The Metis

The Basics

1. What does “Rupert’s Land” refer to?
2. Why would Canada want it?
3. What was Canada’s first move to secure Rupert’s Land for settlers?
4. Who was Louis Riel?
5. What was Riel’s problem with the sale of Rupert’s Land?
6. What was the result of Riel’s negotiations with the Canadian government?
7. Did the Canadian government follow through on its promises? What was the result of that?
8. Summarize how the Canadian government managed to “legally” acquire the Metis’ land after Riel had been defeated.

Slightly Less Basic

1. This question is all about the legitimacy of governments. You see, Riel formed a government of Metis to negotiate with the Canadians. Was Riel’s government “real?” As in, did it have the same sovereign authority as the Canadian government? To put it another way: what’s stopping you and a bunch of friends from going out into the bush, planting a flag, forming a government and claiming that land in the name of Itsminenowistan? Discuss this idea in a paragraph of no less than 200 words.