

The *First Nations and Treaties* map of Ontario

Information for Educators

Background

The *First Nations and Treaties* map of Ontario was created by the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs to increase awareness among educators and students about treaties in Ontario¹. Providing schools with a copy of the map supports the vision of Ontario's *First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework*, which is that "all students in Ontario will have knowledge and appreciation of contemporary and traditional First Nation, Métis and Inuit traditions, cultures, and perspectives" (pg. 7).

All Ontarians should have opportunities to explore the histories, cultures, perspectives and contributions of Aboriginal Peoples in Canada. To support this learning in schools, the Ontario government has worked in collaboration with First Nation, Métis and Inuit partners to create a suite of curriculum-linked resources and information tools for educators. The newly developed *First Nations and Treaties* map complements these resources.

The map also celebrates the 250th anniversary of the Treaty of Fort Niagara by drawing attention to the importance and impact of treaty relationships in Ontario. The Royal Proclamation of 1763 formalized the ground rules for treaty-making across what is now Canada. On August 1, 1764, the Treaty of Fort Niagara renewed and extended the series of Crown commercial and military alliances with the First Nations of northeastern North America. Many of these First Nations upheld this alliance by supporting Britain in the War of 1812, ensuring the survival of British North America.

Ideas for using this map in your school and classroom

There are a number of ways you can use this map to support learning about Ontario treaties in your community and in the province. These include but are not limited to:

- Featuring the map in common areas of the school (halls, staff rooms, libraries) can help to create a more inclusive and culturally engaging learning environment.
- Displaying the map in your school as part of recognition of the upcoming **National Aboriginal History Month** in June, along with **National Aboriginal Day** on June 21.
- Connecting with local First Nations to explore how best to bring the map to life. These partners may want to work with your school to hold an event or a ceremony and involve the broader community
- Referencing the map to acknowledge the treaty territory of First Nation communities in your area
- Using the map to help people see their connections with surrounding First Nation communities
- Supporting all members of the school community in building their shared understanding and appreciation of diverse histories, cultures and perspectives, both locally and provincially

Ultimately, the *First Nations and Treaties* map is meant to convey the vital message that *we are all treaty people*.

¹ This map is intended for educators to help them support increased knowledge and awareness about treaties in Ontario in a variety of curriculum areas. It provides a general illustration of treaty areas for information purposes. It has been developed using a number of publicly available sources. For more information, please see the disclaimer/information note on the map.

Curriculum Linkages

Here are some of the many places in the Ontario curriculum where the map can be used as a resource.

Social Studies, Grades 1 to 6; History and Geography, Grades 7 and 8, 2013 (revised)

Grade 3: People and Environments: Living and Working in Ontario

- To identify patterns in the distribution of communities
- To make connections around the interrelationship between the features of the natural environment and the surrounding communities

Grade 6: Heritage and Identity: Communities in Canada, Past and Present

- As an information/spatial tool when students are investigating the historical and/or contemporary experience of a community in Canada

Grade 8 History

- To understand the chronology of treaties in Ontario
- To understand the territories and the peoples that were part of the treaties — this could be used as a basis for student inquiry using the concepts of historical perspective or historical significance.

Canadian and World Studies, Grades 9 and 10, 2013 (revised)

Grade 10 Canadian History

- To explore current regional issues impacted by treaty rights (e.g., resource development, infrastructure, land claims)

Native Studies, Grades 9 and 10 (1999)

Grade 10: Aboriginal Peoples in Canada

- To identify significant events and issues that have had an impact on Aboriginal Peoples and their communities
- To highlight different points of view concerning a Canadian treaty negotiated between First Nations and the federal government
- To facilitate discussion about geographical regions and land claims by using the historical inquiry process

Social Sciences and Humanities, Grades 9 to 12, 2013 (revised)

Grades 11 and 12 Equity Studies

- To explore issues of identity and place

Grades 11 and 12 General Social Sciences

- To learn about issues of social and cultural change as they relate to place/region/identity

Please note: The *First Nations and Treaties* map can also be used as a supplemental resource across a variety of subjects and disciplines to support student inquiry and learning about treaties and related concepts.

With these examples as a starting point, educators can support students in engaging in culturally sensitive learning opportunities in the class, school and broader community.

Learn More

Download PDF versions of the map at: ontario.ca/treaties

Get Ministry of Education resources and tools at: www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/aboriginal/index.html

