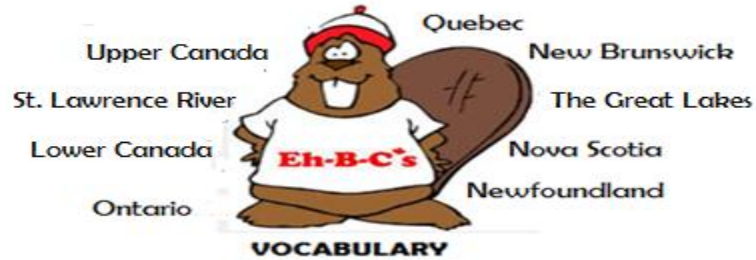




CANADIAN GEOGRAPHY

# UNIT I



## Bilingual Geography: Early Development of the Canadian Provinces.

### First Nations



Canada's first people were the native populations, so they are rightly referred to as "First Nation People". First Nations probably arrived from Asia, migrating across the Bering Strait. This migration is thought to have happened during the last ice age when sea levels were at their lowest sometime around 15,000 years ago. Native bones have been discovered in archeological digs that date at least 12,000 years old.<sup>1</sup>

First Nations were diverse groups of people who spoke different languages (as many as 50 different languages) each having their own unique culture.<sup>2</sup> First Nations lived amongst each other in often warring tribes. They were the only permanent inhabitants of Canada until up to 500 years ago when the Europeans arrived. Because of their original ties to the land First Nations enjoy a special status in Canadian government and society. For example Natives don't pay taxes and their hunting and fishing rights are not regulated like other Canadians. First Nations also have the right to govern themselves to some degree.

### The Norsemen



Viking raiders reached Newfoundland from Northern Europe by boat around 1000 A.D.<sup>3</sup> We don't know how long they stuck around, but they didn't establish any large permanent settlements. We also don't know why they came, and we don't know why they left. This kind of mystery is fairly typical of Vikings, and it is best not to spend too much time trying to figure these people out. We certainly do admire their helmets and their courage though.



Sometime around the time of the French arrival in Canada, French explorers were met on the shores of the St Lawrence River by a group of Iroquois First Nations. You can imagine how surprised the Iroquois were to see white faces and such a big ship! The Iroquois invited the French to their village ("Kanata" = "village" in the Iroquois language) and the name "Canada" was born.<sup>4</sup>

### The English



The English arrived in 1497 (well an Italian sailing for England did), John Cabot “discovered” Newfoundland (new found land).<sup>5</sup> Unbeknownst to him it had been discovered by the Vikings about 500 years earlier (or he would have probably named it something else). Cabot’s voyage marked the beginning of a permanent presence of the English in Canada. Thanks to Cabot, you will be able to understand people there.

### The French



Jacques Cartier, like Magellan did for Cebu, brought Catholicism to Canada when he sailed down the St Lawrence River in 1534.<sup>6</sup> The French would soon set up permanent colonies in Montreal and Quebec City. Unlike the English (who had landed and remained on the East coast Newfoundland), the French used the St Lawrence River as an early road to discover the interior of Canada. The St Lawrence was not only important for transportation (offering a direct route to the Atlantic Ocean), but also to support agriculture and early settlements of the French. Their first colony Mont Royal (Royal Mountain in English), eventually became known as Montreal and is today the second largest city in Canada. Quebec City was the defensive capitol of “New France” and remains one of the most beautiful and historically rich places you can visit in Canada. Using the St Lawrence, the French eventually gained access to the “Great Lakes” region, including most of modern day Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba. The French sent missionaries and fur traders to explore and develop these areas.

### The St Lawrence River (Canada’s first “road” of discovery).



The St. Lawrence River was very important to the development of Canada, it acted as a transportation system for early settlers and traders. The river also served as a natural division between Canada and the United States.

## The English vs. The French

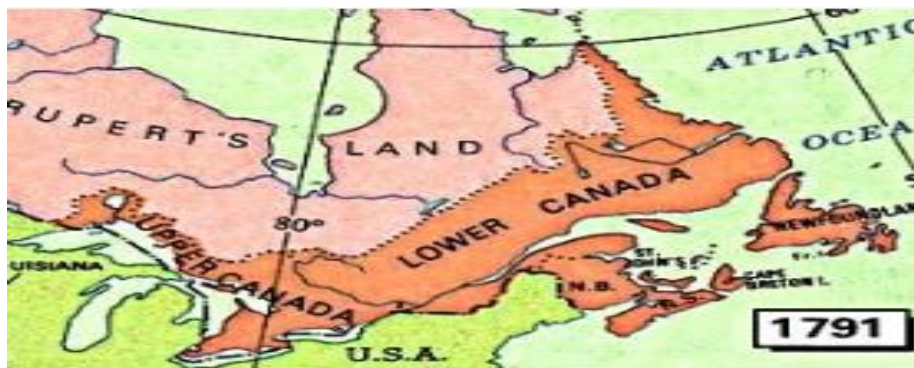


As the great powers of Europe competed with each other to develop profitable colonies, often wars broke out. In 1754 the English and the French squared off in a battle that would rival a Mayweather/Pacquiao match called the “Seven Years War” (you guessed it because it lasted seven years). Due to their early contact with the First Nation groups (fur trading/missionary work) the French had a lot of Indian allies, but eventually lost the war because of the superior ability of the British navy (and its ability to bring more soldiers from England). The French lost control of Quebec City (1759) and then

Montreal (1760) the following year.<sup>7</sup> Eventually the French signed a peace agreement which accepted defeat. France agreed to give up most of their colonial possessions. Canada was abandoned by the French in favor of keeping a small Caribbean island by the name of “Guadeloupe” (which was valuable for sugar production), NOT a very wise long term decision.

After the French loss, Britain ruled Canada (and its large French population). Britain now also controlled the St. Lawrence River which allowed further settlement and development of cities like Toronto and London. Although France had abandoned North America, the French culture remained strong and the French people united. The British could not easily make these people into British subjects, the British were outnumbered. A compromise was developed and “Quebec” was divided in 1791 into two parts “Lower Canada” (the French part of Canada) and “Upper Canada” (the English speaking part of Canada).<sup>8</sup> Both English and French Canada had their own local governments (although both remained under British control). The arrangement however allowed the French to maintain their distinct culture and control over many of their own affairs. This event helps to explain the continued special status of Quebec within today’s Canada, as well as Quebecois nationalism.

### Upper and Lower Canada (1791)



Upper Canada developed under both political and cultural English control and eventually became the province of Ontario. Lower Canada developed under French cultural control, and shared political control and eventually once again became the province of Quebec. Rupert’s Land (the Western lands) were actually owned by a fur trading company called “the Hudson Bay Company”. Hudson Bay (known in Canada as “the Bay”) eventually sold the land off, but you can still buy furs (and many other things) as it still operates today as a department store, although now American owned.

## The First Four Provinces (Confederation 1867)



### Ontario

From early times the British encouraged immigration to Ontario, to try and outnumber the French, something difficult to do because of the high French Catholic birth rate (something the French and Filipinos have in common). As immigration increased from places like Britain, Scotland and Ireland Ontario developed large cities like Kingston, Brockville, Cornwall, most of these cities were on, or very near the St Lawrence River. Ontario became dominated by Anglophones (the English), its economy was agriculture based, with logging, fishing furs

and industry helping it to grow. The other natural advantage Ontario had were its numerous waterways including the Great Lakes. Canada's first capitol city was located in Kingston, Ontario on the shore of Lake Ontario. It was later moved to Ottawa to better defend from possible attacks by the Americans. Ontario soon became more populated than Quebec and is today's most populous province and the center of Canadian industry.<sup>9</sup>



### Quebec

Quebec as you have learned had included the original major settlements of what was to become Canada. From an early age the French made good use of the St Lawrence and other river systems to develop agriculture as well as other trade. Despite being "abandoned" by France, the French have always remained very "nationalistic". There are times when this causes tension with the rest of Canada, but for the most part the French and English maintain a working level of mutual

respect. Quebec nationalism has been the driving force for Quebec to assert its right of cultural independence within the framework of Canada. Quebec among other things maintains its own immigration system, so that it may select candidates who fit well into Quebec society (and who speak French). Quebec is a province rich in natural resources, and industry. Quebec is viewed in Canada as an equal partner worthy of special consideration and is one of the four founding provinces that made up Canada in 1867.<sup>10</sup>



### Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia had been a fishing colony of the French, but fell under English control at the end of the war. Its cod fisheries are known around the world for the great numbers of fish. Unfortunately, the word got out that fishing was so good there international fishing boats from all over the world soon depleted the cod stock, causing economic devastation to Nova Scotia. Nova Scotia is still struggling to recover. Settled by a large number of Scottish settlers (hence the name Nova =New, Scotia =Scotland). The only thing more appealing

than its geographic beauty is the warmth and friendliness of its people. Nova Scotia received a huge influx of English speaking refugees loyal to Britain (called British loyalists) who left America after America won its war of independence against the British.<sup>11</sup>





### **New Brunswick**

New Brunswick used to be part of Nova Scotia but was separated for easier political management. New Brunswick is officially a bilingual province and maintains a high percentage of French population (35%), making it the MOST bilingual province in Canada. Over time, many French left Nova Scotia because too many English residents immigrated there. Like most Maritime Provinces New Brunswick's

economy has historically depended on fisheries, agriculture and forestry have played an important role in its development<sup>12</sup>. If you ever make it to New Brunswick, don't overlook the Moosehead brewery in Saint John which produces one of Canada's BEST beers "Moosehead", do give it a try!

### **CONFEDERATION (1867) Canada Becomes a Nation!**

After reading the descriptions of these four provinces, if you are not asking yourself "why did these provinces join together to form a country?" you should be. Well, as different as these provinces were, they had a few things in common: #1) their economies were too small to be self-sufficient, and governing them separately was becoming too expensive for Britain. #2) the provinces were worried about an American invasion. Safety in numbers! #3) the problems between English and French in provincial governments made it hard to make decisions, it was thought that changing the political system (to a larger one) would allow decisions to be made more easily. There are of course many other reasons, but these three are the main reasons Canada got its start!

### **The Great Lakes**



The Great Lakes are a series of five (5) fresh water lakes that flow into one another, they are connected to the Atlantic Ocean by the St. Lawrence River. In modern times all of these lakes are connected by an extensive canal system, which is used for shipping goods in and out of Canada and America by international freighters. You will notice on the map large cities in both the US and Canada that have their home here. The largest lake is Lake Superior. Lake Superior has about 82,000 km<sup>2</sup> of surface area<sup>13</sup>, very large when compared to the surface area of Cebu (only about 5,000 km<sup>2</sup>).<sup>14</sup>



Lake Superior is the largest freshwater lake in the world by surface area. It contains about 12 quadrillion liters of water (12,000,000,000,000,000).<sup>15</sup> The abundance of fresh water in the great lakes plus Canada's frozen Arctic region give Canada control of about 20% of the world's freshwater. So when in Canada feel free to drink plenty of water!<sup>16</sup>

### Canuck Chat



After going through this unit, you now have a good idea of how Canada was formed. It is also likely that you have a good understanding of how important managing different cultural sensitivities (mainly English- French and First Nations) were to the development and formation of Canada.

Compromises based on respecting the differences between this "original" group of Canadians has been a difficult one to manage, but so far Canada has been successful.

The good news for you, is that this spirit of compromise and understanding has also lead to an attitude of acceptance towards modern immigrants (now mainly from the Philippines, China and India), as well as foreign workers from elsewhere. While some kinds of discrimination do still exist, discrimination based on where you come from is frowned upon in Canada. So although you might be worried about adjusting to your new life in Canada, don't worry too much, because the Canadians are generally going to be very friendly and welcoming.

1. In small groups discuss the answers to the following questions amongst yourself with the direction of your group leader.
2. After you have gone through the questions, share some of your more interesting answers with the class as a whole.
  - a) What worries you most about going to Canada?
  - b) Have you ever experienced racism or discrimination? Give an example.
  - c) Do you have any stereotypes about a certain group of people because of where they come from?
  - d) Have you heard any examples of Filipinos having a hard time in Canada, or another country?
  - e) What can you do to try and relate to Canadians once you arrive?




PRACTICAL INTEGRATION



One of the themse of this chapter was to explain how important the bilingual balance is to Canadian society. The French have been outnumbered in Canada for a long time. At times the French feel threatened by the majority English population in Canada, even though we generally have a good relationship. French Canadians are well known in Canada for their great cooking and their "joie de vivre" (joy of life), therefore the more French people you know, the more fun you will have. As I already mentioned you have the Catholic religion in common. Why not get to know eachother a little bit? All it takes is for you to say hello to meet new French friends.

1. As a small group study the French translations of the corresponding English word. Practice the pronunciation with the assistance of your teacher.
2. The team leader should hand out a few of the French words to students in their group .The team leader should then call out an English word, and the person possessing the French translation must answer by echoing the French word they are responsible for.
3. If teams make an error in echoing, they must repeat from the start until there is NO error. The teacher may time individual groups to determine which group is most fluently bilingual.

## BASIC BILINGUALISM WORD CHART

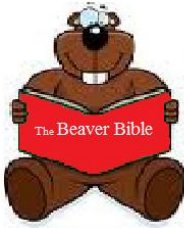


YES	OUI	GIVE	DONNER	NO	NON
CAR	AUTO	HELLO	BONJOUR	TALK	PARLER
LOVE	AIMER	HATE	DÉTESTER	RICE	RIZ
COLD	FROID	FRIEND	AMI	BUS	AUTOBUS
GOODBYE		AU REVOIR		NIGHT	NUIT
THANKS ALOT		MERCİ BEAUCOUP		EAT	MANGER
HOW MUCH IS ... ?		COMBIEN COÛTE		HELP	AIDER



## Coueurs de Bois: Runners of the Woods<sub>18</sub>



When the fur trade first began, First Nations and Inuit people brought the furs to the trading posts. They would arrive by canoe. The furs would be unloaded and traded for goods such as ***muskets***, axes, knives, blankets, whisky and pots. It was not long before some of the men at the trading posts decided they would go inland and get the fur themselves. These were the people known as the ***coueurs de bois***.

The coueurs de bois learned the ways of the woods from the First Nations. They were taught how to canoe, hunt and snowshoe. Canoes were made out of birch bark the way the Natives taught them. They dressed in the same kinds of clothes and ate the same food as the First Nation peoples. A typical meal consisted of ***pemmican***, deer meat and dried corn and peas.

The silver birch tree was the most important resource for life in the woods. It was used to build and repair canoes on the journey. Shelters were built with the branches and the bark. The bark was also good for drawing maps on and for writing messages. The bark could even be eaten if there was no other food!

(image) <sub>18</sub>



The coueurs de bois traveled long distances. They left their homes in the spring with their canoes loaded with supplies and goods for trading. They traveled down the Ottawa River to Lake Huron. From there it took another month of paddling more than 12 hours a day to reach their destination. Some of the coueurs de bois traveled as far as 2000 kilometers, or more, from home.

It was dangerous work, so the coueurs de bois sometimes traveled together in groups. They needed each other to help paddle, set up shelter and keep watch for enemies at night. They also had to catch their own food. They would hunt and fish for food along the way.



It was also hard work. The coureur de bois often had to **portage** their canoes. In the summer mosquitoes and other insects bothered them. They had to hang their food up high away from animals. In the winter they had to keep warm at night. They would dig holes in the snow and line them with cedar branches.



**CBC Interview- Answer the following reading comprehension questions about the reading.**

1. Explain and give two (2) examples of how the First Nations people and the French worked together?-

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2. How far would the coureurs de bois typically travel per day?

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3. Name two useful things that the coureurs learned about the forest and its resources?

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4. What did the coureurs de bois eat when they traveled?

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5. How did the relationship between the French and the First Nations benefit the First Nations?

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