

Read and discuss the following quote with a partner and complete a reflection journal entry in response to the question:

- Why should it matter who initiated the numbered treaty process?

“Traditional historical interpretations have tended to portray the treaty-making process as a Crown initiative, with a benevolent Crown extending its largesse to the less fortunate nations. However, the numbered treaties came about because First Nations demanded that special arrangements be made through treaties before the Crown could expect to use Indian lands and resources. They were not prepared to give up their lands, on which they depended for their livelihood, without a formal arrangement that would protect adequate lands and resources for their own use.”

Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples
Volume 1 - Looking Forward Looking Back
Part One: The Relationship in Historical Perspective
6 - Stage Three: Displacement and Assimilation
4.2 Treaties 1 and 2
<http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ap/pubs/sg/sq-eng.asp>