

Western Expansion Timeline

6.1.3
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California gold rush begins.

Aboriginal peoples discover gold on the Thompson River
(B.C. or New Caledonia).

Gold is discovered on the Fraser River in British Columbia.

Gold is discovered in the Cariboo Mountains of B.C.
(Barkerville area).

North-West Territories and Manitoba (Red River Valley)
become part of Canada.

American traders enter the Canadian North West to make
profits selling whisky and trading furs.

British Columbia becomes a province of Canada.

250 Assiniboine Indians are killed by American
whisky traders in Cypress Hills, Alberta.

The North West Mounted Police are founded to keep law and order and establish
Canadian control in the West so the Americans do not annex the territory.

Work begins on the CPR line moving west from
Fort William (Thunder Bay).

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First train arrives from the East in Winnipeg;
work on the CPR line progresses toward the West.

Canadian Pacific Railway is formed.

First steel arrives at Port Moody, B.C. to begin
construction of the CPR line moving toward the East.

15,000 Chinese labourers are hired to build the B.C. section of the
railway, blasting through mountains in dangerous conditions.

The last spike of the railway is driven. The western line and the eastern
line meet at Craigellachie, B.C. 4660 km of track have been completed.

The first passenger train travels across Canada from
Montréal to Port Moody, B.C.

Klondike gold rush begins in the Yukon.

Yukon becomes a territory of Canada.