

Graphing Canada-US relations, 1945-2000

In this critical challenge, students examine the impact of various post-World War II events on the Canada-US relationship. They graph the relationship and write a summary statement describing it from 1945 to 2000.

Introduce the concept of continuity and change

Introduce the challenge

Introduce the criteria for a positive relationship

If students are unfamiliar with this historical thinking concept, use the six-minute video *Thinking about history: Historical significance* to introduce students to continuity and change. The accompanying lesson plan provides pre-, during- and post-viewing activities with support materials to extend student thinking about the ideas in the video. The lesson plan and video are found in the online supplement that accompanies this resource.



Distribute *Evaluating Canada-US relations after World War II* (Student Activity Sheet #1) and *Graphing the Canada-US relationship after World War II* (Student Activity Sheet #2). Explain that students will be asked to evaluate the Canada-US relationship from 1945 to 2000 based on numerous events that occurred during this time period. Inform students that after they have learned more about these events, they will rate the events according to criteria for a positive relationship between two countries and graph them to create a visual representation of the relationship.

Ask students to consider the criteria they might use to judge whether the relationship between two countries is positive. Generate a list as a class that includes criteria such as:

- have common interests;
- share the same fears and concerns;
- agree on solutions to problems.

The image shows two overlapping student activity sheets. The top sheet, 'Evaluating Canada-US relations after World War II', includes a table for rating events on a scale from -2 to +2. The bottom sheet, 'Graphing the Canada-US relationship after World War II', features a grid for plotting the relationship from 1945 to 2000, with a list of events on the left and a section for describing the graph.

Research the events

Ask students to choose three criteria by which to judge the Canada-US relationship and to write these on their activity sheets.

Ask students to form small groups to research and summarize the events outlined on *Evaluating Canada-US relations after World War II*. Direct students to use textbooks and various online sources such as the *Canadian Encyclopedia*, which has informative entries on all of the events. You may wish to show videos or slideshow presentations to help students understand these events and how they affected Canada-US relations.

Rate the events

Ask groups to discuss the possible ratings in light of the criteria for a positive relationship. Students do not need to reach agreement on their ratings.

Graph the events

Ask students to individually graph the events and write a summary statement (two to three sentences) that concisely describes the Canada-US relationship from 1945 to 2000.

Assess for understanding

Randomly assign students to new groups of four or five. Ask groups to critique each other's statements based on their collective understanding, using the second line in the rubric *Assessing your graph and explanations* (Assessment Sheet #3). Encourage students to refine their statements and complete the rubric based on all of their work prior to submitting their work for teacher assessment.

Assessment Sheet #3

Assessing your graph and explanations

In the rubric below, highlight the descriptions that best reflect your work. Explain your choices using specific examples from your work. Go back and improve your work based on this self-assessment before re-submitting, if necessary.

Possible and accurate graph placement	Outstanding	Well-developed	Complete	Barely adequate	Underdeveloped
My placement is possible and fully reflects the country events.	My placement is possible and fully supported with thoughtful reasons.	My placement is possible and supported with a few clear reasons.	My placement is possible and supported with a few clear reasons.	My placement is possible and supported with a few clear reasons.	My placement is possible and supported with a few clear reasons.
Comments/justification for rating:					
Highlighted and accurate graph placement	Offers an insightful and concise explanation using relevant and relevant information.	Offers a concise explanation using relevant information.	Offers an adequate explanation using relevant information.	Offers a basic explanation using relevant information.	Offers a superficial explanation that may include relevant facts, but not relevant information.
Comments/justification for rating:					

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Evaluating Canada-US relations after World War II

Rate the following event(s) on a scale from -2 (very negative) to +2 (very positive) based on the criteria you identify. Explain your rating.

Characteristics of a strong/positive relationship	Characteristics of a weak/strained relationship
• • •	• • •

Event	Explanation for rating
Cold War begins	-2 -1 0 <u>+1</u> +2 +1 because both Canada and the US were on the same side and had similar fears about communism. Their actions were similar but the US went further (Committee on Un-American Activities) by blacklisting Communists in witch hunts.
Canada joins NATO	-2 -1 0 +1 +2
DEW line built	-2 -1 0 +1 +2
NORAD created	-2 -1 0 +1 +2
Korean War	-2 -1 0 +1 +2
Suez Crisis	-2 -1 0 +1 +2
Cuban Missile Crisis	-2 -1 0 +1 +2

Name: _____

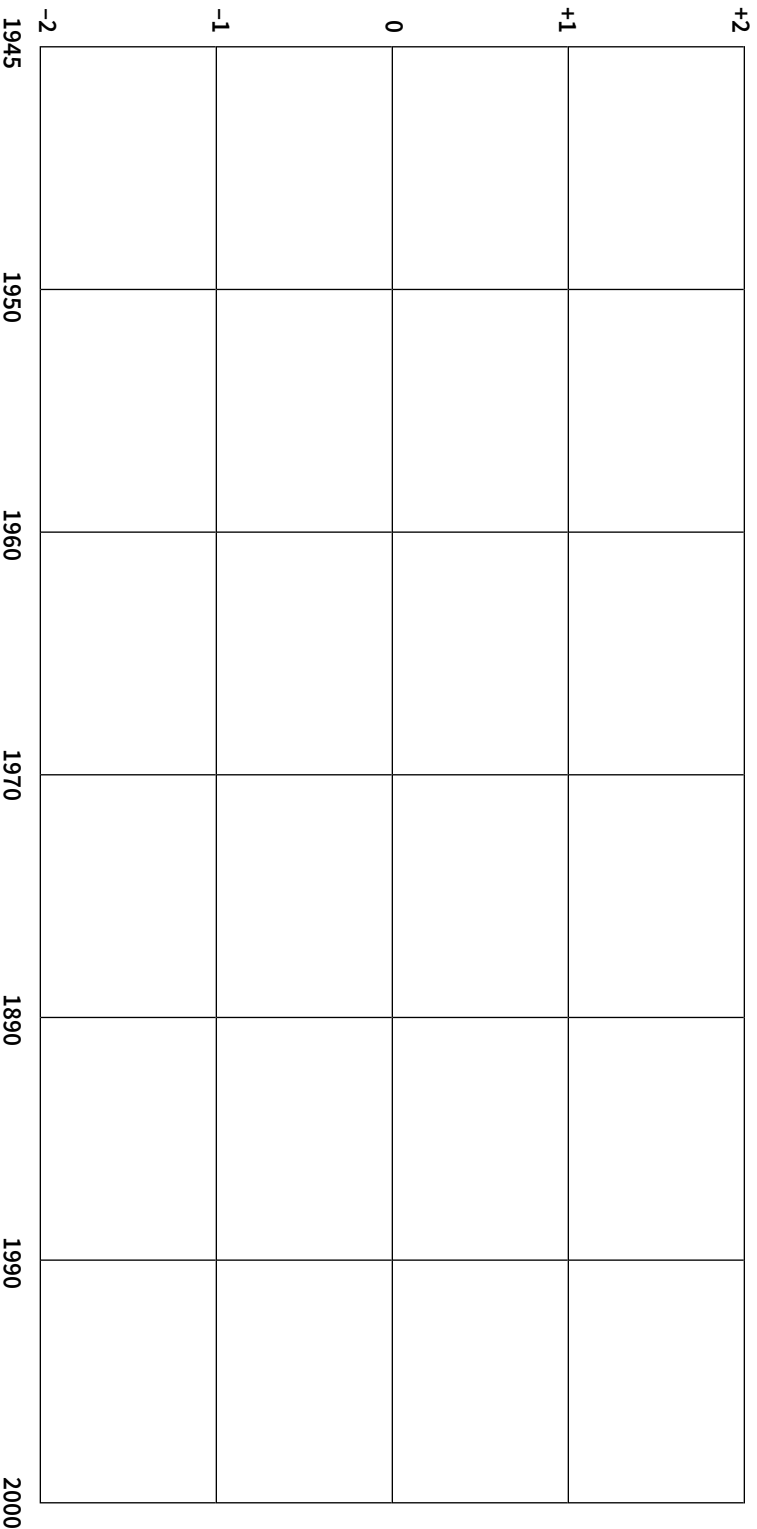
Event	Explanation for rating				
Avro Arrow decision	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
Bomarc missile controversy	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
Vietnam War	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
Trudeau's foreign policy	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
Mulroney era	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
Gulf War	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
	-2	-1	0	+1	+2

Graphing the Canada-US relationship after World War II

Characteristics of a strong/positive relationship	Characteristics of a weak/strained relationship
•	•
•	•
•	•

Criteria for a convincing explanation
Plausible and supported choices: Choices are highly plausible and supported with very convincing reasons.

Events	
Canada joins NATO	Bombarc missile controversy
DEW line built	Vietnam War
Korean War	Trudeau's foreign policy
Suez Crisis	Mulhroy era
Cuban Missile Crisis	Gulf War
Avro Arrow decision	



Describing the graph: Briefly summarize the relationship between Canada and the US from 1945 to 2000.

Assessing your graph and explanations

In the rubric below, highlight the descriptions that best reflect your work. Explain your choices using specific examples from your work. Go back and improve your work based on this self-assessment before submitting, if necessary.

	Outstanding	Well-developed	Competent	Barely adequate	Underdeveloped
Plausible and supported graph placements	All placements are plausible and fully supported with convincing reasons.	Most placements are plausible and fully supported with thoughtful reasons.	Most placements are plausible and supported with at least one relevant reason.	Some placements are plausible and supported with at least one adequate reason.	Most or all placements are not plausible and not supported with relevant reasons.
Comments/explanation for rating:					
Insightful and concise explanation	Offers an insightful and concise explanation using accurate and relevant information.	Offers a concise explanation using accurate and relevant information.	Offers an adequate explanation using mostly adequate and relevant information.	Offers a basic explanation using some adequate and relevant information.	Offers a superficial or incomplete explanation that may include significant factual errors and misunderstandings.
Comments/explanation for rating:					