

Aboriginal Names and Terminology

The text below is quoted from *Integrating Aboriginal Perspectives in Curricula*, (Manitoba Education and Youth, 2003). Teachers may wish to read the document in its entirety for further information about integrating Aboriginal perspectives in the curriculum and examples of classroom projects that demonstrate such integration. More specifically, for the purpose of the Senior 2 Geography curriculum, teachers may find it useful to peruse the glossary near the end of the document for further information and clarification of related terminology.

Integrating Aboriginal Perspectives in Curricula is available from The Manitoba Text Book Bureau or in PDF format at <<http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca>> and follow the links: Kindergarten to Senior 4/Aboriginal Education/Aboriginal Perspectives. Further information on Aboriginal names and terminology is available on the Canadian Government Indian and Northern Affairs Canada website at <<http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca>> and follow the links: Publications and Research/Terminology Guide.

Aboriginal Peoples in Manitoba

The Constitution of Canada recognizes three primary groups as **Aboriginal** peoples: First Nations (Indians), Inuit, and Métis. The **Métis** people are defined by the Federal government as having "mixed First Nation and European ancestry who identify themselves as Métis people, as distinct from First Nations people, Inuit, or non-Aboriginal people" (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada 1997). The **Inuit** people are defined by the Federal government as "Aboriginal people in northern Canada, who live above the tree line in Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, Northern Québec and Labrador" (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada 2001). The Federal government further categorizes **Indians** as being Treaty, Status, or Non-Status. **Status** Indians as registered under the Indian Act who, as such, may be eligible for treaty rights. A **Non-Status** person is defined as "an Indian person who is not registered as an Indian under the Indian Act." A **Treaty** Indian is "a Status Indian who belongs to a First Nation that has signed a treaty with the Crown." Although the term Indian is a historical misnomer and is distasteful to many Aboriginal peoples, it is a legal descriptor used by the Federal government. An accepted term is **First Nations**, and this term will be used in this document to refer to Aboriginal peoples who are defined by the Federal government as Indians (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada 1997 and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada 2000).

The First Nations peoples of Manitoba are more comfortable identifying themselves by their linguistic group. The First Nations peoples of Manitoba are the **Anishinabe** (Ojibway and Saulteaux), **Dene**, **Nahoyowak** (Cree), **Oji-Cree**, and **Oyata** (Dakota). Each of these groups has its own language, traditions, and histories.

(*Integrating Aboriginal Perspectives into Curricula*, Manitoba Education and Youth, 2003; page 7)