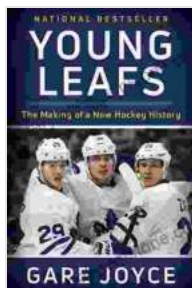


# The Making of New Hockey History: The NHL Expansion Era



## Young Leafs: The Making of a New Hockey History

by Mie Augier

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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Word Wise : Enabled  
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The National Hockey League (NHL) has undergone several expansion eras throughout its history, each of which has brought new teams and new excitement to the sport. This article explores the history and impact of the NHL's expansion eras, from the Original Six era to the present day.

## The Original Six Era

The Original Six era of the NHL lasted from 1942 to 1967 and featured six teams: the Boston Bruins, Chicago Blackhawks, Detroit Red Wings, Montreal Canadiens, New York Rangers, and Toronto Maple Leafs. These teams were all located in major cities in the United States and Canada, and they dominated the NHL throughout the era. The Original Six era was a time of great stability for the NHL, and it is often considered to be the golden age of the sport.



## The First Expansion Era

The first expansion era of the NHL began in 1967 with the addition of six new teams: the California Seals, Los Angeles Kings, Minnesota North Stars, Philadelphia Flyers, Pittsburgh Penguins, and St. Louis Blues. These teams were all located in cities that were not previously represented in the NHL, and they helped to bring the sport to new audiences. The first

expansion era was a time of great growth for the NHL, and it helped to set the stage for the league's future success.



### The Second Expansion Era

The second expansion era of the NHL began in 1972 with the addition of two new teams: the Atlanta Flames and the New York Islanders. These teams were both located in cities that were not previously represented in

the NHL, and they helped to further expand the league's reach. The second expansion era was a time of continued growth for the NHL, and it helped to solidify the league's position as one of the most popular sports leagues in North America.

A map of the United States with NHL team logos placed geographically. A rainbow is drawn over the Northeast region. The map is overlaid with a watermark 'literary.bookgemstone.com'.

DIVISION RE-ALIGNMENT							
WESTERN CONFERENCE				EASTERN CONFERENCE			
SOMEWHERE 1	CASCADIA	PACIFIC	GREAT PLAINS	MIDWEST	ATLANTIC	NEW ENGLAND	SOMEWHERE 2
Somebody Clubs	Alberta Flourblades	Oregon Crackles	Colorado Fighters	St. Louis Blizzards	New Jersey Devils	Eastern Wygon Whalers	Somebody Tigers
Somebody Oilers	Vancouver Lightning Bolts	San Francisco Furies	Nebraska Maniacal Hobos	Chicago Sharks	Washington Farmers	NY Hangers	Somebody Capitols
Urm	Seattle Sharks	LA Kings	Dallas Ozymandus	Detroit Reef Wings	Virginia Grimps	NY Islanders	Somebody Whirls
Alaska Arcticblades	The Seattle Sawtooths	San Diego All Stars	Houston Oodlers	Toronto Moose Lawks	Virginia Hornet Hunters	Brooklyn Blunderbongs	Florida Whooofs

### The Third Expansion Era

The third expansion era of the NHL began in 1979 with the addition of four new teams: the Edmonton Oilers, Hartford Whalers, Quebec Nordiques, and Winnipeg Jets. These teams were all located in cities that were not previously represented in the NHL, and they helped to further expand the league's reach. The third expansion era was a time of great parity for the NHL, and it helped to create a more competitive league.



### The Fourth Expansion Era

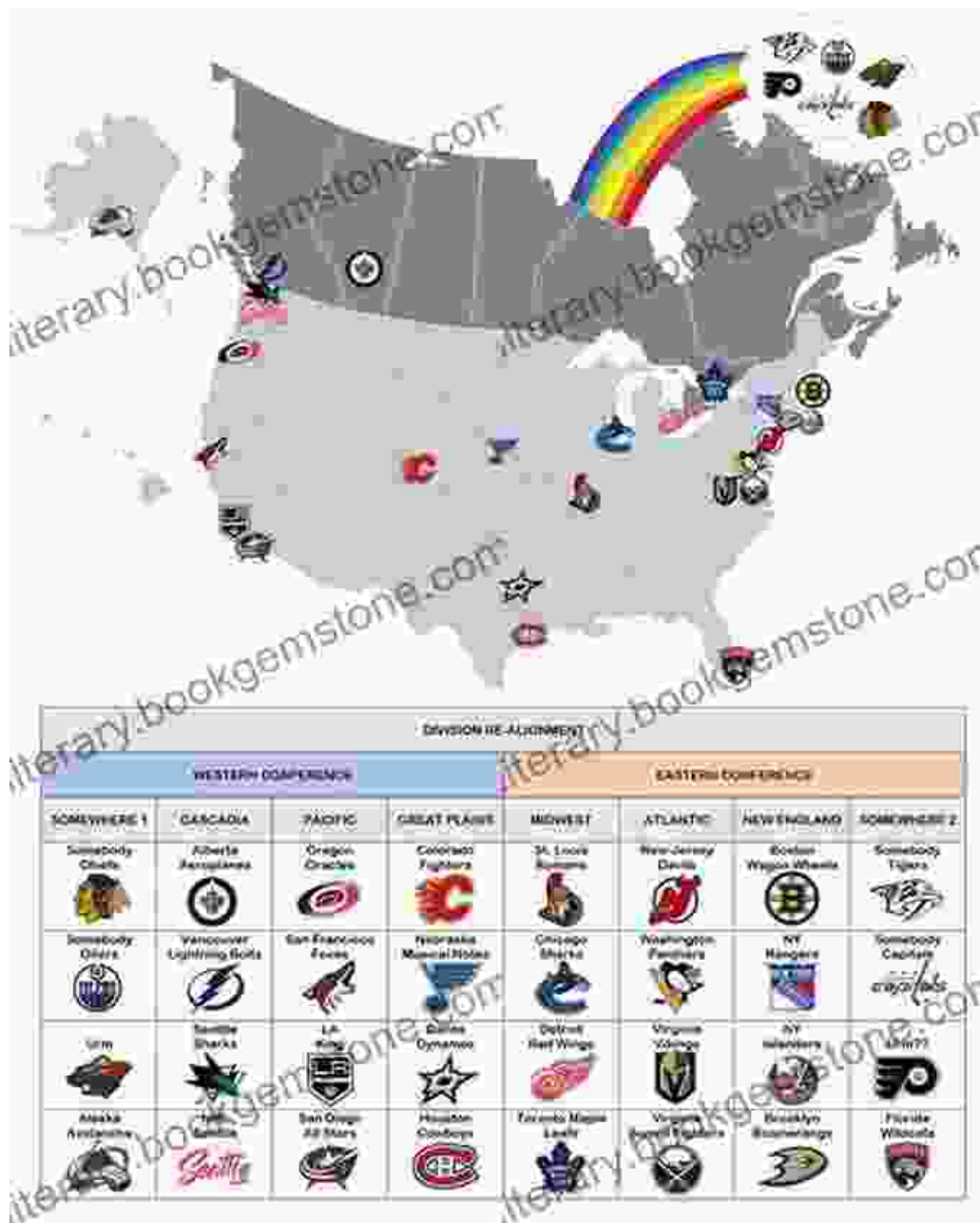
The fourth expansion era of the NHL began in 1991 with the addition of two new teams: the San Jose Sharks and the Tampa Bay Lightning. These teams were both located in cities that were not previously represented in the NHL, and they helped to further expand the league's reach. The fourth

expansion era was a time of continued growth for the NHL, and it helped to solidify the league's position as one of the most popular sports leagues in the world.



## The Fifth Expansion Era

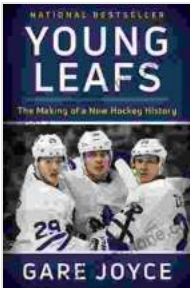
The fifth expansion era of the NHL began in 1998 with the addition of two new teams: the Nashville Predators and the Atlanta Thrashers. These teams were both located in cities that were not previously represented in the NHL, and they helped to further expand the league's reach. The fifth expansion era was a time of continued growth for the NHL, and it helped to solidify the league's position as one of the most popular sports leagues in the world.



## The Future of NHL Expansion

The NHL is always looking for ways to grow and expand, and there are several potential expansion markets that could be targeted in the future. Some of the most likely candidates for expansion include Seattle, Quebec City, and Las Vegas. The NHL is also considering expanding into China, which would be a major market for the league.

The NHL has undergone several expansion eras throughout its history, and each era has helped to grow and strengthen the league. Expansion has brought new teams and new excitement to the sport, and it has helped to make the NHL one of the most popular sports leagues in the world. The future of NHL expansion is bright, and there are many potential markets that could be targeted in the years to come.



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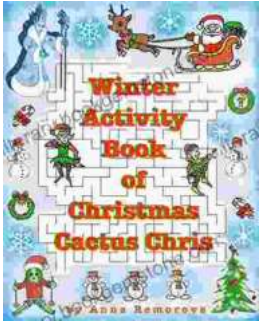
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