

Ways of Life in Canada: Stories and Changes

30 minutes, 3 stages

Learning about how people lived in different times and places in Canada helps you understand how the country grew. Many different groups of people shaped Canada. They had different needs, beliefs, and skills ([Topic](#)). When you learn about explorers, settlers, traders, and First Nations peoples, you see that Canada's history has many stories, not just one. ([Details](#)).

Stage 1: Explore a Settlement (8 min)

Pick one of these early Canadian settlements. Write three sentences about what daily life might have been like there. Use the details given.

Port-Royal (1605) was a French settlement in what is now Nova Scotia. Colonists farmed, fished, and traded furs with Mi'kmaq people nearby.

Quebec City (1608) was founded by Samuel de Champlain on the St. Lawrence River. The settlement became a centre for the fur trade. Trappers, traders, and First Nations allies worked together there.

A fur trading post was built by the Hudson's Bay Company or North West Company in the north and west. Hunters, trappers, interpreters, voyageurs, and clerks all worked there. They exchanged furs for goods from Europe.

Write your three sentences below. Include at least one detail about who lived or worked there and what they did.

Your settlement: _____

Your sentences:

- _____
- _____
- _____

Stage 2: Match People to Roles (10 min)

In the fur trade and early settlements, different people had different jobs. Draw a line to match each person or group to what they did. ([Details](#)).

Person or Group	What They Did
Coueurs des bois and voyageurs	Acted as go-betweens, connecting European traders to their communities
First Nations and Métis hunters and trappers	Shipped furs from North America to Europe; shipped goods back
Interpreters and guides	Caught and prepared furs for trade
European traders and merchants	Helped Europeans understand First Nations languages and lands
First Nations and Métis women	Paddled canoes, carried goods, and worked at trading posts

Stage 3: Think About Change (12 min)

Colonists came to Canada for different reasons. Read the list, then answer the questions below. ([Details](#)).

Reasons colonists came:

- Access to farmland
- Business opportunities
- Religious freedom
- Better quality of life
- Adventure

Question 1: Which reason do you think was most important for someone starting a farm in Quebec City? Why?

Answer: _____

Question 2: Which reason might have been most important for a fur trader working at a remote trading post? Why?

Answer: _____

Question 3: How do you think the arrival of so many colonists changed the land and the First Nations people who already lived here?

Answer: _____

Self-check

Ask yourself these three questions to see if you understood the assignment.

1. Can you name at least one early settlement in Canada and describe one thing people did there?
2. Can you explain why the fur trade brought different groups of people together?
3. Can you give one reason why colonists came to Canada and say why that reason mattered to them?

If you answered yes to all three, you have completed the homework successfully.