

Glossary

Aboriginal The descendants of the original inhabitants of North America. First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples have unique heritages, languages, cultural practices, and spiritual beliefs. “Aboriginal” is also used in other parts of the world to refer to the first inhabitants of a given area.

Acadian A Francophone citizen of Acadia

alliance A union in which groups agree to trade and help each other resolve disputes

assembly line A production method used in factories whereby an incomplete product is placed on a conveyor belt and, as the product moves down the line, each worker does one task on it; by the end of the line, the product is complete

assimilation A process by which culture or individual is absorbed into a more dominant culture because of its overwhelming influence

authentic Trustworthy and reliable; original, not a copy

baby boomer One of the huge number of children born in the years following the Second World War (1945 to about 1960)

barter The exchange of goods for other goods rather than for money

bias A personal like or dislike of something or someone that is not necessarily based on fact

bicultural Built on two cultures

bilingual Fluent in two languages (of a person); officially recognizing two languages (of a country)

bilingualism A policy of recognizing two official languages

Bill of Rights A document created by the Métis Provisional Government and presented to the government of Canada that requested that Métis receive the rights enjoyed by other Canadians

bishop A high-ranking cleric; the head of the church in New France

Les Bleus A group of conservative, business-oriented Canadians in the Canadian Assembly in the 1850s who were in favour of co-operating with the English

The Blues English name for Les Bleus

bribery A way for politicians to influence voters by making promises or paying money

Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms A legal document created in 1982 that lists the basic rights that belong to every Canadian citizen

Canadien(ne) A Francophone descendant of the settlers of New France living anywhere in North America, including the West (in use until about the First World War)

Catholic school A school for Catholic students

cause Something that makes an event happen

Château Clique The Anglophone friends and relatives of the governor of Lower Canada who were also Executive or Legislative Council members

citizen A member of a society

Clan Mother The head of a Haudenosaunee longhouse

clan A small village of extended families who lived together, co-operated, and shared resources

Clear Grit Party A group of radical reformers in the Canadian Assembly in the 1850s who wanted a more democratic government

colony A territory controlled by another country

communal Something done or owned collectively

communal lifestyle A means of living whereby a group has no private property and shares both possessions and responsibilities

competition The act of competing with others for profit or a prize

compromise A method of resolving a disagreement whereby everyone gives up a little to get an agreement they can all live with

computer revolution A major change that occurred when people started using computers for everyday tasks such as typing

consensus An agreement reached by a group as a whole

core value An important idea or belief about how people should live

cottage industry A workplace in a home or small shop where a skilled craftsperson makes goods using hand tools

Country Born Métis The children of First Nations women and British traders from the Hudson's Bay Company

coureur de bois A Canadian trader ("runner of the woods" in English) who paddled on long journeys into the wilderness to trade for furs with the First Nations

culture A way of life or a way of being shared by a group of people; culture includes the knowledge, experiences, and values a group shares and that shape the way its members see the world

deadlock A situation where no progress can be made

decision making by consensus A debate in which people discuss an issue until they can all agree on one outcome

democracy A system of government in which the people of a nation are involved in decision making

demographics The characteristics of the people of a particular place

discrimination Unfair treatment of a person or group based on prejudice

diverse economy An economy with many types of industry

division of labour A production method that breaks work into small pieces; each worker specializes in only one step of the production process

economics Financial considerations

economy The way in which people meet their basic needs, such as food, clothing, and shelter

effect The result of an event, sometimes called a consequence

Elder A respected member of an Aboriginal community who uses Traditional Teachings, experience, and wisdom to help people in his or her community make good decisions

emigrant A person who leaves his or her homeland permanently

empire A network of colonies controlled by a single country

employment insurance A social program in which people receive an income when they lose their jobs

ethnocentric A viewpoint that judges other global cultures and ideas according to personal values and standards; believing one's own ethnic group is superior

factor A trader in charge of a Hudson's Bay Company fort

factory Another name for a Hudson's Bay Company fort

factory A workplace where workers run machines to produce goods

false advertising Using ads to mislead people

family allowance A social program that provides financial aid to people with children

Family Compact Anglophone friends and relatives of the governor of Upper Canada who became Executive or Legislative Council members

federalism/federal system A system of government in which a central government has power over matters affecting the whole country and provincial governments have power over local and regional matters

First Nations Aboriginal Peoples of Canada who are not Métis or Inuit; groups of the same. There are more than 600 First Nations across Canada, with 46 First Nations in Alberta.

fortress A permanent military stronghold that often includes a town

Francophone A person for whom French is the first language learned and still in use; a person of French language and culture

Francophone school A school exclusively for Francophone students and run by Francophones

La Francophonie An organization of regions and countries around the world in which French is many people's first language or an official language

free trade Tax-free trade between countries (no tariffs on imported or exported goods)

French immersion school A school where non-Francophone students study French as a second language by taking their core subjects in French

general strike Occurs when workers from many unions all go on strike at the same time to support one another

government The way people organize themselves to choose their leaders and make decisions

governor A powerful official; in New France, the most powerful member of the Sovereign Council and the King's personal representative

habitant A Francophone farmer of New France

haven A place of refuge

historical perspective A viewpoint that uses history to understand why things are the way they are

identity A set of characteristics and values that describes the essence of a person or group

immigrant A person who moves to a new country

Immigration Act of 1978 A Canadian law meant to attract skilled, educated immigrants from around the world, to reunite families that had been separated, to accept refugees, and to allow all new immigrants to become citizens

imperialism A country extending its control over other countries, often using economic or military means

Independents Individuals in the Canadian Assembly in the 1850s who did not join any governmental party

Indigenous people The original inhabitants of a given area

Industrial Revolution The shift from home-based hand manufacturing to large-scale factory production

industrialization Transformation to an economy based on large industries

intendant In New France, the second-most important figure of the Sovereign Council; he was in charge of the day-to-day affairs of the colony

internal migrant A person who moves from one region to another within one country

Inuit Aboriginal people in northern Canada mostly living above the tree line in the Northwest Territories, northern Québec and Labrador.

Iroquois Confederacy An alliance including the five Haudenosaunee nations living south of the Great Lakes: the Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, and Mohawk; the Tuscarora later joined the alliance

Jesuits An order of missionaries who came to North America to convert First Nations peoples to the Catholic religion

Legislative Assembly A government group elected by voters in British North America or in a province of Canada

Liberal-Conservatives Conservative, business-oriented English Canadians in the Canadian Assembly in the 1850s who were in favour of co-operating with the Québécois

liberator Someone who releases people from oppression, confinement, or foreign control

magistrate A judge

Manifest Destiny An American belief that it is the natural right of the United States to control all of North America

Manitoba Act A law that was passed in July 1870 in response to the Métis Bill of Rights; it created the province of Manitoba

manufacturing To make or process goods, especially in large quantities and by means of industrial machines

mass media A variety of public communication tools, including newspapers, radio, and television, used to share information with a large number of people

matrilineal ancestral descent through the maternal line

mechanical power A force that accomplishes tasks via machine

mercantilism An economic system that allowed an imperial country to become rich by selling the resources taken from its colonies

merchant In the fur trade, a financier and organizer

Métis People of mixed First Nations and European ancestry who identify themselves as Métis people. They are distinct from First Nations, Inuit and non-Aboriginal peoples. The Métis history and culture draws on diverse ancestral origins such as Scottish, Irish, French, Ojibway and Cree.

Métis Provisional Government A temporary government established by the Métis in 1864

migration movement of people within a country

minimum wage The lowest hourly rate an employer is allowed to pay an employee according to provincial law

monopoly When only one company or group is allowed to sell or trade a product in a certain area

Multiculturalism government policy designed to promote cultural understanding and harmony in a society made up of people from varied cultural, racial, and ethnic backgrounds

municipal government Local government

natural resource A part of nature that people can use

natural world The land, water, mountains, forests, plants, wildlife, and climate

Ninety-Two Resolutions A widely supported document prepared by the Patriotes in 1834 calling for sweeping governmental reforms

Nor'Wester A North West Company employee

Numbered Treaties A group of 11 treaties signed by the Canadian government and various First Nations living between the Great Lakes and the Rocky Mountains

official language The two languages the federal government must, by law, use to serve its citizens

Official Languages Act A law passed in 1969 that restates that French and English are Canada's official languages at the federal level

old-age pension A social program that provides an income for elderly people

opinion A person's thoughts or beliefs about something

oral culture A way of life in which language, teachings, and traditional stories are memorized and passed down orally from one generation to the next

pacifist A person opposed to violence as a means of settling disputes

Patriotes A group of Canadian radicals led by Louis-Joseph Papineau who wanted governmental reform leading up to the rebellions of 1837

pemmican Dried, shredded buffalo meat mixed with fat and berries

Pemmican Proclamation A government law created in 1814 that banned the Métis from exporting any meat, fish, or vegetables from the Red River settlement

persecuted Subjected to poor treatment because of one's beliefs

personal identity A complex combination of characteristics that together describe a unique person

Perspective the generally shared point of view of a group. It can reflect the outlook of people from a cultural group, faith, age category, economic group, and so on.

petroglyph A drawing on a rock recording events or information

pluralistic society A society made up of many different groups of people, each with its own unique identities, ideas, perspectives, and culture; the resulting society has a sense of respect for all cultures

point of view An individual's personal viewpoint

points system A component of the immigration policy that rated each person who wanted to move to Canada; potential new Canadians received points for their education, skills, age, and wealth

policy A formal plan of action to achieve a specific goal

political persecution Treating a person cruelly because of his or her political beliefs

polling station Location where people vote in an election

population growth An increase in population

portage A path connecting two waterways; carrying boats or goods over land between waterways

primary source image An image of an event created by a witness

private school A school that is funded by parents or guardians through tuition fees

prospector A person who searches for precious metals

protective tariff A tax placed on a product crossing a border

Protestant school A school for Protestant students

Province The major political subdivision within Canada that shares power with the federal government

public health care A social program to provide for the public's medical needs

public school A school for all students

pull factor A factor that influences people to migrate to a certain country

push factor A factor that pushes people to leave their homelands

quarantine station A building or area where people suspected of carrying a contagious illness are kept so that they will not infect a population

Reciprocity Treaty A trade agreement between the United States and Canada by which natural resources could flow both ways across the border free of any import taxes

Red River cart A form of transportation invented by the Métis that hauled goods such as buffalo meat on land and water

The Reds English name for Les Rouges

referendum A public vote on an issue

Reformers A group of radicals in Upper Canada who wanted governmental reform leading up to the rebellions of 1837

refugee A person who flees to a country because he or she can no longer live in safety in his or her own country because of war, torture, famine, or persecution

religion A personal or institutionalized belief system

religious persecution Treating a person cruelly because of his or her religious beliefs

representation by population A system (also referred to as "rep by pop") in which elected members all represent the same number of people; the greater the number of people, the more power a region has

representative democracy A form of government in which citizens elect people to make decisions for them; the representatives make laws that are in the best interest of the people

reserve A parcel of land that the government agreed to set aside for the exclusive use of a First Nation

residential schools Boarding schools where Aboriginal children were sent and forced to adopt English ways

residual powers In Canada, the legal power over things that no one knew about in 1867

responsible government In Canada, a government (cabinet) that must answer to elected representatives

revolution An event whereby a government is overthrown and replaced with another; a fundamental change in the world

Roman Catholic missionary A Roman Catholic priest who travels for the purpose of religious charity work and promotion of the religion

Les Rouges A group of radical Canadiens in the Canadian Assembly in the 1850s that wanted independence for Québec

Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism A group of prominent Canadians appointed in the 1960s by the Canadian government to assess why Francophone and Anglophone Canada did not seem to be getting along; this group concluded that Canada was having a language crisis and that Canada also had to consider the multicultural nature of Canadian society

Rupert's Land A vast territory named after Prince Rupert, the first head of the Hudson's Bay Company, consisting of most of what is now Western and Northern Canada

secondary source image An image created from memory, imagination, or a pre-existing image

secret ballot A method used in elections whereby an individual citizen's vote is kept confidential

seigneurial system A social system based on nobles (or seigneurs) who rented land to farmers (or habitants); the habitants had to give seigneurs a portion of their annual crop and pay other fees, and the seigneurs had to build a mill and a church on their land for the farmers

self-government A form of government in which a group is able to make the decisions that affect their lives directly

separate school A public school meant for a particular group, such as Catholic students

settlement pattern The way farms and human dwellings are arranged in a community or region

Seventh Report on Grievances A document prepared by Reformers led by William Lyon

Mackenzie in Upper Canada in 1834 requesting governmental reforms from the British

sovereign Self-governing and independent of external powers

Sovereign Council A government with three officials: a governor, an intendant, and a bishop, set up by King Louis XIV to govern the colony of New France

sovereignty Supreme governing authority

stereotype An overgeneralized portrayal of people from one group; stereotypes can reflect people's prejudices

stockade A wooden barrier of upright posts

strike An organized work stoppage by unionized employees who want to influence their employer

suburb A residential neighbourhood at a city's outskirts

suffrage The right to vote

superficial characteristic A noticeable rather than meaningful feature

superpower A country that is more powerful than almost all other countries

technology Everything that we use to carry out our tasks; the tools we use and the way we use them

territory In Canada, a major political subdivision that does not have the powers of a province

Three Sisters Haudenosaunee name for corn, beans, and squash

Traditional Teaching A unique belief of the First Nations passed down orally from generation to generation that explains how the earth was created,

how people came to exist, or the relationships among the plants, animals, land, people, and the spirit world

traitor One who betrays one's country, a cause, or a trust

transcontinental railway A railway that extends across a continent

treaty A formal agreement between nations

turning point An event that causes a significant change

Underground Railroad A secret network that transported enslaved African American escapees to the British colonies where they could be free

unilingual Use of one language

union An organization that speaks for the workers who belong to it, the purpose of which is to improve the conditions under which people work

United Empire Loyalist An inhabitant of the Thirteen Colonies who remained loyal to Britain during the American Revolution and fled to the British North American colonies after 1776

urbanization The process of people moving from the countryside to towns and cities, causing an area to become more urban

voyageur A Canadian or Métis employee of the North West Company who paddled back and forth from Montréal to the trading forts in the West

world view A way of looking at the world that reflects one's core values

York boat A boat used by the Métis to transport furs; it replaced the canoe as the main means of transportation on western rivers and lakes