

INVESTIGATION INTO THE HISTORY AND LEGACY OF INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS IN CANADA

Residential schools have a long history in Canada. Residential schools were government-sponsored religious schools that were established to assimilate Indigenous children into Euro-Canadian culture.

Overall, students had a negative experience at the residential schools, one that would have lasting consequences. Students were isolated and their culture was disparaged or scorned. They were removed from their homes and parents and were separated from some of their siblings, as the schools were segregated according to gender. Many students suffered abuse at residential schools. Underfed and malnourished, the students were particularly vulnerable to diseases such as tuberculosis and influenza. At least 3,200 Indigenous children died in the overcrowded residential schools.

The Indian Residential School system has had detrimental, intergenerational effects on Indigenous people and families. The schools disrupted lives and communities, causing long-term problems among Indigenous peoples.

As you answer the following questions you will begin to understand the purpose of the Indian Residential Schools (IRS), who attended these schools, who ran the schools, what happened at the schools, and the effects of the schools on the children, parents and communities. The internet would be the best source of information to help you answer these questions.

Due Date: June 12. It is recommended you do half of the question, up to the end of question 4, for June 5.

1. Who went to Indian Residential Schools in Canada?
2. Who set up the Indian Residential Schools in Canada?
 - a. What organizations?
 - b. Key people in the development of the system.
3. Why were Indian Residential Schools established?
 - a. What was the goal of the government?
 - b. What were the goals of the churches involved?
4. When did Indian Residential Schools operate in Canada?
 - a. When did the first one open?
 - b. When did the last one close?
 - c. What are some of the significant dates in the IRS period?
5. What happened to the children who attended Indian Residential Schools?
 - a. Did every child have the same experience?
 - b. What do survivors have to say about their own IRS experience?
6. Where were Indian Residential Schools set up in Canada?
 - a. What were the locations of the schools?
 - b. How many were set up in each province and territory?
 - c. Were they located close to the children's homes?
 - d. Were the schools in the south the same as the schools in the far north?
7. How did Indian Residential Schools affect the children who went there?
 - a. How did this affect parents and families?
 - b. How did this affect communities?
 - c. Did the impacts end when the children came home?