write a speech that Sir John A MacDonald may have given while he was campaigning to become Prime Minister of Canada.
7. Create a poster promoting one of the initiatives that Sir John A MacDonald's government was responsible for.
8. Construct a pictorial time-line that summarizes what happened during his time in office.
9. Criticize/Critique one of Sir John A MacDonald's policies.
10. Create a timeline (with descriptions) of the most significant events of Sir John A MacDonald's leadership reign.
11. Categorize the actions of the government under the leadership of Sir John A MacDonald using the headings: the good, the bad and the questionable.
12. Create a poster/powtoon/infogram that highlights Sir John A MacDonald's contributions to Canada as a Prime Minister.