

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 and Ojibway Nations.

Arctic Ocean: The waters surrounding the North Pole between North America and Eurasia. The smallest ocean in the world, it is covered by pack ice through much of the year.

Band: A group for whom land and funding are set aside by the federal government. A band is composed of status Indians, who are registered with the federal government.

British: A term relating to Great Britain or the United Kingdom, or to its people or language.

Ceremony: The ritual observances and procedures performed during a special or sacred occasion. Examples of First Nations ceremonies are the Potlatch and Sun Dance.

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

Christian: Belonging to the religion based on the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Civilize: Bring a place or people to a stage of social and cultural development considered to be more advanced.

Colonialism: A process by which a foreign power dominates and exploits an Indigenous people's resources, wealth, labour and cultural assets.

Colonist / Colonizer: A settler in a colony.

Colony: An area of land ruled by a faraway country; an example is New France being ruled by France between 1500s – 1763.

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

Coureur de Bois: A French man involved in the fur trade of North America.

Ethnocentrism: Judging another culture solely by the values and standards of one's own culture. Individuals judge other groups relative to their own ethnic group or culture, especially with concern for language, behavior, customs, and religion.

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

Fur Trade: The harvesting of animal pelts in North America for manufacturing into clothes and hats by Europeans.

Gold Rush: A rapid movement of people to a newly discovered goldfield.

Hudson's Bay Company: A British company chartered in England in 1670 to carry on fur trading with the Indigenous people in North America.

Indian Act: The principal statute through which the federal government administers Indian status, local First Nations governments and the management of reserve land and communal monies beginning in 1876. The Indian Act pertains only to First Nations peoples, not to the Métis or Inuit people.

Indigenous: An original person of a country; in Canada includes First Nations and Inuit peoples.

Inuit: Indigenous people native to Northern Canada. In Inuktitut means "the people".

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.

Lacrosse: A team game traditionally played by Iroquoian men carrying a long curved stick with a net attached to catch and throw a leather ball; also known as "Little Brother of War". The national summer sport of Canada.

Lower Canada: A historical region and province of British North America on the lower St. Lawrence River and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Originally Lower Canada was a colony of France, but the British gained control over Québec in 1759 and the colony in 1763.

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.

Missionary: A priest or other religious person who travels from place to place to convert people to a religion.

Moccasins: A soft leather shoe originated by First Nations people in North America.

Mukluks: A high, soft boot that is traditionally made from sealskin or animal hide.

Musket: A metal, muzzle-loaded firearm fired from the shoulder, and introduced to North American Indigenous peoples by Europeans during the fur trade.

New World: Name for North America and South America by Europeans.

Natural Resources: Materials or substances such as fertile land, forests, minerals, wildlife, and water that occur in nature and can be used for economic gain.

Nordic / Norse Countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

Northwest Passage: A sea route from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean through northwestern America, often sought by early explorers. It requires sailing through far northern waters that are icebound much of the year.

Pelt: Skin of an animal with the hair / fur still on it.

Plains First Nations: Nomadic First Nations people, who once lived from the Rocky Mountains to the southeast of Manitoba.

Prophecy: A process in which one or more messages allegedly communicated to a prophet are then communicated to other people.

Reserve: Land owned by the Crown / Government and set aside for the use of an Indian band. Reservation is an American term, and not used in Canada.

Rupert's Land: The name of the land that the Hudson's Bay Company claimed in North America. It was named after Prince Rupert.

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

Snowshoes: Round or oval wooden frames with strips of hide across them, which are strapped to the feet and used for walking on snow.

Three Sisters: Corn (Maize), beans and squash, traditionally grown by woman and children in Iroquoian First Nations.

Territory: An area of land and water on which a group of people traditionally lived, hunted, fished and gathered food.

Trading Post: A store or small settlement established for trading, typically in a remote place.

Treaty: A constitutionally recognized agreement between the Canadian Government and First Nations peoples. Most of these agreements describe exchanges where First Nations groups agree to share some of their interests in their ancestral lands in return for various payments and promises.

Upper Canada: A historical region and province of British North America on the upper St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes.

Wampum Belt: Beads of polished shells strung in a strand, belt, or sash and used by North American First Nations as ceremonial pledges, historical records and ornaments.