

An illustration depicting a historical scene in Canada. In the foreground, two young people are in a canoe on a river. The person on the left is wearing a brown fur-trimmed coat and a straw hat, holding a paddle. The person on the right is wearing a tan fringed parka and has two long braids, also holding a paddle. In the background, a wooden post-and-rail fence surrounds a building. Several men are present: one in a blue coat is loading a pack onto a horse; another in a red coat and black hat is holding a large animal skin; a third in a tan coat is standing nearby. The setting is a riverbank with evergreen trees and mountains in the distance.

Histories and Stories of Ways of Life in Canada

Grade 5 Social Studies: exploring how people, place and time shaped Canada

Learning Intentions and Success Criteria

- I can describe how First Nations and Europeans built relationships through treaties.
- I can explain how colonies changed hands between France and Britain.
- I can describe why people migrated to the land now known as Canada.
- I can explain how the fur trade connected different groups of people.
- I can describe how Canada's government developed from historical events.

Building Canada: Key Turning Points

1

Exploration and Settlement

Explorers such as Jacques Cartier and Samuel de Champlain arrived, and France founded Port-Royal, Quebec City and Montreal.

2

Treaties and Relationships

First Nations and Europeans made agreements like the Two Row Wampum to live side by side.

3

Change of Control

Britain gained Acadia and New France through treaties after conflicts with France.

4

Migration and Growth

Loyalists, migrants from Britain, and people freed from slavery arrived via the Underground Railroad.

5

Confederation

The British North America Act united provinces into the Dominion of Canada in 1867.

Ways of Life in the Fur Trade

How trade connected First Nations, Metis, and European communities

The fur trade moved furs from North America to Europe and manufactured goods from Europe to North America, because supply and demand differed between the continents. Trading posts and forts became busy places where people met, bartered, stored goods, and stayed overnight. First Nations, Metis, and Europeans worked together as hunters, trappers, interpreters, guides, and voyageurs. First Nations and Metis women played a key role as go-betweens who helped European traders build relationships with communities.

Two Views on the Royal Proclamation and Quebec Act

For First Nations

The Royal Proclamation of 1763 recognized First Nations as original inhabitants, recognized their right to self-government, and set up a nation-to-nation treaty process with the Crown.

For French Colonists

The Quebec Act of 1774 protected French language and religious rights in Quebec, laying a foundation for bilingualism that continues in Canada today.

Wrapping Up: Many Stories, One Country

Canada's story includes explorers and settlers, treaties between First Nations and newcomers, waves of migration, a thriving fur trade built on cooperation, and the negotiations that led to Confederation in 1867. Each event shaped the ways of life people experienced then and shapes how Canadians live now.

Whose story from today's lesson would you like to learn more about, and why?