

# INTRODUCTION

**As an introduction to this resource, we encourage you to walk through the data displayed on this Giant Floor Map.** All data sources and explanations can be found in this activity and should be reviewed with your students before beginning any of the other activities. We also recommend you spend some time looking at the data sources that are available for Indigenous Peoples (such as census data), the inaccuracies that exist and why they do. In every instance, we have used the most accurate data currently available. We suggest using this opportunity to discuss data quality and availability.

Lastly, for each of the topics discussed in the activities that accompany this map, there are many other resources that have been created and can be integrated into your teaching. Please refer to the resource section at the end of the teacher's guide to help dig deeper into the themes and topics of this map.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Students will learn about all the different datasets that were used to create the Giant Floor Map.
- Students will examine the map's legend and learn about what each symbol means on the Giant Floor Map.

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## Points of inquiry and activation related to the Giant Floor Map



- **As a class or in small groups, identify each of the symbols and datasets on the map.** Discuss what each symbol represents, ensuring that your class understands where the dataset came from and that the symbols represent real people and real-life situations.
- **Locate your community on the map and place a pylon on that location.** Ask students what they can learn by examining the data and symbols that are on or around your community.
- **If there are symbols and datasets that you or your class want to learn more about, refer to the resource section at the back of the teacher's guide or seek out other reputable sources.** Whenever possible, reach out to local Indigenous organizations to learn more about your community.

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## Base map

This is an Albers Equal Area Conic projection of Canada.

## Languages

The language data shown on the map is taken from the 2016 Canadian census. It highlights not only what languages and language groups are spoken but also how many people in that area speak this language or language group. The larger the letters, the more people speak that particular language in that area. According to the 2016 census data, more than 70 Indigenous languages have been reported, 36 of which had at least 500 speakers. About 260,550 people in Canada stated they were able to speak an Indigenous language well enough to hold a conversation (as their primary or secondary tongue) — this represents only 1.5 per cent of all Indigenous people in Canada, and 0.7 per cent of all of Canada's population.

Sources: Statistics Canada, The Aboriginal population in Canada, 2016 Census of Population, [statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-627-m/11-627-m2017027-eng.htm](http://statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-627-m/11-627-m2017027-eng.htm); The Aboriginal languages of First Nations people, Métis and Inuit, [statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/as-sa/98-200-x/2016022/98-200-x2016022-eng.cfm](http://statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/as-sa/98-200-x/2016022/98-200-x2016022-eng.cfm)

## Timeline

The border of the Giant Floor Map shows a timeline that outlines key historical events of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in Canada. In the teacher's kit you will also find a timeline developed by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation that should be used in conjunction with the Giant Floor Map.

Sources: Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada - Created by The Royal Canadian Geographical Society in conjunction with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, the Assembly of First Nations, the Métis National Council, the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation and Indspire.

## Residential schools

A schoolhouse indicates the location of a residential school that existed in Canada. The first residential school was opened in 1831 and the last did not close until 1996.

Source: Legacy of Hope Foundation, Reclaiming History: The Residential School System in Canada, [wherearethekids.ca/en/timeline/](http://wherearethekids.ca/en/timeline/)

## Reserves

A reserve is land set aside for a First Nations Band through a contract with the Canadian state ("the Crown"). Reserves are governed by the Indian Act, and residence on a reserve is governed by band councils as well as Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada.

Source: Historica Canada, Reserves, [thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/aboriginal-reserves/](http://thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/aboriginal-reserves/); Indigenous Corporate Training, Inc., [ictinc.ca/blog/8-first-nation-reserve-facts](http://ictinc.ca/blog/8-first-nation-reserve-facts); Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, [canada.ca/en/crown-indigenous-relations-northern-affairs.html](http://canada.ca/en/crown-indigenous-relations-northern-affairs.html)

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## Reserve parcel

A reserve parcel is an area of land where the legal title is held by the Crown (Government of Canada), for the use and benefit of a particular First Nation. It is an add-on to an existing reserve.

Source: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, Land Management, [aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100034737/1100100034738](https://aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100034737/1100100034738)

## Reserve parcel allotted to a band

This is the process by which the federal government grants reserve status to a parcel of land. This reserve parcel is added to an existing reserve belonging to a First Nation band. It is also called an “addition to reserve.”

Source: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, Additions to reserve, [aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1332267668918/1332267748447](https://aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1332267668918/1332267748447)

## Indian reservation (United States)

An Indian reservation is the American equivalent of a Canadian reserve. It is an area of land reserved for a tribe or tribes under treaty or other agreement with the United States, executive order, or federal statute or administrative action as permanent tribal homelands, and where the federal government holds title to the land in trust on behalf of the tribe.

Source: U.S. Department of the Interior, Indian Affairs, Frequently Asked Questions, [gov/frequently-asked-questions](https://gov/frequently-asked-questions)

## Tribal council

A tribal council is a larger regional grouping of First Nations bands with common interests who have voluntarily joined together to provide services to members.

Source: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, Tribal Council Funding Program Policy, [aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1386290996817/1386291051138](https://aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1386290996817/1386291051138)

## Tribal council affiliation

A band that is part of a tribal council.

Sources: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, Tribal Council Funding Program Policy, [aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1452105267433/1452105343369](https://aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1452105267433/1452105343369)

## Lands with unsettled land claim

These are lands where the Government of Canada did not fulfill its obligations either under historic treaties or the Indian Act. Types of claims include the inadequate allocation of reserve land, the failure to protect reserve land from unlawful disposition or lease, fraud on the part of government employees, and the misadministration of First Nations' funds and other assets. Specific claims are settled by negotiation or by court action, and settlements can consist of monetary compensation or land.

Source: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada , Historica Canada - Indigenous Land Claims: [thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/land-claims/](https://thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/land-claims/)

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## Historical treaties

Treaties that were made between 1701 and 1923 between Indigenous Peoples and the Government of Canada in place at the time.

Source: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada [rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1100100028574/1529354437231](https://rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1100100028574/1529354437231)

## Modern treaties

Comprehensive land claims deal with the unfinished business of treaty-making in Canada, leading to the development of modern treaties. Modern treaties are created when Indigenous Peoples' claims and rights to the land have not been addressed by treaties, or other legal means.

Source: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada [rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1100100028574/1529354437231](https://rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1100100028574/1529354437231)

## Modern treaty settlement land

Modern treaty settlement lands are areas allocated to Indigenous Nations as part of comprehensive land claims negotiations.

Source: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada [aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1373385502190/1373385561540](https://aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1373385502190/1373385561540)

## Modern treaty settlement land/band affiliation

These are modern treaty settlement lands specifically allocated to a First Nations band.

Source: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada [aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100014174/1100100014179](https://aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100014174/1100100014179)

## Town with established Métis population

Despite the displacement of many Métis from their traditional homeland, there are still many villages that exist today where the Métis make up the majority population. The Métis that live in these locations have done so for many generations, and the number of residents in each village typically ranges from a few hundred to a few thousand.

Métis villages are geographically larger than a hamlet, but smaller than a city or settlement area, and are common in rural areas in the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. These villages are different from Métis settlements (which occur only in Alberta) since they are not officially considered part of the Métis land base in Canada. The Métis National Council is currently spearheading efforts to ensure the Métis population regains ownership over these villages.

Source: Métis Nation, [metisnation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Newsletter-June-20181.pdf](https://metisnation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Newsletter-June-20181.pdf)

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## Métis settlement land

The Alberta Métis settlements are the only recognized Métis land base in Canada. The eight Métis settlements, comprising 1.25 million acres, are primarily in east-central and northern Alberta. Each settlement is governed by an elected five-person council that makes bylaws on matters of local governance; is responsible for their settlement's membership and land allocations; and administers and delivers programs and services.

The eight Métis settlements in Alberta are the only recognized land base for Métis within Canada. These settlements are as follows:

- ▶ Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement
- ▶ East Prairie Métis Settlement
- ▶ Elizabeth Métis Settlement
- ▶ Fishing Lake Métis Settlement
- ▶ Gift Lake Métis Settlement
- ▶ Kikino Métis Settlement
- ▶ Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement
- ▶ Peavine Métis Settlement

Source: Alberta Indigenous Relations, Metis Settlements Land Registry, [mslr.gov.ab.ca/map.asp](https://mslr.gov.ab.ca/map.asp)

## Inuit Nunangat

There are four Inuit regions in Canada, collectively known as Inuit Nunangat. The term "Inuit Nunangat" is a Canadian Inuit term that includes land, water and ice. Inuit consider the land, water and ice of their homeland to be integral to their culture and way of life. Inuit Nunangat includes Nunavut, Inuvialuit Settlement Region (Northwest Territories), Nunavik (Northern Quebec), and Nunatsiavut (Northern Labrador).

Source: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, Inuit [aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100014187/1100100014191](https://aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100014187/1100100014191)

## Inuit community

Places with concentrated Inuit populations are considered Inuit communities. There are 53 Inuit communities in Inuit Nunangat.

Source: Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, About Canadian Inuit, [itk.ca/about-canadian-inuit/](https://itk.ca/about-canadian-inuit/)

## Land claim settlement area/community affiliation

These lands are areas allocated to specific communities as part of a land claims agreements and the colour of the outline indicates which communities own those lands.

Source: [aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100014187/1100100014191](https://aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100014187/1100100014191)

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## **City with a significant Indigenous population**

This is a city that is not designated as an Indigenous community but a significant portion of the population identifies as Indigenous.

Source: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal peoples in Canada: Key results from the 2016 Census, [statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/171025/dq171025a-eng.htm](https://statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/171025/dq171025a-eng.htm)





## The Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada logo: a fingerprint

While rewarding, logo design at its most basic can be an arduous task; encapsulating an idea in a single symbol using lines, shapes and colour. What it really boils down to is expressing an idea or feeling to an audience and allowing them to connect to that idea through effective design alone. Targeting a specific demographic of people (through age, gender, religion, status, interests, attitude or culture) in order to make that visual connection is why planning and research is so important. Over the course of my career, I've had the pleasure of working with an incredibly diverse client base, and without a doubt, my most personally rewarding solutions have been with Indigenous projects.

Designing logos for Indigenous organizations often presents a unique challenge in situations where many First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities are represented by a single visual icon. In these circumstances, my goal is always to create a balanced image that will connect with all nations, respectfully and fairly. It's a challenge that I've come across many times in my career, but never for a project as important as the Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada. The guiding purpose of this multifaceted logo was to geographically highlight Indigenous culture in Canada. Here are the symbols, and their meanings to me, that make up the logo of the Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada.

—Shaun Vincent, graphic designer





## LOGO - BREAKDOWN AND MEANING



EAGLE  
PRIDE, STRENGTH



CHAR (FISH)  
NOURISHMENT,  
SUSTAINABILITY



WATER, STREAMS  
LIFE



PRAIRIE SKY  
SPIRITUALITY,  
CONTEMPLATION



MÉTIS, BEAD WORK  
INCLUSIVENESS,  
HONOURING CULTURE



TREES  
GROWTH, RENEWAL



INUKSHUK  
COMMUNICATION,  
LISTENING



ULU, TOOLS  
CARE-GIVING,  
HONOURING MOTHERS



DREAMCATCHER  
SELF-REFLECTION,  
AMBITIONS



MOTHER AND DAUGHTER  
HONOURING MMIWG,  
GRIEVING AND LOVE



WOLF  
FOCUS, REVIVAL



FOUR DIRECTIONS  
MEDICINE WHEEL,  
TRADITION



COMPASS  
DIRECTION, GUIDANCE