

The People
Who Lived Here
Chapter Two

Aboriginal Peoples

Mi'kmaq

- The Mi'kmaq came to Newfoundland from Nova Scotia in the 1800's.
- They were hunters, fishers and gatherers.
- 300 Mi'kmaq settled on the west coast of Newfoundland and they became guides and trappers for the Europeans.

Mi'kmaq continued

- The Mi'kmaq were different from the Beothuks. They became involved in the economy of the Europeans.
- Many Mi'kmaqs became Roman Catholics.
- 750-800 Mi'kmaq living in Newfoundland.
- 25,000 Aboriginal people in total.

Innu

- The Innu, formerly known as the Naskapi-Montagnais.
- Algonkian-speaking people whose homeland (Nitassinan) is the eastern portion of the Quebec Labrador peninsula.
- The word “Innu” means “human being”, and the Innu language is called “Innu-aimun”.
- Today there are over 16,000 Innu who live in eleven communities in Quebec and two in Labrador.

Inuit

- Inuit living along the northern coast of Labrador.
- Direct descendants of a prehistoric hunting society that spread across Canada from Alaska and centered on capturing and killing massive bowhead whales.
- This culture, called Thule by archaeologists, quickly adapted to the mixed arctic and sub-arctic conditions found in the Labrador region.

Labrador Métis

- These settlers were also called “almost white men” because they were a people of a mixed European and Aboriginal ancestry.
- Settlers were descended from the English, Scottish, French and later Canadian employees of fishing and trading firms.
- They met women of Innu heritage and decided to stay and have families.
- These children and their families stayed in Labrador.

Labrador Métis continued

- During the 19th century, there was a steady infusion of Europeans to Labrador.
- Today, Labradoreans of mixed ancestry are known as Labrador Métis
- As of 2005 there are 7,000 Métis living in Labrador.