

## Aboriginal Peoples circa 1630, 1740 and 1823

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This series of maps show the changing distribution of the Aboriginal population in Canada prior to the creation of Indian Reserves.

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Each map in this series shows the location and distribution of ethnohistorical societies known to Europeans for three important time periods, circa 1630, 1740 and 1823. Individual ethnohistorical societies are classified into major linguistic families and mapped using graduated circles (to represent their estimated population). Major linguistic families are coded by colour, (for example, Algonquian), and subdivided into recognized groups of historically related peoples, (for example, Ojibwa).

All ethnohistorical societies not directly known to Europeans are mapped using text labels on the 1740 and 1823 map. This information is derived from manuscript surveys and excavation reports for areas in central and western Canada. These areas have been mapped as archaeological complexes only on the 1630 map. The locations of major archaeological sites are identified by a triangle and are coded by colour according to the archaeological complex to which they belong. Not all of the archaeological complexes can be identified with specific ethnohistorical groups.

The mapping of the distributions of Aboriginal groups prior to the reserve period (beginning in 1880) is important for two reasons. First, it is important to the study of Aboriginal history in Canada. Second, without some knowledge of the location of Aboriginal groups, it is difficult to understand exploration, missionary efforts, fur trade or the frequent wars during this important time in Canadian history.

The distribution of Aboriginal groups in Canada before and after European contact is characterized by movement. Almost all groups, with the exception of the Iroquoian agriculturalists, undertook short or long distance seasonal movements in search of food. Some are known to have engaged in major migration movements during the sixteenth and later centuries. For these reasons, as well as there being inadequate and ambiguous information, it is difficult to construct entirely satisfactory maps of Aboriginal distributions until the reserve period.