



# 11. ANISHINABEG ALGONQUIN PEOPLE TEACHER INFORMATION CARD

## The Anishinabeg Algonquin People

- The first groups of nomadic hunters had followed game herds into lands that were recently covered in ice from the previous ice age at least 12,000 years ago, these lands were found to have abundant food resources along the major rivers and their tributaries. This led to a growth in population in the region as the hunting culture continued to grow.
- Kichi Zìbì Anishinabeg were those who eventually came to live along the Ottawa River (known as Kichi Zìbì or 'Great River' in Anishinabe language) and its tributaries over 7,000 years ago. Although they are part of the Algonquin language family and share many similarities with other Anishinabeg tribes, over time the Kichi Zìbì Anishinabeg developed their own distinct culture.
- The life of a traditional Kichi Zìbì hunting family revolved around seasonal cycles. In the winter, extended families lived together on the tributaries off of the Kichi Zìbì where they trapped and hunted. They would utilize the natural elements for the hunt, for example chasing moose into clearings when snows were deepest to give them an advantage.
- The Algonquin People populate a wide area that was north-east of the Great Lakes, this land was/is largely made up of woodlands and waterways, this nation has centered on the Ottawa River and its tributaries. These tributaries were used to travel for trade and resources to other groups that hunted along the other tributaries along the Ottawa river.
- The Kichi Zìbì River (Ottawa River) was named so because it is "the great river" and was a vital trade route for the Kichi Zìbì Anishinabeg. This river connects the St. Lawrence Seaway with the Great Lakes through Lake Nipissing.
- The Algonquin Nations are known for their hunting and trading skills and have always lived in large territories in the Eastern Woodlands and Subarctic regions across what is now Ontario and Quebec.

## Kabeshinà̀n Sites

- Kabeshinà̀n 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.
- There are 30 identified sites that your class will translate from the Anishinabe Algonquin Aki inset map onto the main map.