

HIST 104: Pre-Confederation Canada

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A captivating journey through history requires more than just words on a page; it calls for an immersive experience that goes beyond traditional academic articles. This is where graphic history shines, providing a distinct advantage over written academic articles as a mode of historical learning. It encourages viewers to establish a more profound connection with graphic depictions, such as posters, as the immersive experience promotes in-depth learning and understanding of historical subjects by encouraging personal interpretation and critical thinking based on visual representations. This approach accommodates individuals struggling with comprehending complex, written material, making history more accessible and approachable. With the visual element in graphic history in mind, it becomes a potent tool for fostering a more inclusive historical discourse, effectively humanizing silenced figures by giving them a tangible identity through visual illustrations. This not only reclaims their significance in history but also contributes to the diversification of historical narratives that had, until now, marginalized their presence. Furthermore, the concise and visually appealing format not only simplifies intricate historical concepts but sparks people's interest, encouraging them to seek out scholarly articles to enhance their historical knowledge. Though useful for introducing readers to historical events, graphic history is most effective when it is used in tandem with academic articles. The combination of both formats enhances the overall grasp of historical topics, offering a more informative and well-rounded perspective than either format alone. As a result, graphic history emerges as a valuable tool that enables a more inclusive and convenient approach to broader historical education.

As noted by Alyson E. King, traditional historical education depended mainly on written academic books, emphasizing hard facts, linear timelines, and a neutral perspective, frequently overlooking a deeper understanding of history. However, the emergence of graphic history

elevating the voices of historically significant figures, such as Chloe Cooley, who have been undervalued and, at times, disregarded in traditional historical instruction.

The extensive history of oppressed minorities whose names have been systematically erased or downplayed throughout history arises from the deliberate overlooking of social issues existing during specific periods, such as slavery and colonialism in Chloe's time. Nonetheless, the poster achieves the purpose of educating people about suppressed histories by casting light on significant moments in both Black history and women's rights in Canada. Unlike academic publications, the poster applies artistic interpretation to visually convey historical events, such as the use of watercolours to symbolize Chloe's trek over the Niagara River. Through abstract and critical thinking, this approach enables viewers to reflect on the significance of artistic judgments and their historical relevance. Graphic history undeniably boosts appreciation and knowledge of historical events, transforming people such as Chloe Cooley from mere names in textbooks into fully realized individuals, clearly attesting to the transformative power of this medium as a learning tool.

In line with the argument, graphic history serves as a powerful catalyst for sparking curiosity and motivating deeper historical research through the examination of relevant academic journals, such as Afua Cooper's *Acts of Resistance: Black Men and Women Engage Slavery in Upper Canada 1793-1803*. Posters, like Chloe Cooley's, serve as an effective gateway to understanding specific historical events, ideas, topics, and issues. Graphic history operates as an essential introductory tool

an overconfidence bias, wherein individuals believe they comprehend the portion of the information presented in graphic narratives. This assumption, if unquestioned, has the potential to impede individuals from seeking more in-depth knowledge. For instance, [redacted] s enslavement and forced sale to an American slave master played a pivotal role in the emergence of the Underground Railroad. She maintains, [redacted] resisted their enslavement in diverse ways. It also challenges the temporary/permanent binary of acts of resistance and shows that, as in the case of Upper Canadian slave Chloe Cooley, her sole act of courage led to a collective and permanent protest movement called the Underground Railroad, in which tens of thousands of enslaved people resisted bondage by running away from it. ⁵

crucial events like the Underground Railroad to Chloe. This disparity highlights the varied necessity of looking beyond the surface of graphic history. To derive true value from graphic history, viewers must recognize that the visual narrative presents a simplified version of a historical subject and may take creative liberties in conveying information. Those who choose to solely engage with the poster, neglecting the article, may overlook crucial

by King's scholarly work, the format's engrossing nature renders it less intimidating than traditional, complex written texts, facilitating practical comprehension of the topic. Visual narratives, such as Naomi Moyer's portrayal of Chloe Cooley, enhance diverse perspectives and highlight the importance of individuals who are often neglected in history. However, the model's simplicity and informality allow it to communicate a limited amount of knowledge, motivating viewers to turn to academic journals, such as Afua Cooper's piece describing Cooley's great impact on Canadian history, to improve their historical literacy. Ultimately, graphic history possesses the potential to revolutionize the teaching, absorption, and acquisition of history, emerging as a potent medium for effective historical education.