

MODULE 1: PRE- COLUMBIAN WORLD (Pre 1492) REVIEW

Population and Settlement:

	IROQUOIS	ALGONQUIAN
LIFESTYLE	Sedentary (stayed in one place)	Nomadic (moved around following animals)
SHELTER	Longhouses (large permanent homes)	Wigwam (small tent like temporary shelter; easy to transport)
SOCIAL ORGANIZATION	Matriarchy (Woman in charge)	Patriarchy (Men in charge)
AREA OCCUPIED	St. Lawrence Valley (Along the St. Lawrence River; good soil for farming)	Canadian Shield/Appalachians Mountains; good area for hunting and trapping)
MAIN FOOD SOURCE	Agriculture ex. corn/some hunting ex. meat	Hunting ex. meat
GROUP SIZE	Large groups living in fortified villages	Small hunting groups who can move around quickly and easily

REMEMBER: MILLS and PAWNS

M	Matriarchy	P	Patriarchy
I	Iroquois	A	Algonquian
L	Longhouses	W	Wigwams
L	Lowlands	N	Nomadic
S	Sedentary	S	Shield

Asian Migration Theory: The first people to arrive in North America were nomadic hunters who crossed the “Bering Land Bridge”. They did so from Russia (Asia) to Alaska (North America) during the last ice age (30,000 years ago). They were following the migration (movement) of the animals they hunted.

After the ice age ended, water levels went up and the land bridge became the Bering Strait; the first occupants were now trapped in North America

These hunters would eventually make their way to present day Quebec and North Easter North America. These groups settled in different areas of Quebec and adopted similar languages.

Iroquois language (linguistic) group: ex. Huron, Mohawk, and Iroquois

Algonquian language (linguistic) group: ex. Maliseet, Abenaki,
Montagnais, Innu

Each group lived different types of lives, which was dependant on their environments

Economy and Development:

The Aboriginal peoples have many different types of economic activities such as:

Agriculture (Farming)

Hunting

Fishing

Gathering (Berries etc.)

BUT not all Aboriginal peoples had the same resources or practices. If they did not have an object or item needed they would BARTER with another group in order to get it.

Some of the items they would barter were:

Shells

Corn

Furs

Meat

Silica (quarts....look like diamonds)

Aboriginal trade networks grew throughout North America. They stretched from the Gulf go Mexico all the way to Quebec and further!

Aboriginals used waterways, especially rivers, to get from one place to another

They would trade at a meeting of two rivers/waterways (ex. Ottawa and St. Lawrence Rivers, Red Bay and St. Lawrence Rivers, etc.)

The type of economic activity that an Aboriginal group depended on would determine the type of lifestyle they lived. For example:

The Maliseet (Algonquian) were hunters and that lead them to become nomadic as they followed the animals that they hunted. The male hunters were in charge so that lead them to be a Patriarchy as well.

The Huron (Iroquois) were farmers and that led them to have a sedentary lifestyle because they would stay in one place to farm corn. Women did most of the farming and this meant that they had a Matriarchal society.

Culture and Currents of Thought:

Native Spirituality

The most important cultural aspect of Aboriginal society was their spirituality.

Everyday, Aboriginal peoples linked their spiritual beliefs with their day to day actions; their spirituality was always present and important to them.

Aboriginal spirituality was led by **ELDERS** (older members of the tribe) and Holy or Spiritual peoples called **SHAMANS**

Aboriginals expressed or showed their cultural spirituality in several ways:

- Communicating with spirits or the spirit world
- Interpreting or “making sense” of dreams
- Performing various rituals such as hunting and healing rituals

Aboriginals believed in **ANIMISM**; the belief that everything has a spirit (even non-living things). They also believed in the **CIRCLE OF LIFE**; that when you die, you return to the spirit world only to be re-born as another part of nature.

The belief in Animism and the Circle of life is why Aboriginals have such a respect for nature

Relationship with Nature

Aboriginals had a deep respect for nature because it was nature that gave them all the necessities for survival and life.

This respect for nature is represented in the spiritual beliefs through Animism and the belief in the Circle of Life.

Communication and trade

Aboriginal communication and trade began with the basic idea of gift giving. That is when you meet someone, you exchange gifts. If a gift is not offered by one side, it is a huge insult.

The most important involved in communication and trade among the Aboriginals would be the Elders (who were responsible for passing down stories and legends to the young Aboriginals) and the Chief who was the spokesperson for the tribe.

During trade of communication for the purpose of making treaties or alliances, it was not uncommon for Aboriginals to have rituals and celebrations such as smoking the pipe, drumming, or dancing.