

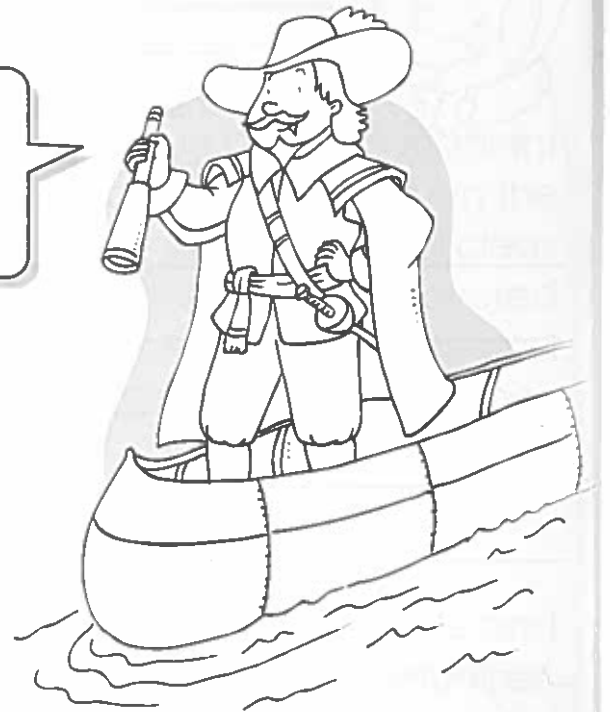
# Different Aboriginal Groups

Before the early settlers arrived in what is Canada today, there were already many Aboriginal peoples living here. They lived in different geographical regions, each with a different climate and landscape. As a result, different Aboriginal groups developed different ways of life and relied on different resources.

## Groupings of Aboriginal Peoples

*At the time of initial contact with Europeans like me, there were more than 80 "nations" of Aboriginal peoples. These nations have been categorized by historians into six cultural groups:*

- **Northwest Coast**
- **Plateau**
- **Plains**
- **Eastern Woodlands**
- **Subarctic**
- **Arctic**



## Different Terms for Aboriginal Peoples

"Aboriginal" is the term for all descendants of the original inhabitants of North America. It is defined by the Constitution Act in 1982 to refer to Indian, Inuit, and Métis peoples of Canada.

"First Nations" is the contemporary term for "Indian". "Inuit" is the term for Aboriginal peoples in the Arctic. "Métis" is the term used for people with mixed First Nations and European ancestry.

"Native" is also used to refer to all Aboriginal groups, regardless of legal, historical, and political distinctions.

## Different Aboriginal Groups

Read the following descriptions about the Aboriginal peoples in Canada and fill in the blanks with the words in the box.

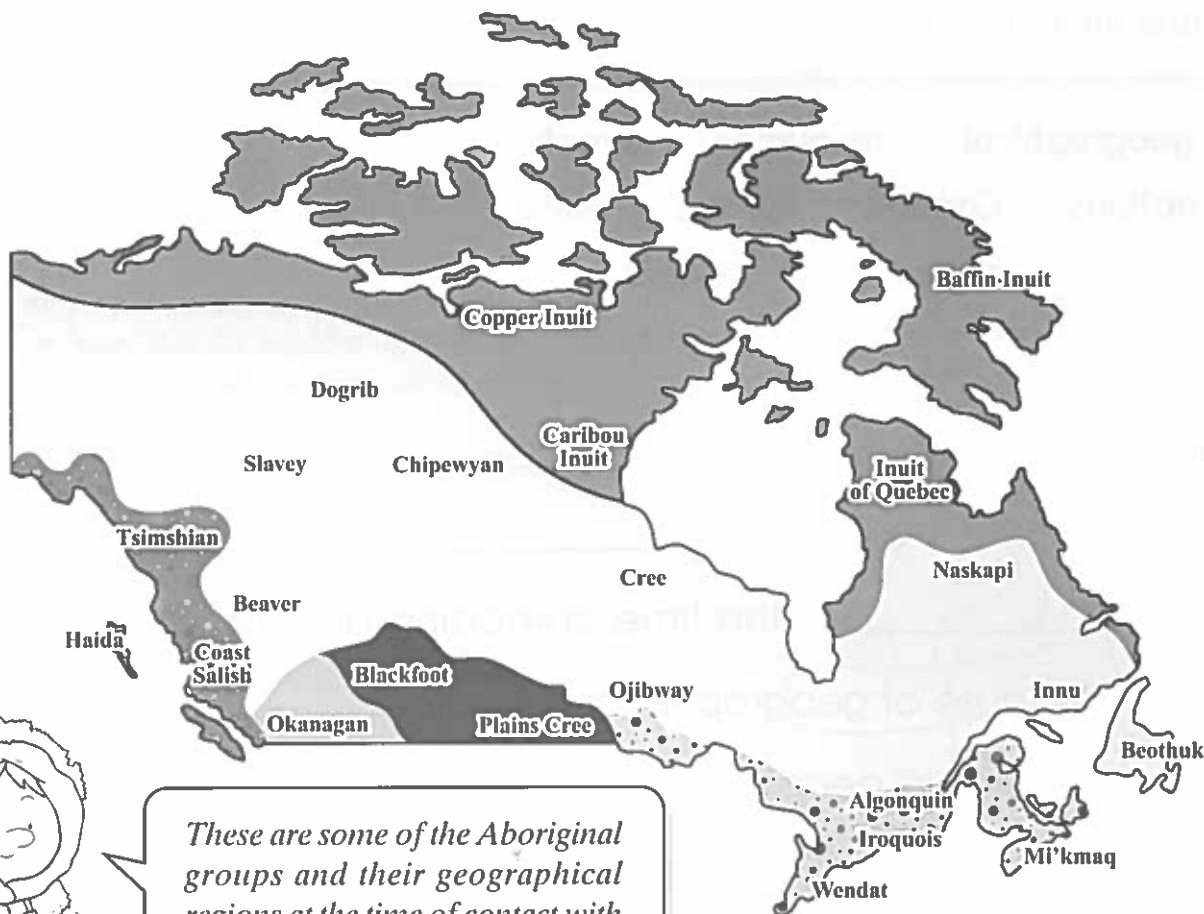
geographical   resources   climatic  
nations   Canada   Europe   Métis  
cedar   cultural   beans



Aboriginal peoples had been living in 1. \_\_\_\_\_ long before settlers came from 2. \_\_\_\_\_. There were about 80 3. \_\_\_\_\_ at the time, spreading all over what is Canada today. Because of geographic and 4. \_\_\_\_\_ differences, different Aboriginal peoples relied on different 5. \_\_\_\_\_ and so developed different ways of life. For example, Aboriginal peoples from the Eastern Woodlands used their fertile soil to grow corn, 6. \_\_\_\_\_, and squash, while those from the Northwest Coast relied on salmon from the ocean and 7. \_\_\_\_\_ trees from forests. Historians broadly categorize the Aboriginal peoples into six 8. \_\_\_\_\_ groups according to different 9. \_\_\_\_\_ regions. In the Constitution Act of 1982, the term "Aboriginal" refers to Indian, Inuit, and 10. \_\_\_\_\_ peoples of Canada.

# Different Aboriginal Groups

A. Look at this map and read what Jonathan says below. Find one Aboriginal group in each region listed at the bottom.



*These are some of the Aboriginal groups and their geographical regions at the time of contact with Europeans in the 15th century.*



**Arctic**

\_\_\_\_\_



**Subarctic**

\_\_\_\_\_



**Northwest Coast**

\_\_\_\_\_



**Plateau**

\_\_\_\_\_



**Plains**

\_\_\_\_\_



**Eastern Woodlands**

\_\_\_\_\_

**B. Pretend you are a European meeting the Aboriginal peoples in the 15th century. Write the name of the geographical region for each description.**

1. Some of the Aboriginal peoples on this fertile land are farmers, like the Iroquois; others are nomadic hunters, like the Algonquin. The land, rivers, and lakes provide abundant resources for both.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. The flat grassland here is home to many herds of buffalo, the main resource of the Blackfoot and the Plains Cree.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. *I live in a northern region with harsh, cold winters, and short, cool summers. Survival here depends on sea animals and caribou.*



\_\_\_\_\_

4. *I live in a coastal region with a mild climate. Cedar trees and salmon are staples of my people. Our resources come from rainforests, rivers, and the sea.*



\_\_\_\_\_

5. This region stretches from east to west. The Aboriginal peoples here hunt year round, depending largely on caribou for food and clothing. Along with fish and small mammals, they also make use of a variety of trees and plants.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. This dry, high area of land is east of the Northwest Coast. The Aboriginal peoples here find their resources in forests and lakes.

\_\_\_\_\_