Chapter 1 – Population & Settlement
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Section 1: The First Occupants (1500-1608)
Where did the first Occupants come from?

- The **Bering Strait migration theory**
- Historians/anthropologists believe that the First Occupants arrived in North America as long as 30,000 years ago
- Arriving in what we know as Quebec approximately 10,000 years ago
- It is believed that the first groups of people crossed the Bering Strait while there was still ice to walk on ➔ **Ice Bridge**
Where did the first Occupants come from?

Arrival in North America by the Bering Straight → ‘Ice Bridge’
Where did the first Occupants come from?
Where did People Settle when they arrived in the Americas?

• Different theories
• Bering Strait theory ➔ from Asia to North America by land / ice bridge
• Eventually a good portion of the territory in the Americas would be settled
• The history course focuses on North Eastern North America
• Over time ➔ Many different ‘language groups’ evolved from initial group(s)
Where did People Settle when they arrived in the Americas?

Map of many different First Occupant ‘language groups’ found in North America around time of first European contacts
Where did People Settle when they arrived in the Americas?

- First people → 30,000 years ago
- What is now Quebec → ~13,000 – 12,000 years ago
- As Continental glaciers melted → land was occupied
- Way of life was determined by geography / climate / vegetation / wildlife
Where did People Settle when they arrived in the Americas?
3 main groups of First Occupants found in our territory ~ 1500

- The 3 main groups:
  - Inuit
  - Algonquians
  - Iroquoians

- Each group lived in a specific geographical region
3 main groups of First Occupants found in our territory ~ 1500
The Inuit

• Lived / Live in the **Arctic Region** of Quebec (Northern Quebec)
• No real exposed soil + permafrost + short cold summers + long very cold winters = **no agriculture**
• Food sources ➔ mammals (seal/caribou), fish (arctic char)
• Hunting and fishing (ice fishing)
The Inuit

Left: Arctic Char hanging,
Right: women cutting raw arctic char to eat using traditional Inuit tools
The Inuit

Traditional Inuit tool used for cutting – An Ulu
The Inuit

• Following food source around depending on season → NOMADIC WAY OF LIFE

• DWELLINGS:
  – WIGWAMS in warmer seasons
  – IGLOOS in colder seasons

• Inuit were a PATRILINEAL society → men were ‘in charge’
The Algonquians

- Lived in the **Canadian Shield & Appalachian Mountain regions**
- Short summers + Long, cold winters + sandy, not so fertile soil = **no agriculture**
- Food sources $\rightarrow$ mammals (deer), birds (pheasants), fish (trout), wild vegetation (wild blueberries)
- **Hunting, fishing & gathering**
The Algonquians

Wild Blueberries

Deer

Brook Trout
The Algonquians

- Forced to move with animal migrations and seasons → NOMADIC way of life
- Dwellings → WIGWAMS
- Groups were usually small
- Easy to travel in smaller groups
- Patrilineal → ‘men’ in charge.
The Iroquoians

- Lived / Live in the St. Lawrence Valley & Great Lakes region
- Soils next to river and lakes $\rightarrow$ VERY FERTILE $\rightarrow$ agriculture
- Vegetables, legumes & some hunting of localized wildlife
The Iroquoians

• Agriculture allowed Iroquoians to stay in one place for several years → SEDENTARY way of life
• Made villages with longhouses holding 30-50 people (semi permanent).
• A wall surrounded the village → palisade wall
• Lived in a MATRILINIAL society → women were ‘in charge’
The Iroquoians

‘Three Sisters’ →
Squash, corn, beans

Longhouse
The Iroquoians

Reconstruction of the interior of a Longhouse
Both the Algonquian & Iroquoian language groups has been split into different ‘sub groups’
These groups lived in different geographical locations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Algonquians</th>
<th>Iroquoians</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maliseet</td>
<td>Huron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abenaki</td>
<td>Mohawk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Innu</td>
<td>Iroquois</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Iroquois Territory

Iroquois territory:
- Next to St. Lawrence & Great Lakes
- Fertile soil → agriculture → lots of food
- Large / dense populations
- Not a large territory needed
- SEDENTARY
Algonquian Territory

Algonquian territory:
- Canadian shield & Appalachian Mountains
- Non fertile soil → relied on hunting and gathering → lots of food
- Large territory / small groups
- Followed animals around each season → NOMADIC
Iroquoians VS. Algonquian Territory

Canadian Shield

St. Lawrence Lowlands

St. Lawrence River
Natural Growth of the First Occupants’ Population

- Good environmental/geographical/climatic factors would be favorable for population growth
- Factors that could make the population decrease
  - War
  - Famine
  - Epidemics / disease
Document Analysis

• Which documents can be connected to the Inuit, Algonquian or Iroquoian groups? Explain why?

In Champlain’s time, the Huron territory lay between Lake Simcoe and Georgian Bay. This 900 square-kilometre area was home to 30,000 inhabitants. This density of settlement was related to the very high yield of corn.

Jean-Pierre Charland, À l’aube du XXe siècle: histoire du Québec et du Canada (Montréal: Lidac, 1997), Student Textbook, 27. [Translation]
Connections to the Progressions of learning

### A. First occupants around 1500

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
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Student applies knowledge by the end of the school year.

The figure 3 indicates that some knowledge related to this learning was addressed in Secondary III.

### 1. Demography

#### 1.1. Migrations

- Describes, using the Asian migration theory, the migration flows⁴ that led to the settlement of northeastern America by the first occupants: nomads from Asia crossed the Bering Strait

### 2. Territory

#### 2.1. Occupation

- Identifies groups belonging to each language family (e.g. the Huron, the Mohawk and the Iroquois in the Iroquoian family; the Maliseet, the Abenaki and the Innu in the Algonquian family)

#### 2.2. Organization

- Describes how groups of nomadic Amerindians organized their territory (e.g. among the Innu, a camp of wigwams was set up on hunting grounds)
- Describes how groups of sedentary Amerindians organized their territory (e.g. among the Huron, the village was made up of longhouses and surrounded by a palisade)