

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The History of Canada



Before European explorers arrived, Indigenous peoples had lived in Canada for thousands of years. These groups, including the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, had unique cultures, languages, and traditions. They lived in different regions of Canada, adapting to the land around them.

- The Inuit lived in the Arctic, where they hunted seals and built igloos.
- The Plains First Nations hunted bison and lived in tipis on the prairies.
- The West Coast First Nations built large wooden houses and carved totem poles to tell their stories.

These Indigenous groups were the first caretakers of the land, passing down knowledge and traditions for generations.

### European Exploration and Colonization

In the late 1400s and 1500s, European explorers from France and England arrived in Canada. In 1534, a French explorer named Jacques Cartier landed in what is now Quebec. Later, in 1608, another explorer, Samuel de Champlain, founded the city of Quebec City, one of the first permanent European settlements.

The French and British built colonies, traded furs with Indigenous peoples, and fought for control over the land. In 1763, after years of conflict, Britain took control of Canada from France.

### Confederation: The Birth of Canada (1867)

For many years, Canada was made up of British colonies. On July 1, 1867, these colonies joined together to form one country—Canada. This event is called Confederation. The four original provinces were:

1. Ontario
2. Quebec
3. New Brunswick
4. Nova Scotia

Over time, more provinces and territories joined, creating the Canada we know today.

### Canada's Role in World Events

Canada has played an important role in global events.

- **World War I (1914-1918):** Canadian soldiers fought bravely in battles like Vimy Ridge, showing the world Canada's strength.
- **World War II (1939-1945):** Canada helped fight against Nazi Germany and protected ships crossing the Atlantic Ocean.
- **Peacekeeping:** Today, Canada is known for helping keep peace in other countries through the United Nations.

### A Country with a Strong History

From its Indigenous roots to Confederation and beyond, Canada's history is full of important moments. Today, Canadians remember and honor their past while looking forward to the future.

