



11. KICHÌ ZÌBÌ - OTTAWA RIVER INFORMATION CARD

Geographic Information

The Ottawa River is Canada's eighth largest river and the main tributary (connected river) of the St. Lawrence River. Beginning in the Laurentian Mountains, it flows west before turning southeast to form the border between Ontario and Quebec. It drains into an area twice the size of New Brunswick. As the traditional territory of the Algonquin people, a key route in the fur trade and the site of a timber boom in the 1800's, the Ottawa River has played an important role in Canada's history and economy. Its diverse ecosystems, which are currently the focus of several conservation efforts, are home to an abundance of plant and animal life. The river also provides support to urban areas along its shores, the largest being the Ottawa-Gatineau area.

Anishinabe Algonquin History

The Ottawa River watershed is the traditional territory of the Algonquin people, who trace their roots back to the first occupants of the land. Indigenous people have inhabited the region since roughly 6,500 BCE (Before Common Era). Archeologists call this first era the Paleo-American period. The cultures of the peoples that followed are known broadly as the Laurentian culture of the Archaic period (around 4,500 BCE) and the Woodland culture (around 500 BCE).

For First Nations, Ottawa was the primary transportation route to the western interior. The Algonquin were semi-nomadic people who hunted, gathered, farmed, trapped and fished along the Ottawa River and its tributaries. They traveled by snowshoe and toboggan in the winter, and walked or paddled birchbark canoes in the summer. They lived in wigwams that they could easily take down, transported and reassembled in a new location.

Kabeshinàn Sites and Activity Instructions

1. Use the red rope to outline your river on the map.
 2. Use the red pylons to "pin" all of the Kabeshinan sites along your river.
- Kabeshinàn is the Algonquin word for a campsite or gathering place along a body of water, usually at the meeting place of two rivers.
 - These sites hold significance because they are archeological sites that contain artifacts from pre-contact Algonquin Aki land, these sites have been used since time immemorial.