

**Aboriginal:** Term used by the Federal Government of Canada, and includes First Nations (formerly Indian), Inuit and Métis peoples.

**Algonquin:** First Nations people who share a similar language and lifestyle, includes Blackfoot, Cree, Ojibway Nations.

**Assiniboine:** First Nations people who share a similar language and lifestyle, a branch of the Sioux Nation.

**Athabaskan / Athapaskan:** First Nations people who share a similar language and lifestyle, includes the Dene and Beaver Nations.

**Birch-bark Canoe:** Algonquin boat built from the bark of a Birch tree, waterproof and light-weight; still made today.

**Cayuga (kye-OO-gah):** “The people of the swamp”, originally from the New York State area.

**Chief:** Traditionally was a man, who was a leader among the First Nations people of Canada.

**Clan Mother:** In Iroquoian First Nations, a female leader of a clan.

**Clan:** A group of people united by marriage and ancestors; can also mean family or families.

**Conservation:** The act of protecting nature – water, plants and wildlife.

**Dug-out Canoe:** Iroquoian boat built from carving out a tree trunk.

**First Nations:** Indigenous people native to Canada; also known as Native and Indian.

**Haudenosaunee (Ho-deh-no-shaw-nee):** “The people of the longhouse”, traditional name of the Iroquois Confederacy people.

**Huron:** Name given to the Wendat people by the French.

**Igloo / Iglu / Igluvigak:** Snow house built by the Inuit of Northern Canada.

**Indigenous:** An original person of Canada; includes First Nations and Inuit.

**Inuit:** Indigenous people native to Northern Canada. In Inuktitut means “the people”.

**Iroquoian:** First Nations people who share a similar language and lifestyle, includes the Iroquois Confederacy and the Wendat Confederacy.

**Iroquois Confederacy:** A First Nations confederacy of Mohawk, Seneca, Oneida, Onondaga, and Cayuga Nations, who joined together under The Great Law of Peace; also known as the Iroquois League.

**Kayak:** Inuit boat built from animal hides, and designed for only one person.

**Longhouse:** An Iroquoian house, usually 200 feet long and 20 feet high, built for an entire clan; similar to a plankhouse.

**Matriarch:** A senior woman, who holds a position of authority and respect.

**Métis:** The Métis are a distinct group of Canadian people who developed a unique culture that grew out of Canada's fur trade heritage. The Métis are descendants of French Canadians and First Nations people.

**Mohawk:** Name for the Kanien'kehá:ka / Kanienkehaka Nation – “The people of the flint”, originally from the New York State area.

**Ojibway:** Also known as Ojibwa, Chippewa and Anishinaabe; one of the largest Nations of First Nations people in North America today.

**Oneida (oh-NYE-day):** “The people of the standing stone”, originally from the New York State area.

**Onondaga (ON-on-DAH-gah):** “The people of the hill”, originally from the New York State area.

**Plains First Nations:** Nomadic First Nations peoples, who once lived in the regions from the Rocky Mountains to the southeast of Manitoba.

**Plankhouse:** Northwest coast house made of long, flat planks of cedar wood attached to a wooden frame; similar to a longhouse.

**Seneca (SHE-neh-kah):** “The people of the mountain”, originally from the New York State area.

**Six Nations:** Includes the Mohawk, Seneca, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga and Tuscarora Nations.

**Tepee / Tipi:** Tent-like house used by nomadic Plains First Nations, made of a cone-shaped wooden frame and covered with buffalo (bison) hide / skin.

**The Great Law of Peace:** Constitution of the Iroquois Confederacy.

**Three Sisters:** Corn (maize), squash and beans, traditionally grown by Iroquoian women and children.

**Tuscarora (tuh-skuh-roar-uh):** “The hemp people”, originally from North Carolina, who joined the Iroquois Confederacy in 1722.

**Wendat Confederacy:** A First Nations confederacy of Wendat, Erie, Neutral and Petun Nations.

**Wendat:** Iroquoian speaking people who originally lived around the Great Lakes; also known as Huron.

**Wigwam:** Algonquin house used by nomadic tribes, made of wooden poles and covered in bark.