

History of this place

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Teach the Truth



Thank you

Thank you for selecting this online workshop about the history of this place known as Canada today. As we get started, I invite you to take a journey through some of the history that has shaped the place we now call Canada. The story of Canada's creation is also a story of colonization, and understanding this shared history helps us make sense of many of the realities we see around us today. You may hear things you already know, and you may encounter stories that are new or uncomfortable. That's okay. Learning this history isn't about guilt or blame—it's about building understanding, recognizing our responsibilities to one another, and imagining how we might move forward together in better ways.

Facilitator Guide

Welcome to this 60-minute workshop. The size of your group is up to you, I would recommend the group size to be 10-50 people. As the facilitator you will be guiding your group through this presentation. There are 2 pause points in the video where your group will either be discussing points or writing personal reflections. You will need to be the timer of these times. It will be up to your group how long you have for this work. For time with this work and conversations I would allow for at least 60-75 minutes for this work as a whole. I have included timing within the lesson guide. Please make sure the facilitator is keeping the group on time with the work. I encourage you as the facilitator to have your group in a circle formation for this work. I would also encourage you to have an opening and closing circle. This allows space for everyone to share and for people to be more comfortable in the space together. These are optional but I feel an important part of the work in anti-colonial education. Enjoy the conversations.

Lesson Plan

Opening circle & Welcome allow for 10 minutes on top of the 60 minute workshop. (if you have a large group of 30 or more, I recommend you have smaller groups of 4-5 people for small group welcome circles, this could also be the same groups people go into for the group work)

Gather your group together in a large circle.

Open the circle with a land acknowledgment and an intro of the workshop.

- Your land acknowledgement should include the territories in which you are gathered on for this workshop. Your personal connection to the work of honouring those who have been displaced in order for work to be done on this land.
- Intro to the workshop: Before we begin, I want to acknowledge that the history of Canada is complex. The making of this country involved policies, decisions, and systems rooted in colonization that continue to impact Indigenous peoples and communities today. This presentation is meant to help ground us in some of that shared history—not as something confined to the past, but as something that continues to shape education, relationships, and the work we do. As you watch, I invite you to approach this learning with curiosity, openness, and a willingness to reflect on your own place within these stories.
- **Opening circle:**
 - If this is the first time this group is together, have the group introduce themselves and the work they do.
 - If this group is a team that works together regularly, then I like to have people introduce themselves and let the group know where their ancestors are from. This opens up conversations that might not have happened before with the group.
 - An alternative, you can ask the group to share their thoughts about why they came to do this work together today, and what are they hoping to learn from the time together.

Once this is complete you can start to play the video.

Pause point 1: Time 11:22

Please tell me about what you learned in school/education about Indigenous people of this land.

At this pause point you can invite people to take a moment for silent reflection and write down their thoughts, then you can move people into groups of 4-6 people. In the groups they will be answering the first question. Put a timer on for 10 minutes. Allow the groups to discuss the points together.

Once the large group is back together, have the smaller groups share out about what they talked about. This should be about 5 minutes for the larger discussion. Then press play again.

Watching the time, you should be at 30-37 minutes into the workshop. (Including the welcome circle time)

Pause point 2: Time 39:08

1. What did you already know about the historical facts? What did you learn so far from the presentation? What are you still wondering?
2. How might knowledge of this topic inform your work?

We will be taking another 10 minute pause to reflect and discuss what are your key takeaways from the information shared? How has this information impacted you when thinking about the history of this place? Can talk about how you are unpacking the information given. This will be 10 minutes in our small groups.

When we come back the larger group, ask people to share their conversations. Keep an eye on the clock. This should be only about 5 to 10 minutes long.

Watching the time, you should be at 57 to 65 minutes into the workshop. (Including the welcome circle time)

Pause point 3: Time 22:57

After the Video

If you have time and would like to continue your learning, I encourage you and your group to take this short quiz. As you work through it, you'll examine various sections of the Indian Act and determine whether they remain in effect today or have been amended. This activity offers an opportunity to reflect on the lasting impacts of colonial policies and the ways they continue to influence the present.

<https://forms.gle/34dmt3ArxS786aMG7>

Now that we've explored some of the history surrounding the making of Canada, let's see what we know about one of the most influential pieces of legislation impacting First Nations peoples: the Indian Act. This quiz is an opportunity to test your knowledge and perhaps uncover some surprising truths about what is still written into the Act today. You may be shocked by what remains in effect, what has

changed over time, and how this legislation continues to shape the lives of Indigenous peoples across Canada. Give it a try and see how much you know.

After you have done the quiz either in small groups together or as one large group together, have a discussion about what you learned in the process.

Thank you for taking the time to engage with this learning and for purchasing this video. By choosing to deepen your understanding of the shared history of this place, you are helping to create space for important conversations about colonization, reconciliation, and our collective responsibilities moving forward. This work is not always easy, but it is meaningful. I appreciate your willingness to approach it with curiosity, openness, and a commitment to continued learning.

If you would like to learn more, please check out my website carolynroberts.net and my blog

You can also purchase my books:

Re-Storying Education: Decolonizing your Practice with a Critical Lens (2024)

Tess's Red Dress: Honouring Love and Family (2025)

Threads of Indigenous Pedagogy: Intentional Practices to Transform Teaching, Learning, and Leading (June 2027)

Spindle Whorl: Weaving History (2028)