CANADA

HISTORY

First Nations and Inuit lived in Canada for thousands of years. Then France and Britain built colonies here. In 1867, Canadians formed their own country.



The First Peoples

On the Pacific coast, the Haida carved cedar canoes and tall totem poles. On the prairies, nations such as the Cree and Blackfoot hunted bison. In the east, the Wendat (WEN-dat) and other nations grew corn, beans and squash. In the Arctic, the Inuit (IN-oo-it) hunted seals and traveled by dogsled.

Explorers and Furs

More than 1,000 years ago, Vikings from Greenland built a small camp in Newfoundland. In 1534, Jacques Cartier reached the Gulf of St. Lawrence and claimed the land for France. Soon Europeans wanted beaver fur to make hats. First Nations hunters traded furs for metal tools, kettles and cloth. In 1670, English traders started the Hudson's Bay Company and built trading posts around Hudson Bay.

New France

In 1608, Samuel de Champlain founded Quebec City on the St. Lawrence River. It became the heart of a French **colony** called New France. Champlain made allies of the Wendat. Settlers farmed long, narrow strips of land along the river. Priests and nuns built churches, schools and hospitals. Over time, families of fur traders and First Nations women became a new people, the Métis (may-TEE).



British Canada

In 1759, during a war with France, British soldiers captured Quebec City. In 1763, France gave New France to Britain. French Canadians kept their language and their church. After the American Revolution, thousands of **Loyalists**, people who wanted to stay British, moved north. In the War of 1812, American armies invaded Canada. British soldiers, Canadian settlers and First Nations warriors led by Tecumseh fought back. The war ended with no change to the border.

A New Country

On July 1, 1867, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick joined in a **Confederation** to form the Dominion of Canada. In 1885, workers finished a railroad across Canada. Canada signed **treaties** with First Nations for land in the West, and settlers built farms on the prairies. In 1885, Canadian soldiers defeated an uprising of Métis and Cree fighters led by Louis Riel, and Riel was hanged. From the 1800s to the 1990s, many First Nations, Inuit and Métis children were sent to residential schools run by churches for the government, far from their families.

Canada Today

Canadians fought beside Britain and its allies in both World Wars. In 1965, Canada raised its red and white maple leaf flag. In 1999, the territory of Nunavut (NOO-nah-voot) was created, and most people there are Inuit. Today, First Nations, Inuit and Métis people live all across Canada.

CANADA THROUGH TIME

1021	1534	1608	1670	1759	1812	1867	1885	1999
Vikings in Newfoundland	Cartier claims land for France	Champlain founds Quebec	Hudson's Bay Company begins	Britain takes Quebec	The War of 1812 begins	Confederation forms Canada	Railroad is finished	Nunavut is created

PEOPLE TO KNOW

Samuel de Champlain	Founded Quebec City in 1608
Tecumseh	Shawnee leader in the War of 1812
Laura Secord	Walked far to warn British troops
Emily Carr	Painted West Coast forests and villages
Terry Fox	Ran to raise money for cancer research

WORDS TO KNOW

colony	land ruled by a faraway country
Loyalist	a colonist loyal to Britain
confederation	a union of provinces into one country
treaty	an agreement between nations