

## Canada's Aboriginal People



Aboriginal people, also known as native people or First Nations, lived in this country long before it was known as Canada. They developed many different languages, customs and cultures, each reflecting their relationship to the land and living things.

Aboriginal people have given Canadian culture a unique quality in that our heritage is not all European based. The canoe, kayak, dog sled, snowshoes and lacrosse were Aboriginal inventions. Aboriginal people were also the first people to grow corn, potatoes, squash, pumpkins and other North American crops. In fact, we owe our country's name to Aboriginal language. The word "Canada" is Laurentian Iroquois for "village".

Ask your family or leaders to help you find other contributions Aboriginal people have made or are making to the area in which you live. You can also make a map of Canada and show where different Aboriginal people live and what languages they speak in those areas.

