National Flag

The first flag to fly over Canada was the red cross of St. George on a white background, planted by John Cabot in 1497. The French emblem was brought by Jacques Cartier in 1534 — three gold Fleur-de-lys on a blue background. The official flag after 1763 was the Union Jack. From 1924, the Canadian Red Ensign was flown as the Canadian flag abroad, while here it became the national emblem after September, 1945.

On Feburary 15, 1965, after prolonged public debate and consideration of hundreds of designs, an Act of Parliament proclaimed the red maple leaf flag (with 11 points) Canada's national emblem.