Learning Activity

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History
Secondary 4

Establishing Causal Connections Through the October Crisis



Teacher's Guide

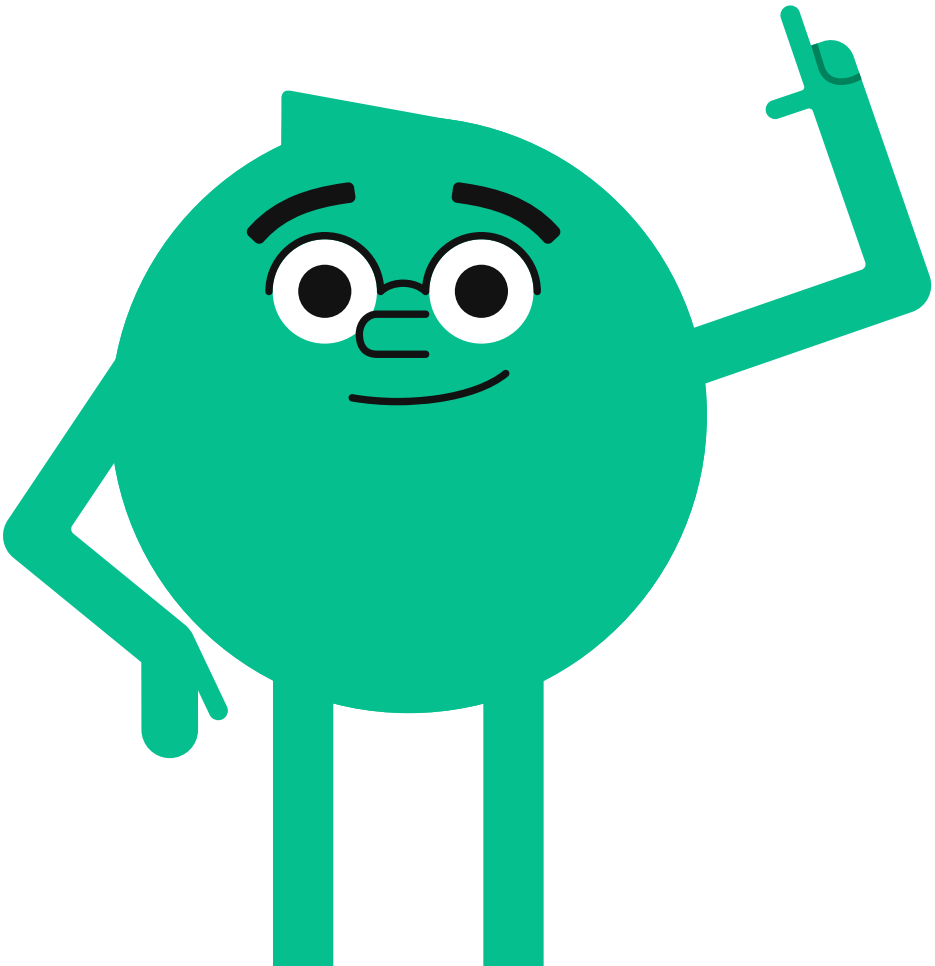
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Activity Summary

This turnkey activity on the October Crisis of 1970 is designed to replace the traditional class lecture. It immerses students into the heart of the events surrounding the October Crisis.

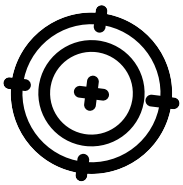
First, the teacher provides a brief overview by presenting the key facts to the students. The students then work in pairs on a document analysis exercise to practise the intellectual operation of *establishing causal connections*.

This activity was created in collaboration with the Musée de la civilisation: MUSÉE DE LA CIVILISATION



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Objectives



- Introduce the students to the events surrounding the October Crisis (1970), the FLQ, the War Measures Act, sociopolitical tensions, and the concept of nationalism.
- Become familiar with document analysis.
- Practise the intellectual operation: Establishing Causal Connections.



Duration

60 to 75 minutes

Activity Format

Teams of 2

Material



- Student Booklet
- Pencil, eraser, highlighter
- Projector for watching a video

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Recommended Steps

1. Context (15 minutes)

- Project the artifacts from Quebec's Musée de la civilisation onto the screen. Start by drawing attention to the photograph of the statue, taken in 1931 in Victoria Park in Quebec City. Next, point out the bronze head and body of the statue of Queen Victoria, which were blown apart by a bomb planted by the FLQ in 1963. (Appendix 1)

- Ask the students a few questions.
  - Take a good look at these pictures. What do you notice?
  - Why are the statue's head and body separated?
  - What do you think happened?

- Using the summary (Appendix 1) as a guide, explain that the vandalism of the statue of Queen Victoria was part of a series of bombings carried out by the FLQ throughout the province of Quebec.
  - What is the FLQ? The ***Front de libération du Québec*** **(FLQ)** was a group that wanted Quebec to become independent and free itself from Anglophone influence. Its most radical members resorted to acts of violence and terror to make their voices heard, triggering the October Crisis in 1970.
  - Why? The statue of Queen Victoria is a symbol of the British monarchy. That is why it was targeted.

- Explain the key events of the October Crisis.
  a. Play this video by the Montreal Gazette: Revisiting Quebec's October Crisis.
  b. Project the timeline onto the screen (Appendix 2) and explain the sequence of events during the October Crisis using the discussion points below. The students will receive a copy of the timeline in their Student Booklet.

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Key Facts about the October Crisis	
FLQ Actions: 1963 to 1970	• Members of the *Front de libération du Québec* (FLQ) commit several acts of violence. • Objective: The FLQ wants Quebec's independence and an end to Anglophone domination. • Actions ◦ Bombings targeting mailboxes and military and banking infrastructure ◦ Bank robberies to finance the purchase of weapons
October Crisis (1970)	• Kidnappings ◦ The *Libération* Cell kidnaps British diplomat James Cross (October 5). ◦ The *Chénier* Cell kidnaps Quebec cabinet minister Pierre Laporte (October 10). • The FLQ's demands ◦ That the FLQ's manifesto be published and read on the radio and on TV ◦ That a ransom be paid ◦ That the FLQ members who have been imprisoned since 1963 be released • Public broadcast of the FLQ manifesto on television and radio (October 8)
Reaction of the Provincial and Federal Governments	• At the request of Robert Bourassa's government on October 16, the federal government invoked the War Measures Act, deployed the army, censored the media, and, within 48 hours, arrested more than 250 people without a warrant. Between October 1970 and April 1971, nearly 500 people were arrested under the War Measures Act and, later, the Public Order Act. • Conclusion ◦ After the death of Pierre Laporte on October 17, the FLQ lost all popular support. James Cross was released in early December in exchange for his captors' exile to Cuba. He spent 59 days as a hostage. ◦ The FLQ disbanded around 1972. The democratic approach is now the preferred option.

c. Use these other Alloprof resources as needed.
The students can be asked to read our concept sheet on the October Crisis as homework in preparation for the classroom activity, so they arrive with a basic understanding.

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2. Document Analysis and Comparison (30 to 35 minutes)

The teacher divides the students into pairs and hands out the Student Booklet.

A. Document Analysis
- The students use the 5W method, or another analysis method they are familiar with, to analyze the documents.

B. Intellectual Operation
- Based on their analysis of the documents, the students carry out the intellectual operation *Establishing Causal Connections* to answer the questions.
  - For more information on the intellectual operation *Establishing Causal Connections*, see our concept sheet.

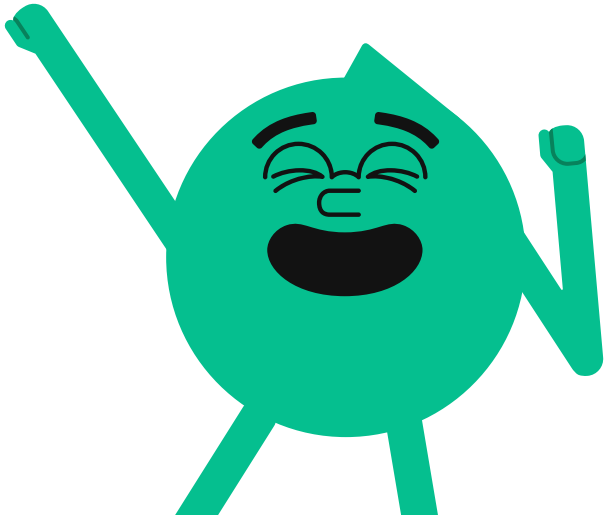
C. Writing Responses
- The students work in teams to write their answers.

- They can use the following model as a guide for their own work.
  - Element A... **led to**... Element B... **which resulted in**... Element C.
  - Here are some examples of other transition words that the students can use to connect the elements:
    - led to
    - due to
    - which resulted in
    - which caused
    - therefore
    - etc.

3. Class Discussion (20 to 25 minutes)

- Once the students have finished writing out their answers, the class will go over their work (Appendix 3) together. Through targeted questions, the teacher will guide the students step by step toward the correct answer.

- To wrap up the activity, the teacher reviews the key elements of the October Crisis in the "Things to Remember" section of the timeline (Appendix 2) in order to draw the main conclusions.



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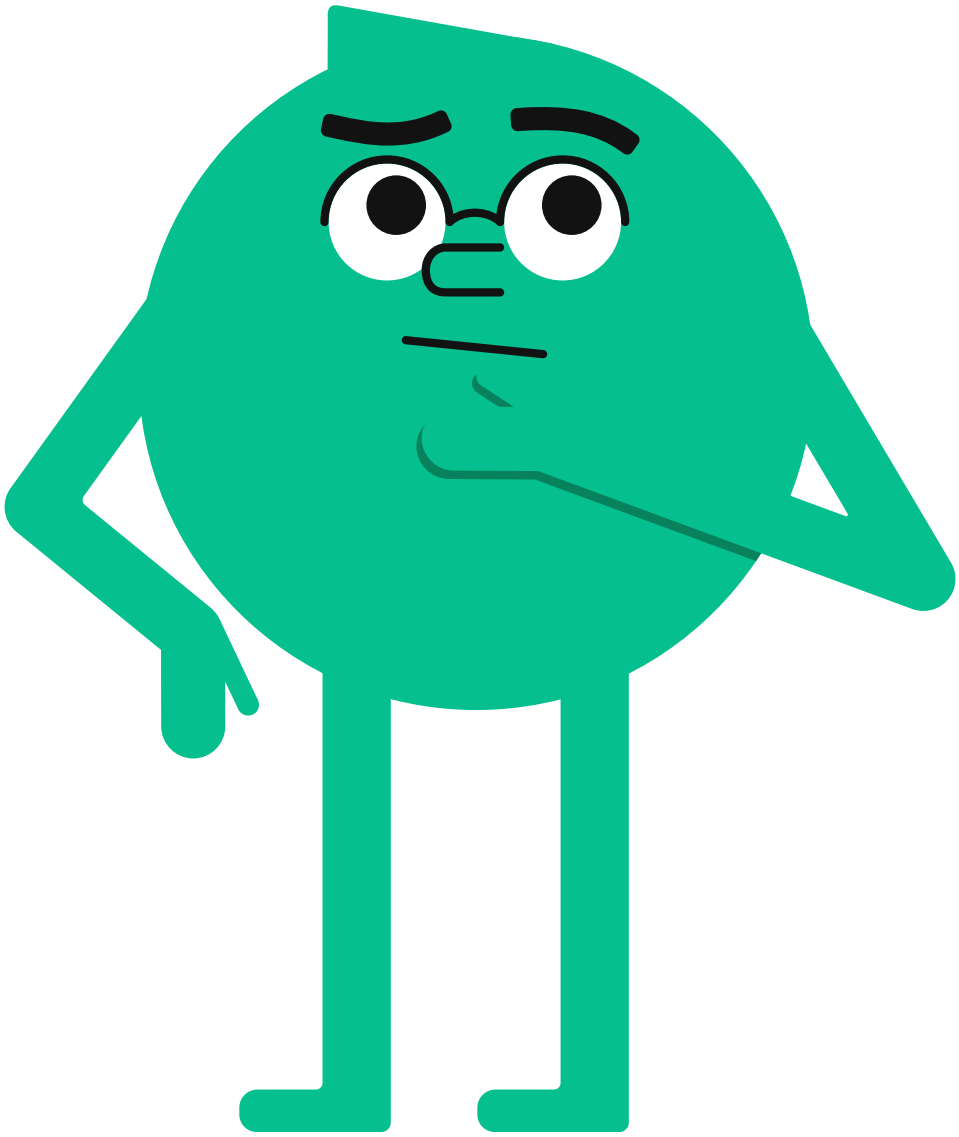
Appendix 1 - Summary

In 1897, a statue of Queen Victoria was erected in a park in Quebec City to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Queen Victoria's accession to the thrones of Great Britain and Ireland.

The statue remained in the park for 66 years before it was severely damaged. On July 12, 1963, the *Front de libération du Québec* (FLQ) planted a bomb and detonated it. The explosion woke up the entire city.

The statue was subsequently removed from the park. It is now part of the collection at the Musée de la civilisation in Quebec City.

Source: Musée de la civilisation



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What Happened to the Statue of Queen Victoria?

In 1931



Photograph of the statue of Queen Victoria in Victoria Park, Quebec City
Musée de la civilisation, anonymous donation, MCQC2010-PX176

In 2026



Statue of Queen Victoria
Musée de la civilisation, photographer: Red Méthot - Icône, 88-3163-0-2

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Appendix 2 - Timeline

The Main Events of the October Crisis

July 12, 1963
A bomb blows up the statue of Queen Victoria in Quebec City.

October 5, 1970
The *Libération* Cell of the FLQ kidnaps British diplomat James Cross.

October 8, 1970
The FLQ's manifesto is read on-air on Radio-Canada.

October 10, 1970
The FLQ's *Chénier* Cell kidnaps Cabinet Minister Pierre Laporte.

October 16, 1970
P. E. Trudeau's federal government invokes the War Measures Act at Robert Bourassa's request.

October 17, 1970
Pierre Laporte's body is discovered.

December 3, 1970
The FLQ releases James Cross. In exchange for his release, all members of the *Libération* Cell are allowed to leave Canada and go to Cuba.

December 28, 1970
Three members of the *Chénier* Cell are arrested. Along with a fourth member, they are accused of the kidnapping and murder of Pierre Laporte.

The FLQ bombs various locations in Quebec.
(1963-1970)

Things to Remember

The ***Front de libération du Québec*** **(FLQ)** was a movement that advocated for Quebec's independence and sought to end Anglophone influence and domination in the province. Between 1963 and 1970, extremist members of the group resorted to violent methods to advance their cause, which ultimately led to the events of the October Crisis in 1970.



The **War Measures Act** is a law enacted by the Canadian government in 1914. It grants the government full powers in times of war or during a state of emergency in order to maintain public order. During the October Crisis, it was used to restrict citizens' rights and enable the military and police to arrest citizens without a warrant. It was also used to censor the media.



The **death of Quebec cabinet minister Pierre Laporte** sent shockwaves throughout Quebec and **support for the FLQ quickly plummeted**.



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Appendix 3 - Correction key

Question 1

Using documents 1, 2, and 3, explain how the events of the October Crisis influenced public support for the *Front de libération du Québec* (FLQ).

Answer the question by identifying the elements and establishing connections between them.

- The government's response to the FLQ's demands
- The FLQ's response
- The population's response

Possible Answer:
The government's refusal to yield to the FLQ's demands **led to** the group kidnapping and murdering Minister Pierre Laporte. This action shocked the public, **resulting in** widespread rejection of the FLQ's methods and a drop in public support.

Question 2

Using documents 4, 5, and 6, explain how the FLQ's actions affected the rights of Quebecers during the October Crisis.

Answer the question by identifying the elements and establishing connections between them.

- An FLQ action
- The enactment of a special law
- Impact on the population

Possible Answer:
The FLQ's kidnapping of Minister Pierre Laporte **led** the federal government to enact the War Measures Act, **which resulted in** the suspension of civil liberties for Quebecers.

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Documents

Document 1

"Montreal (PC) — Just minutes after the government refused to release political prisoners in exchange for a British diplomat, a group of masked men kidnapped one of the most prominent ministers in the Quebec cabinet."

5Ws Analysis
Who? A group of masked men
What? Kidnaps one of the most prominent ministers from the Quebec cabinet.
When? A few minutes after the government refused to release political prisoners in exchange for a British diplomat
Where? In Montreal
Why? The government refused to release political prisoners in exchange for a British diplomat

Source: (n.a). (1970, October 18). Appel déchirant du ministre Laporte au premier ministre Bourassa. Tu peux décider de ma vie ou de ma mort. *Le nouvelliste*. https://collections.banq.qc.ca/ark:/52327/3199455. - Translation provided by Alloprof.

Document 2

"Quebec's Minister of Labour and Immigration, Mr. Pierre Laporte, 49, was found dead early Sunday morning. He had been kidnapped by terrorists on October 10, outside his home in Saint-Lambert."

5Ws Analysis
Who? Quebec's Minister of Labour and Immigration, Pierre Laporte
What? Pierre Laporte was found dead.
When? Early Sunday morning
Where? -
Why? -

Source: (n.a). (1970, October 19). Pierre Laporte retrouvé assassiné. *La voix de l'Est*. https://collections.banq.qc.ca/ark:/52327/4527393. - Translation provided by Alloprof.

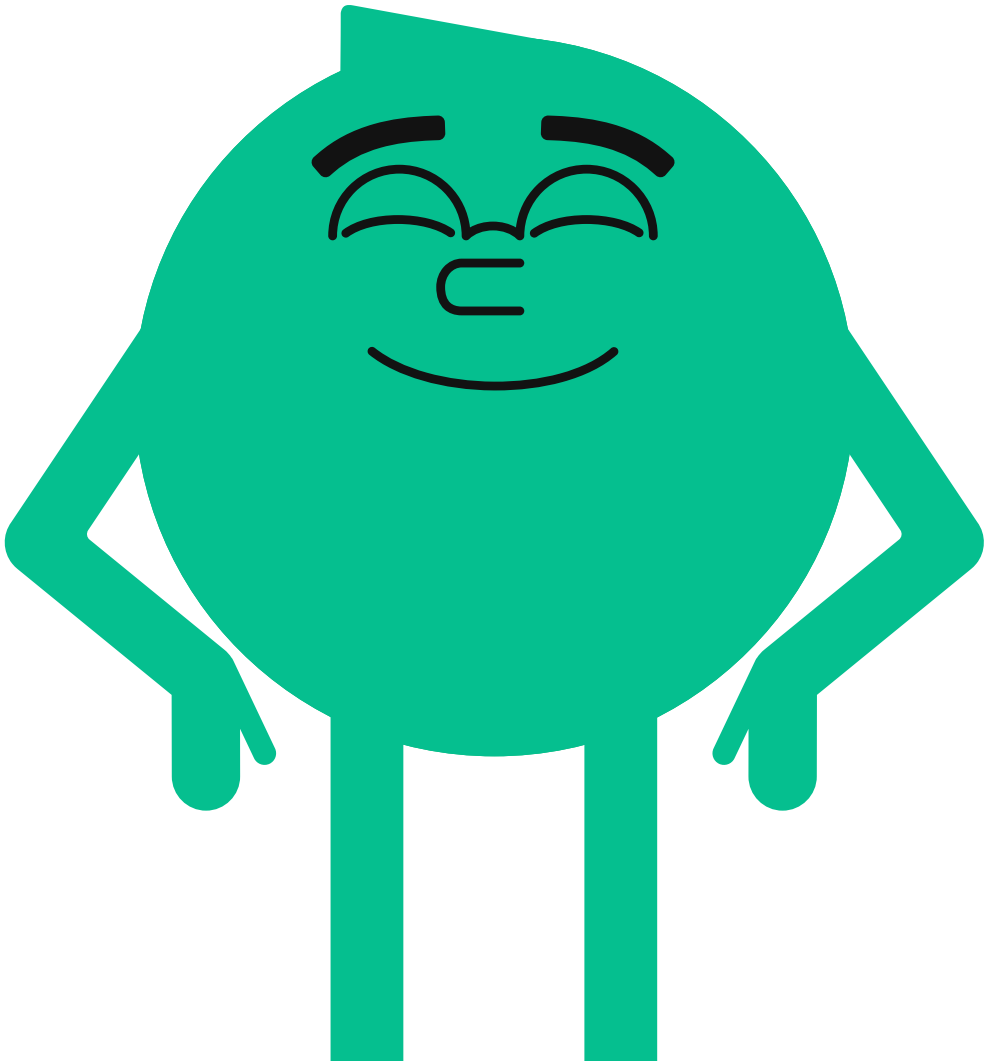
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Document 3

"Despite her young age, Miss Monette is well aware of current events. 'Mr. Laporte's death was cruel and inhumane. What the FLQ is doing today will have long-lasting repercussions, especially for those who democratically sought Quebec's independence.'"

5Ws Analysis
Who? Miss Monette
What? "Mr. Laporte's death was cruel and inhumane. What the FLQ is doing today will have long-lasting repercussions, especially for those who democratically sought Quebec's independence."
When? October 1970
Where? In Quebec
Why? -

Source: Bergeron, G. and Vaillancourt, C. (1970, October 19). Mort de Laporte : une population régionale terrifiée et inquiète. *Le soleil, Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean*. https://collections.banq.qc.ca/ark:/52327/3111324. - Translation provided by Alloprof.



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Document 4

	5Ws Analysis
" Mr. Pierre Laporte, Minister of Labour in the Bourassa cabinet, was kidnapped last night at 6:12 p.m., thirty minutes after the governments of Quebec and Canada refused to release the political prisoners in exchange for the release of British diplomat James Cross.	**Who?** Mr. Pierre Laporte, Minister of Labour in the Bourassa cabinet
	What? Pierre Laporte was kidnapped
	When? On October 10 at 6:12 a.m., thirty minutes after the governments of Quebec and Canada refused to release the political prisoners in exchange for the release of British diplomat James Cross.
The minister was playing ball on the street with some children when a car suddenly pulled up beside him and two masked men wearing gloves and armed with submachine guns got out and forced him into the car. One of the boys who was playing with the minister described the car: a turquoise Chevrolet with licence plate number 9J-2420."	**Where?** In the street
	Why? The government of Quebec's refusal to release political prisoners in exchange for James Cross

Source: (n.a). (1970, October 11). Réponse du FLQ au gouvernement. Pierre Laporte kidnappé. *Québec-presse*. https://collections.banq.qc.ca/ark:/52327/4345845. - Translation provided by Alloprof.

Document 5

	5Ws Analysis
" At 4 a.m. on Friday, the War Measures Act was declared throughout Canada. […] The deadline set in the ultimatum has long since passed, and there has been no further word from the cells that abducted Mr. Cross and Mr. Laporte."	**Who?** -
	What? The War Measures Act is declared.
	When? Friday at 4 a.m.
	Where? Across Canada
	Why? -

Source: (n.a). (1970, October 25). Les ravisseurs de Pierre Laporte avaient-ils vraiment l'intention de le rendre sain et sauf?. *Le petit journal. Cahier A*. https://collections.banq.qc.ca/ark:/52327/4251850. - Translation provided by Alloprof.

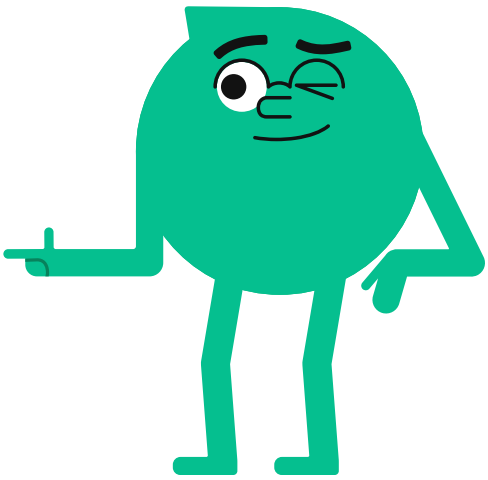
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Document 6

	5Ws Analysis
"Professionals, journalists, writers, artists, professors, labour union members, federal and provincial civil servants, leaders of social organizations, as well as numerous university and CEGEP students are among the 319 detainees the *Sûreté du Québec* had in custody last night, following some 626 searches carried out as part of the police operation conducted under the War Measures Act. These raids will continue; many more arrests are expected, and alleged FLQ militants are being actively sought."	**Who?** Professionals, journalists, writers, artists, teachers, labor union members, federal and provincial government employees, leaders of social organizations, as well as numerous university and CEGEP students
	What? More than 300 people were arrested under the War Measures Act
	When? (The evening of) October 18
	Where? In Quebec
	Why? Alleged FLQ militants were being actively sought

Source: Hardy, J.-L. (1970, October 19). Tous les milieux sont touchés. Plus de 300 personnes ont été mises en arrestation au Québec. [All areas were affected. More than 300 people were arrested in Quebec.] (translated by Alloprof). *Le soleil, Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean*. https://collections.banq.qc.ca/ark:/52327/3111324. - Translation provided by Alloprof.

You've done this activity in class? Do you have any suggestions or comments? Tell us what you think!



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