

**First Nations
Historical
Timelines
and Maps**

7

plain
talk

it's
our
time

TIMELINES

**99% of Canadians do not know
the Aboriginal peoples history,**

**90% of Aboriginal peoples
do not know their own history.**

**Waabskhi Masinazoot Michtaatim
Anishinaabe**

Before contact the First Nations of North America were self-sustaining societies with complex social, economic and political structures. A Timeline provides a graphic representation of the achievements, conflicts, high points and low points of a complex and turbulent history.

A Timeline helps students understand that First Nations peoples are strong and resilient, that the history of First Nations peoples is as old as the land itself, and that the struggle of First Nations people for their very survival, as well as for the protection and preservation of rights and resources, culture and language goes back to time immemorial and continues to this day. It is powerfully represented on a Timeline.

It should be noted that many timelines chronicle the events in First Nations history or the relationships over time between First Nations and ~~Europeans. They are all different and~~ all have useful information. Some of these are summarized below.

1. **Canadian Indigenous Historical Timeline**

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<http://whitespottedhorse.com/index.php/products/>

Allen Sutherland (White Spotted Horse) creator of the *Canadian Indigenous Historical Timeline* says:

The shared history between Indigenous peoples and European settlers is one of cultural disruption and missed opportunities. Generations of Indigenous peoples experienced profound, unsought and irreversible changes in their cultural and family life as a result of colonization. Many



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Indigenous people are working to change the cycles of abuse, the social and economic disruption, the loss of languages and the assimilation and loss of their cultures and identity.

Aboriginal people are building bridges of reconciliation and working to create educational communities where their children are respected and their cultures are reflected and appreciated in Canadian society. They are rebuilding their Aboriginal cultures and hope to right the relations of the past. However, many challenges still exist today. Education is a key to this positive change.

2. First Nations Historical Timeline

BC Teacher's Federation

<http://www.bctf.ca/IssuesInEducation.aspx?id=5678>

The BC Teacher's Federation Timeline has a pronounced BC focus. It begins with the Royal Proclamation of 1763, carries on through the 1778 Captain Cook exploration of the BC coast, the Fraser River gold rush and the smallpox epidemics that swept British Columbia, killing one third of the First Nations population in the province in 1862. The Timeline continues through Nisga'a to the present, with BC milestones including Musqueam and finally Delgamuukw in 1997.

3. Key Dates in Canadian, First Nations History

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/key-dates-in-canadian-first-nations-history-1.758413>

This timeline provides a look at some of the key dates in the evolution of the relationship between Canada and the First Nations. This timeline begins with the Royal Proclamation of 1763, jumps to the 1867 British North America Act, the Indian Act in 1876, and the era of residential schools beginning in the 1870s. The timeline includes the Northwest Rebellion of 1885, the James Bay Agreement of 1975, The Inuvialuit Claims Settlement Act of 1984, the 1990 Oka Crisis, the creation of Nunavut in 1999, the Kelowna Accord of 2005, the 2008 Apology and the 2011 winter housing crisis in the northern Ontario native community of Attawapiskat that riveted national attention on First Nations living conditions. The Timeline ends in 2012 with the summit meeting between First Nations chiefs and Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

4. Archaeology: Alberta Aboriginal History Timeline

Royal Alberta Museum

<http://www.royalalbertamuseum.ca/human/archaeo/aspects/timeline.htm>

As one might expect in a Timeline prepared by a Museum, this version begins quite appropriately before 10,000 BCE. The document chronicles milestones in the evolution of the hunting and gathering ways of the original peoples along with the adaptations required by climactic events like cold, drought and volcanoes and especially, and most dramatically, post-contact. The Timeline notes many major events especially those affecting the regions of western Canada including in 1670 when the Hudson's Bay Company received its Charter granting it authority to trade in Rupert's Land (western Canada).

The Timeline marks the smallpox epidemics, the fur trade, and notes that buffalo that numbered 40 million in 1830 were decimated almost to extinction by the 1870's, just a few decades later. The Timeline notes the signing of the numbered treaties in Alberta and highlights that more than 12,000 First Nations, Métis and Inuit people fought for Canada in the First and Second World Wars (1914-1918; 1939-1945) and in Korea (1949-1953).

5. Canadian Geographic _____

http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/atlas/themes.aspx?id=first&sub=first_basics_timeline&lang=En

Many defining moments have contributed to making Canada the country it is today. From ancient cultures to early European settlers, through war, Confederation and the creation of Nunavut, Canada is a sprawling country with a long history stretching from thousands of years ago to the present.

6. A Timeline of Residential Schools, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission _____

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/story/2008/05/16/f-timeline-residential-schools.html>



Maps of First Nations

Maps reflect the diversity of First Nations culture and heritage, their connection to the land, and their existence over thousands of years from coast to coast to coast. It should be noted that First Nations place names are an inherent part of the culture, history and tradition of Canada. Knowledge about these names promotes respect for the role of First Nations in our shared history.

There are many ways to explore the location of First Nations in Canada. Every province and territory have their own sources. The variety is impressive.

Start with this interactive link and go from there.

<http://fnpim-cippn.aandc-aadnc.gc.ca/index-eng.asp>

First Nations Profiles

The First Nations Profiles is a collection of information that describes individual First Nation communities across Canada. The profiles include general information on a First Nation along with more detailed information about its reserve(s), governance, federal funding, geography, registered population statistics and various Census statistics.

These community profiles were developed by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada as a means of making the most often requested information readily available.

<https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1290453474688/1290453673970>

