

First Nations History Simulation for Newcomers

Location Card- European Contact (1497)

The arrival of the Europeans on East Coast

You are First Nation people that has moved from place to place for food. You have your own government.

The Europeans have come to explore new lands. Your tribe has been kind and welcoming to the new visitors even though it has been hard to communicate because you speak different languages.

You spend time getting to know the settlers and are now considering making a promise called a treaty that will make sure that both groups will live in peace and harmony, have respect for one another and not interfere with each other's lives. Do you want to make a treaty with the new visitors?

Location- European Contact

Choice: Make treaty with new visitors

If you make a treaty with the new visitors this could change your whole way of life. You are worried they will stay forever and won't keep their promise. However, your teachings from the Elders say to be respectful to all life. Also, the old stories the Elders have always told say that visitors would come to this land and this is something you cannot avoid. What will you do?

Cost:

A: Treaty= 2

B: No treaty= 2

European Contact- Option A

You choose to make a treaty with the new visitors

- You will share the land and temporarily live in friendship and peace.
- The Europeans will keep coming in large numbers. They are now settling and creating their own communities.
- The Europeans have brought new sickness that your medicines cannot help. They have also brought in alcohol which has not been good.
- You are not sure you made the right decision. They are starting to take advantage of your deal and start to interfere with your community.

- 1 Food Resource Card

- 1 Health Resource Card

Pay at the European Contact Location and go to the Fur Trade Location

European Contact- Option B

You do not wish to make treaties with the Europeans

- Because your tribe does not feel it's a good idea to make deals with the new visitors they do not feel safe staying on the East Coast. Your tribe decides to leave the East Coast and head west in land.
- You will not have any new tools that the settlers were sharing to help you with hunting and because you don't know this land you might not have enough food to survive.
- Your tribe is also fearful of other tribes who may not be welcoming as you travel west.

- 1 Food Resource Card

- 1 Health Resource Card

Pay at the European Contact Location and go to the Avoided Contact Location

Location Card- Fur Trade (1500- mid 1800's)

European Settlement

After you signed the treaty many Europeans came to live on this land with their families and started their own communities.

The Europeans have come to explore and trade. They have tools and you have animal furs. They are now trading the tools for animal fur with your First Nations people.

The Europeans are aggressive and you are worried they will interrupt your way of life, they are also bringing new diseases. Many of your people are getting sick and dying. Do you want your family to trade animal fur for tools or to not trade with the Europeans?

Location- Fur Trade

Choice: Trade fur with Europeans or refuse to trade

If you trade with the Europeans, they will change how things are with your community. Remember they have introduced disease and most of your community members have been affected. If you do not want to trade, you will not get new tools. What will you do?

Cost:

A: Trade= 3

B: Not trade= 2

Fur Trade- Option A

You choose to trade with the Europeans

- You will start to exchange food, tools and medicine. You can use these new tools in your farm or for hunting/ killing animals.
- The Europeans will begin marrying women from your community and they will start being in power of things in your community.
- You are not sure you made the right decision. They have introduced education and you want your children to learn.

+ 2 Food Resource Card

+ 2 Tools Resource Card

+ 1 Health Resource Card

Collect your pay at the Fur Trade Location and go to the Residential School Location.

Fur Trade- Option B

You do not wish to trade with the Europeans

- You must take your family and go into hiding until the Europeans are gone. You go to a place you feel they cannot find you. You are in constant fear they will interrupt your way of life.
- You will not have any new tools to help you with hunting and you might not have enough food to survive.
- Because you didn't trade your community must prepare to fight with any Europeans or other tribes you come across. Your population may go down very quickly.

- 1 Food Resource Card

+ 0 Tools Resource Card

- 1 Health Resource Card

Pay at the Fur Trade Location and go to the Avoided Contact Location.

Location card- Avoided Contact (1500-1867)

Escape to stay away from colonization

You are living in hiding, away from your community. You have kept yourself safe from Europeans. You have also learned new ways of farming which helped you make food. You hear that other tribes are doing very well with fur trade. They are now welcoming the Europeans on to their land. The Europeans have brought in many settlers and are forming communities all over. Do you go back to your community and live together with the Europeans or continue to live in hiding?

Location- Avoided Contact

Choice: To hide deep in the wilderness or closer to the community

Your family has decided they will continue to hide from the Europeans. You will talk with your family about how far east you want to go, away from other people so the Europeans do not find you. You cannot carry a lot of supplies with you because you will be travelling long distances. Some of your family members are worried you might not find food or be safe.

With all the new diseases, some are worried they might get sick and will not have the medicine to cure the sickness. If you stay closer to your community, these problems will not be as big but you might be found by the Europeans. What will you do?

Cost:

A: Hide very far from your community= 3

B: Hide closer to your community and knowing that you might get caught= 1

Avoided Contact- Option A

You continue to live in hiding with the introduction of the Indian Act

- Your family moves deep in the wilderness. The newly formed government is making treaties for land with other tribes and it introduces the Indian Act which forces tribes to live on reserves which are small plots of land, mostly unfit for farming or hunting.
- You are worried the Indian Agents may come looking for you. Some of the family members did not come with you because the getting from one place to the next was long and too cold.
- Your children become known as the 'hidden children'. Your children do not get taken to residential schools and you are not part of the reserve system.
- After the Europeans have settled, your family will decide whether to move to the city, small town or get your First Nations status and move into the reserve.

- 1 Food Resource Card
- + 0 Tools Resource Card
- 2 Health Resource Card

Pay at the Avoided Contact Location and wait for some time. In 20 minutes, go to the Migration Location.

Avoided Contact- Option B

You hide closer to your community

Your family stays in hiding for a little while. However, the Indian Agents know the land very well and they find you in no time. They bring you back to the community and you are having to live on the reserve.

- + 0 Food Resource Card
- + 1 Tools Resource Card
- 1 Health Resource Card

Pay at the Avoided Contact Location and go to the Residential School Location.

Location Card- Residential School (1840-1971)

More Europeans come to your land to settle down and have created many communities. They say that you are not human because you are not Christian. You see them start to build schools. They want to introduce Christianity to your children through these schools. Most schools are very far for your family. The Europeans want you to volunteer to take your children to these schools. Your Elders have taught you that children are a gift from creator and they should learn their traditional way of life. When they go to these schools, they will not learn your traditions. However, you want to give your children a chance at a good life.

Will your family volunteer to take your children to residential school, decline and not take them, take them to a day school or marry a European man and try to not having any of your future children in residential school?

Location- Residential School

Choice: Volunteer your children to residential school, refuse to enroll your children, take your children to a day school or get married to a white man to not go residential school

The Europeans are making treaties for land ownership with First Nations peoples. They are promising to give education for your children in this deal. But because you want the best for your children, you voluntarily sign up your children so they can have a good future. Some families say no to sending their children to a Christian school so they can stay at home and learn their culture and be safe with family. Most schools were built far from where your community lived but few families lived closer to the school and they preferred taking their children to a day school. Some women get married to the Europeans so that their future children do not go to residential school. What will you do?

Cost:

A: Volunteer children to residential school= 2

B: Decline to take children to residential school= 2

C: Take the children to a day school=1

D: Marry a European to avoid residential school=2

Residential School- Option A

You voluntarily take your children to residential school

- Your family takes their children to residential school because you expect it will be good for their future.
- When they are away, some parents begin to drink alcohol because they miss their children. When the children come home for summer, they say they are not happy at school.
- The Canadian government has been in power and there will be big changes, you now have to live on reserves.
- Many people in your community are not happy with how the Europeans are treating First Nations peoples. First Nations peoples have no choice other than to agree with the Europeans and do as they say.

- 1 Food Resource Card

+ 0 Money Resource Card

- 1 Health Resource Card

Pay at the Residential School Location and go to the Reserve System Location.

Residential School- Option B

Refuse to take your children to residential school

- Your family refuses to take your children to residential school. You choose to keep your children at home.
- You would like to keep your children safe as well as teach them their traditional way of life like how to hunt, fish and other parts of your culture.
- The Indian agents come to your house and take your children. They take them to residential school.

- This is the last time you see some of your children. The children who come back look different. Your daughter was also not treated with respect at the school. Your son's hair was shaved but in your culture, men wear their hair long.

- 1 Food Resource Card
 + 0 Money Resource Card
 - 1 Health Resource Card

Pay at the Residential School Location and go to the Reserve System Location.

Residential School- Option C

You take your child to a day school

- You are among the few families that live close to the school, your children walk to school and back.
- This is not normal as most families live far from a school.
- Some of your children do not return home as they have been picked from school and taken to residential school without your permission.

+ 0 Food Resource Card
 + 0 Money Resource Card
 - 1 Health Resource Card

Pay at the Residential School Location and go to the Reserve System Location.

Residential School- Option D

Women get married to European men to make sure their children don't go to residential school

- The woman in the home gets married to a European man, it is her decision.
- They give birth to children. These children are a mix of First Nation and European who are also called Metis.
- Some of these children skip residential schools but not all. Some Europeans also start marrying First Nations women when the women do not want to.

+ 1 Food Resource Card
 + 1 Money Resource Card
 + 0 Health Resource Card

Collect your pay at the Residential School Location and go to the Reserve System Location.

Location Card- Reserve System (1876- mid 1900's)

The Indian Act introduced by the Canadian government brings in the reserve system. Reserves are designated plots of land, mostly unfit for farming or hunting. They are often moved away from settler communities and not near your original territory. All community members are being forced to move and

live on this piece of land. You are not allowed to have any religious ceremonies on the reserve. You are now called a band and have the chief as your leader.

You are not allowed to leave your reserve to hunt or fish without a pass from an Indian Agent who keeps watch and has all the power on reserves. Many people have started drinking alcohol to help them forget their problems. Some are drinking to forget about what happened to them in residential school. Even though you have all these problems, you are happy to be with your family and try to make the best of a bad situation.

After many years of not being allowed to leave the reserve without a pass, the Canadian government is starting to give First Nations more rights. You can now leave the reserve and consider a life elsewhere. You have heard that life in the city is much better. You want to get a job. It is hard to get a job on the reserve because there is not much jobs. Will your family choose to stay in the reserve or move out of the reserve?

Location- Reserve system (mid 1900's – current day)

Choice: You decide to stay in the reserve or move out

On the reserve, you are worried your children might not finish high school as they have to travel for school because most reserves don't have high schools. The education is not good. Your family has not had clean water to drink for a long time. Houses are not big enough and there are so many of your family in one house. Your house has mold and two of your children have a hard time breathing. Your family has heard that there are better opportunities in the city. One of your cousins just moved to a small town and they are saying life is way better there than on the reserve. If you move from the reserve, you will be leaving your friends and family behind. You are also worried that it might not be easy for you to find a job when you move. What will you do?

Cost:

A: Stay in the reserve= 3

B: Move out= 2

Reserve System-Option A

You decide to stay in the reserve

- You want to stay living on the reserve. You like this because you know most things here and you are comfortable.
- You continue to have problems with water, your house, the education and healthcare.
- You are not happy with the Canadian government because it is not taking care of families in the reserve.

- 1 Food Resource Card
- 1 Money Resource Card
- 1 Health Resource Card
- 1 Tools Resource Card

Pay at the Reserve Location and your family ends the simulation here or decides to move later.

Reserve System- Option B

You decide to move out of the reserve

- Your family decides to move off the reserve to find chances of a better life for your children.
- You get ready to move by packing and saying goodbye to friends.
- All your family will be coming with you. The grandparents will help with taking care of the children when the parents are working. Everyone is excited for the journey.

- 1 Food Resource Card
- 1 Money Resource Card
- + 1 Health Resource Card
- 1 Tools Resource Card

Pay at the Reserve Location and go to the Migration Location.

Location Card- Migration

Your family has not been happy in the reserve and you are moving from the reserve. Cities such as Winnipeg have started to grow. Small towns have also started to grow. They have fewer people than larger cities. Rural areas are also needing people to work in production plants. Families that were living in hiding are coming out. They will be moving to the city or small towns. Your family will talk with each other to decide which place is best for them. You know as a First Nations family you have to be cautious no matter what you do because you have been facing racism and discrimination your whole life.

Location- Migration

Choice: Your family moves to the city, to a rural municipality or those who were in hiding move to the reserve

Some families who moved to the city before you are telling you that life is very hard for them. They did not have enough money to buy a house. They have very little money. They also had a problem getting an apartment because they have never rented an apartment before. Some people do not like them because they are First Nation. Those who moved to a small town/village are telling you they did not have too many problems. Some people did not treat them very well because they were First Nation. They could not find a house right away but it did not take too long. They have found a job in the small town but are not making enough money. Families coming out of hiding are struggling to adjust to living away from communities. Some are registering as status Indians with their bands. They are moving to live in the reserve. Others are moving to the city or small town. What will you do?

Cost:

- A: Move to Winnipeg= 4
- B: Move to a small town= 0
- C: Move to a rural municipality= 1
- D: Move to the reserve= 1

Migration- Option A

Your family moves to the city of Winnipeg.

- You have moved to the city of Winnipeg. It is much bigger than your reserve or your remote community.
- You cannot find a house. You rent an apartment in the North End. You have been looking for a job but you don't know how.
- Your social assistance is not enough to pay for rent, hydro, electricity, food and phone.
- You find a job after many months. You work an evening shift as a waitress in a restaurant.
- You are glad you do not have to pay for daycare because your mum is at home and can watch your children.
- Your welfare goes down because you are getting an income. You start to go into debt. You sell your phone. Your son gets involved in a gang and is arrested.
- You feel alone and have no one to talk to. You are stuck in Winnipeg but you know life the reserve is not any better.

-1 Food Resource Card

-2 Money Resource Card

-1 Health Resource Card

Pay at the Migration Location and family ends the simulation here or decides to move later.

Migration- Option B

Your family moves to a small town

- You are coming from the reserve or from your hiding place. Your family is happy to live in a small town.
- There are few job opportunities. The family is already working although they are not making much.
- You could not find place to live because you have never rented an apartment or owned a house before. A family that you know tells you about a landlord they know. The rent is affordable. The houses look so-so.
- The children are going to a good school. You are happy with what you have because you are enjoying a little bit of both worlds; a city setting and a rural setting.

- 2 Food Resource Card

+ 1 Money Resource Card

+ 1 Health Resource Card

Pay at the Migration Location and family ends the simulation here or decides to move later.

Migration- Option C

Your family moves to a rural municipality.

- You are coming from the reserve or from your hiding place. Your family is happy to live in a rural area.

- There are job opportunities here and barely enough people to meet this demand. You are encouraged to stay here and continue working in production plants.
- You easily find a place where you can build your house. You find this place very lonely as there are not a lot of people.

- 1 Food Resource Card
+ 1 Money Resource Card
- 1 Health Resource Card

Pay at the Migration Location and family ends the simulation here or decides to move later.

Migration- Option D

Your family comes out of hiding and goes to the reserve

You have now come out of hiding. Everything looks very different. You are meeting new relatives and children who have been born in the community. You have heard that you can now practice your religious ceremonies in the reserve. You want to continue with your traditions. You feel that the best place to do this is in the reserve. You register your family as First Nation. You are assigned a house in the reserve and live with your whole family.

+ 1 Food Resource Card
+ 1 Money Resource Card
- 1 Health Resource Card

Pay at the Migration Location and family ends the simulation here or decides to move later.

References

Assembly of First Nations. 2005. Federal Government Funding to First Nations: The Facts, the Myths, and the Way Forward. Ottawa: Assembly of First Nations.

Distasio, Jino, Gina Sylvestre, Christa Jaccubucci, Susan Mulligan and Kurt Sargent. 2004. First Nations/ Métis/Inuit Mobility Study: Final Report. Winnipeg: Institute of Urban Studies.