

# Assignment #1.3: The Original Peoples of Canada

## History of Quebec and Canada 324



### Topic Question

*Even though some of the first Europeans that came into contact with the Aboriginal peoples regarded them as inferior or even as savages, what do the Aboriginals' past ways of life teach us about the environment and community life?*

### Steps to follow

Step 1: Read the "Introductory Document".

Step 2: Read the documents provided.

Step 3: For each document, identify:

- ♦ what the First Nations peoples did or how they acted;
- ♦ why the First Nations acted the way they did; and
- ♦ what the First Nations way of doing things taught us about the environment and community life.

Step 4: Use what you have written in step 3 as a plan to write a 300 word double-spaced written response that answers the above topic question.

### What to hand in

1. Your responses to step 3 on the response table provided.
2. The final version of your written response. You don't have to hand in your draft copies.

### Hints for effective essay writing

- When you write an essay, make sure to have the following paragraphs:
  - ♦ an introductory paragraph;
  - ♦ 2 to 3 supporting paragraphs; and
  - ♦ a closing (summary) paragraph.
- Each paragraph must have:
  - ♦ a topic sentence which tells the readers what the paragraph will be about;
  - ♦ 2 to 3 supporting sentences; and
  - ♦ a closing sentence which summarizes the paragraph and/or links the current paragraph to the next.
- Do not use words such as "like", "a lot", "lots", "a lot of" and other such street conversation words.
- Use the same verb tense throughout the essay. Refer to <http://mansour.webhop.net>.

### Due date

The assignment is due on the date indicated below. As stated in the course outline, there will be a 10% penalty for every day it is late. The assignment will not be accepted after 3 days of the due date (weekends will count for 1 day).

Due: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Introductory Document**

First Nations peoples began to migrate to North America 30 000 BCE (Before Current Era) from northeast Asia. They used the land and ice-bridge that linked Siberia to what is now known as Alaska.

The First Nations peoples depended greatly on the environment and natural resources for their survival. They collected fresh water, hunted animals and fish for food, and harvested the land for fruits and vegetables. Every member of their society contributed to the collective benefit of all.

When arriving in North America and thinking they had reached India, the European voyagers called the First Nations peoples “Indians”. Since the aboriginals had different ways of doing things and acted differently, they were also called “savages”. The voyagers couldn’t understand how people could be different than them.

### **Document 1: Migration from Siberia to North America**

In an attempt to find better sources of food, people from northeastern Asia came to North America through the land and ice bridges that linked Siberia and Alaska. Today, the stretch of water between Siberia and Alaska is about 80 km wide and is known as Bering Strait. These people were looking for more elk, mammoths and other animals to hunt.

### **Document 2: A respect for the environment**

First Nations peoples were very spiritual and they respected their land. They believed in supernatural powers that controlled the waters, the sun, and other important elements of life. They believed that respect for the environment would ensure abundant amounts of natural resources for the collective benefit of their society.

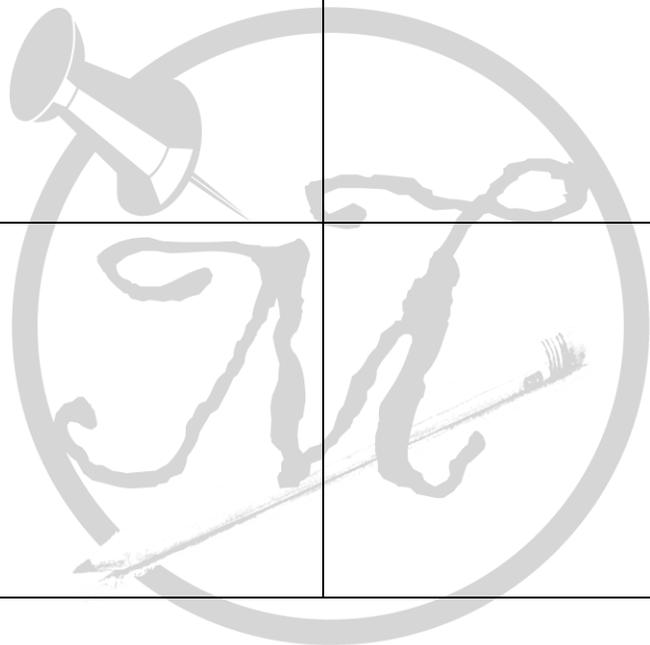
### **Document 3: A close community**

Aboriginals listened and respected the opinions of their elders. Everything they built or cultivated became the collective property of their people. They worked together to guarantee their survival.

### **Document 4: the Europeans’ perception of the Aboriginals**

When the Europeans arrived in North America, they discovered people that acted differently than them. Europeans personally owned things while the First Nations believed in collective ownership. Since the Aboriginals acted differently and had different beliefs than the white man, they were called “savages”.

	C1: What did the First Nations peoples do or how did they act?	C2: Why did the Aboriginals act the way they did?	C3: What do their way of doing things teach us about the environment and community life?
Document 1			
Document 2			
Document 3			
Document 4			



SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_