

Sample Page

The first people lived in the north of Canada for a long time. They were good at carving stone and made masks, too. They used seal oil for their lamps and to heat their homes. Their homes were made of stone. They hunted seals and fish.

We do not know what happened to the first people but we know the Thule people came and drove some of them away from their homes. We do not know the names of the first people but they have been called the Dorset by English speaking people and the Tuniit by the Thule.

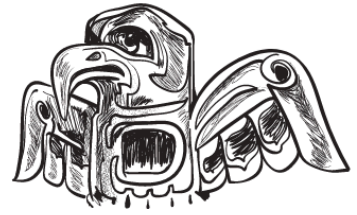
A long time ago Canada's first people came from Beringia. The land was covered with ice. They hunted seals and fish for food.

The first people built stone houses. They made small carvings.



It is possible that both the land bridge and boat travel were part of the migration. There is linguistic evidence that some Beringians migrated back to Eurasia as well. They would have settled in the very northern parts of Europe. The way we can figure out the origins of our first peoples is by researching the genetic patterns of North and South America's first inhabitants using DNA evidence. This evidence shows that the first inhabitants of North and South America came from Beringia after spending a lengthy period of time there before moving further west and south. There are also some very strong language similarities between the aboriginals of northern Canada and the aboriginals of Russia and northern Europe.

Sample Page



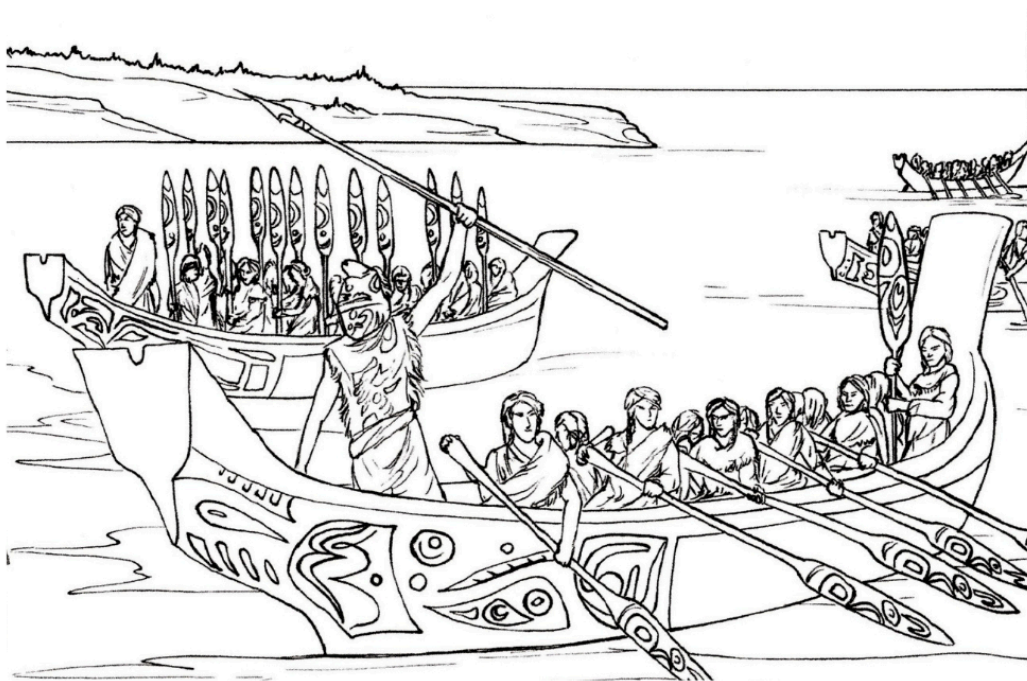
The Pacific West Coast group built large longhouses out of cedar wood. Cedar wood is good for a wet climate because it does not rot fast. They built big carved poles for their family clan and for special remembering.

They had lots of food and ate salmon from the ocean.

The Pacific West Coast first people had stories about Raven. They had a special kind of party called a potlach which was important to them. Belongings were important in this group and you could be a rich leader, a commoner or a slave.

Some people made special blankets called Chilkat blankets made of wool, dog hair and bark.

The Haida people had sea boats and they were strong in battle.



Haida battleships

Glossary of Terms

- Anthropologist:** a person who studies humans in past and present societies
- Archaeologist:** a person who studies history by carefully digging up historical sites
- Atlatl:** a hunting tool/weapon that was a stick with a throwing dart
- BCE:** Before our Common Era (often used to replace BC “Before Christ”)
- Beringia:** the land area in ancient times that surrounded the Bering Strait/land bridge
- Caravel:** a small and fast Portuguese ship used for exploration in the 15th-16th centuries
- Cartographer:** a person who makes maps and is often an explorer
- CE:** Common Era (often used to replace AD, or “in the year of our Lord”)
- Chilkat:** an intricate and valuable blanket made by the Pacific West Coast first nations
- Confederacy:** an alliance or league of nations who join together for trade or war
- Coueurs de Bois:** French or Metis fur traders who were also often explorers
- DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid):** the coded language inside the cells of living things that carries genetic information.
- Dorset/Tuniit:** The first people of Canada’s arctic who came across the land bridge
- Eurasia:** The continent of Europe and Asia, especially before present-day borders
- Filles du Roi:** single women sponsored by the King of France to help settle New France
- Glacier:** a large moving mass of ice (that covered most of North America in the Ice Age)
- Inuit:** the descendants of the Thule people who settled the Arctic after the Dorset people
- Inuksuit (pl) Inuksuk (s):** a pile of stones made in the shape of a figure built by the Inuit
- Linguist:** a person who studies languages
- Matrilineal:** family kinship is based on the mother’s or female line
- Monumental Pole:** (totem pole) a tall carved cedar pole which served as a record of family and special events made by the Pacific West Coast first nations
- Nomad:** a person who does not always live in one place but moves around to find food
- Norse:** people from Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden and Denmark), especially Norway
- Pemmican:** a nutritious traveling food made from buffalo meat, fat and berries
- Potlach:** a special party held by the Pacific West Coast nations in which gifts were given
- Runes:** letters of the Norse alphabet
- Saga:** a story or legend of adventures from the past e.g. Norse sagas
- Thing:** a democratic meeting of the Norse where they made laws and voted
- Thule:** the settlers from Eurasia to the Arctic who are the ancestors of the Inuit
- Tipi:** a portable tent made of animal hides used by the Plains first nations
- Travois:** a sled made of poles and pulled by dogs used by the Plains people to carry their belongings
- Umiak:** a large Thule whale boat
- Viking:** the Norse people when they were on a trip to raid or trade
- Wigwam:** a tent similar to a tipi used by the Eastern Woodlands first nations

More Sample Pages



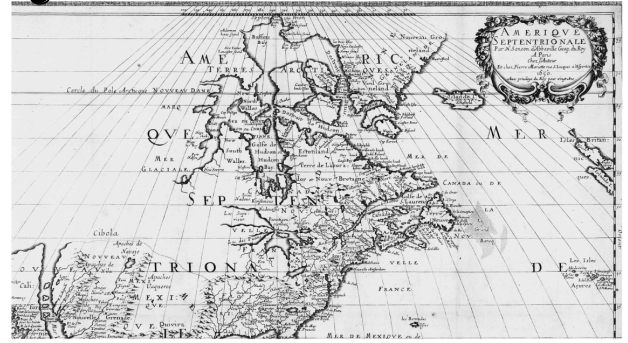
Champlain's Settlement at Quebec

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Champlain began to look beyond exploration and fur trading to colonization of New France. On his travels he could not help but notice vast resources Canada had to offer. Fresh water, ample timber, game a land would offer French citizens wealth and prosperity. For this he would need families and the church to be added to the workmen and traders that had settled at Quebec. The first priest arrived as early as 1615. In 1617 a family arrived, consisting of Louis Hebert, his wife Marie and three children. One of their daughters gave birth to the first surviving child in the colony in 1620. The survival of babies anywhere in the world in the 1600's was a challenge, but in the wilderness colony of Quebec it was a really big deal. Hebert did have some medical skills that he had been practicing back in France. Now he became a farmer, and although the Iroquois had been farming in Canada for countless years, it was a milestone for the settlement at Quebec.

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1650 map of the exploration of North America (from the Everett Collection)

By the early 1600's, France had a new ruler, Henry the Fifth. He was considered to be the king at the time, although it was never official. It was complicated. In 1604, another attempt was made to create a permanent settlement by the French in Canada. This time it was under the leadership of Pierre Du Gua De Monts. De Monts had been granted the charter authority by the king of France to develop the fur trade in Canada and to create the colony of Acadia. De Monts and his men chose Isle St. Croix as the site of their settlement. They set to work building homes in the heat of the summer surrounded by hordes of blackflies. They were also under observation by the Passamaquoddy first nation who acted as helpful guides.

While De Monts was establishing the settlement at Isle St. Croix, one of his men was exploring the Bay of Fundy and the coastline further south. This man was Samuel de Champlain. Have you heard of him?

This was not Champlain's first trip to Canada. Before his voyage with De Monts, Champlain had travelled with Grave to the St. Lawrence valley. He observed changes since the time of Cartier. The biggest one was that the area was no longer inhabited by the Iroquois, but instead the Algonquians were established there.

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It would be decades before the French would attempt another settlement in Canada. They were in the middle of a war with the English under Henry the Eighth and the Holy Roman Empire centered in Spain under Charles the Fifth. It was an unusual alliance because Henry the Eighth had broken from the Roman Catholic Church. But France had helped the Scottish in the Scottish rebellion and England did not appreciate it. They formed a secretive alliance and invaded France on multiple fronts. Roberval was actively engaged in military campaigns on behalf of France until about 1558. In 1560 he was killed in the persecution that arose by the Catholics to the Protestants, who were called Huguenots, in France. He was killed because he was a Protestant and not a Roman Catholic.

For quizzes, an Acadia/New France true or false page, a crossword puzzle, matching sheet and colouring pages, see the Headphone History Volume 1 Workbook.



Henry the Eighth

"New France" Questions

1. Describe Jacques Cartier's first interactions with the Iroquois people.
2. How do we know that Domagaya and Taïnoagny were intelligent young men?
3. How did Canada get its name as a result of Cartier's voyage?
4. Describe what happened the first winter Cartier and his men stayed in what is now Canada.
5. Why did Cartier take Donnacona to France?
6. Who was Roberval and what was his role in "French" Canada?
7. Why did Cartier start a new settlement at Charlesbourg-Royal?
8. Why did Cartier return to France without waiting for the arrival of Roberval?
9. What happened to Roberval in France in 1560?

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Their explorations led them to a large bay that lies between the Gaspé Peninsula of Quebec and the northern shore of New Brunswick. Many creeks and rivers flow into it, and the temperature is unusually warm there. For this reason, Jacques Cartier named it Chaleur Bay, which is called to this day. At Chaleur Bay, Cartier and his men had an encounter with Canada's first people from the Mik'maq nation. The Mik'maqs gestured for them to come ashore and trade with them for some furs that they had on hand. The transaction was a peaceful one. They were given seal meat to eat on pieces of wood by the native people and the French produced iron tools and other items for trade. The Mik'maqs were delighted and soon a large crowd of them had gathered. According to Cartier's diary, the women were singing and dancing, and even the children joined their time together. They traded until they had nothing left to trade. It went very well for everyone. Cartier learned that the Mik'maq people lived a nomadic life and migrated annually to hunt seal meat for their sustenance and survival.

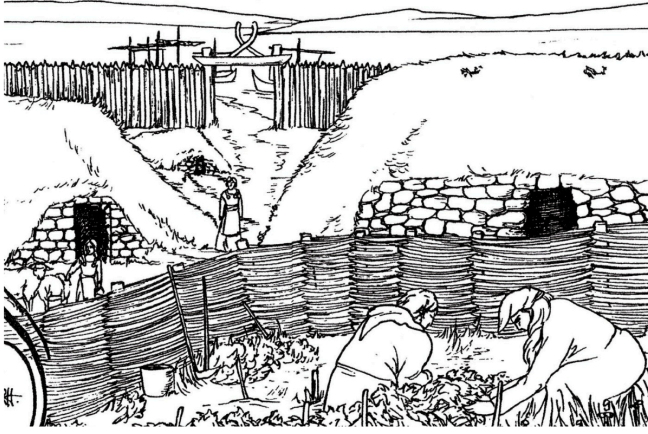


Many explorers sailed to Canada.
They wanted gold.
Cartier met the First Nations.



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Norse Farming Scene



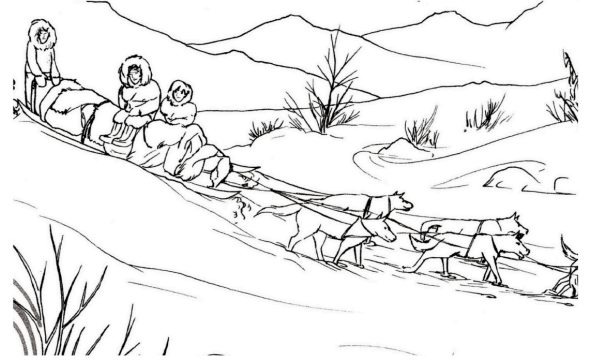
The Norse settled Iceland and Greenland. Erik the Red had a son named Leif Eriksson who had heard about a new land with lots of trees. He sailed past Baffin Island and went south along the Labrador coast. He landed at Newfoundland and named it Vinland because it had an abundance of berries. They took some home. Erik's brother, Thorvaldr, went back to Vinland to fish and to get lumber. The second time they met First Nations men there and they all had a fight. So Thorvaldr and his men went back home. Later Karlsefni and Gudrid started a settlement in Newfoundland. They stayed for a few years and got along with the First Nations there. They went back to Greenland. Other Norse tried to settle there but they fought with the First Nations so they gave up and moved back home.

One of their legendary characters was the Sea Woman, whom when game was scarce was said to have kept them in her house. They were afraid of displeasing her. Her name was Sedna. Many of the Inuit legends and oral traditions show that they lived in a harsh reality and that they were a very practical people. The legend of Sedna is adapted from Inuit oral tradition and was written down over a hundred years ago by Franz Boaz, who collected stories from the Arctic.

To hear a legend about Sedna the Sea Woman, check out *Headphone History Volume 1 Audiobook*. There is a colouring page for the legend in the workbook as well.



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The Thule came to Canada from Siberia. They had dog sleds, bows and arrows. They hunted whales. Their descendants are the Inuit.

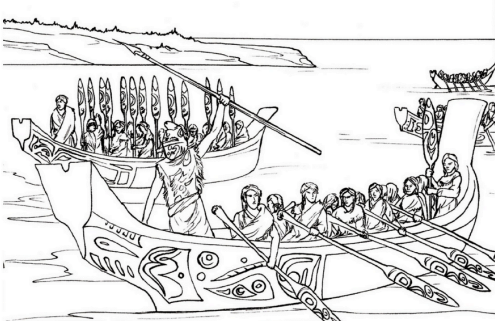


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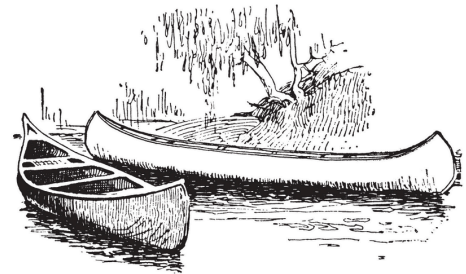
The First Nations came to Canada long ago. They were the first ones here. There are many First Nations in Canada. They relied on nature for their food. There are many kinds of First Nations homes. Some are longhouses, wigwams and tipis.



The Haida had monumental poles. The Ojibwa had tipis and hunted buffalo. The Interior Salish had a stick game. The Iroquois grew corn, squash and beans. The Algonquin had wigwams.



Haida battleships



Questions

1. Name the cultural group that loved games and had special naming rules ?
2. What cultural group is divided into two groups based on language?
3. Which cultural group was nomadic and used sign language to communicate with other nations?
4. Which of the First Nations cultural groups had a complex class society and monumental poles?
5. What was/is a potlach?
6. What does matrilineal mean?