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# NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

## LEARNING RESOURCES

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# INTRODUCTION

National Indigenous Peoples Day is a significant celebration in Canada that takes place annually on June 21st. It was first proclaimed in 1996 by the Governor General of Canada, Roméo LeBlanc, as a way to recognize and celebrate the diverse cultures and contributions of Indigenous peoples to Canada. This date was chosen because it coincides with the summer solstice, which holds special spiritual significance in many Indigenous cultures.

For generations, Indigenous peoples in Canada have faced colonization, residential schools, and forced assimilation, resulting in the loss of culture, language, and traditions. National Indigenous Peoples Day provides an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the resilience and strength of Indigenous communities in Canada.

It's a day to honour and recognize the contributions of Indigenous peoples to Canada's history and to recognize the ongoing struggles and challenges that they continue to face today.

This day is a day of celebration but it is also a time to raise awareness about the ongoing issues faced by Indigenous peoples in Canada.

These include the lack of access to clean drinking water on many reserves, the high rates of violence against Indigenous women and girls, and the ongoing struggle for Indigenous rights and self-determination. Overall, National Indigenous Peoples Day serves as an important reminder of the ongoing work that needs to be done to support and uplift Inuit, Métis, and First Nations peoples whose land is now referred to as Canada.



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# LEARNING RESOURCES

Indigenous Works invites you to explore the diverse history and culture of Indigenous peoples in what is now called Canada.

We have created the list below as a good place to start your learning journey.

1. [Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada](#): This website is an interactive online resource that provides an in-depth exploration of Indigenous peoples' histories, cultures, languages, and territories in Canada. It features maps, videos, and stories that celebrate Indigenous knowledge and perspectives.
  2. [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada](#): This website contains a wealth of information about the history and legacy of residential schools in Canada. It includes reports, documents, and survivor testimony, as well as resources for education and reconciliation.
  3. [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#): This website is dedicated to preserving the history of residential schools in Canada and promoting reconciliation. It provides resources for survivors and their families, as well as educators, researchers, and the general public.
  4. [First Nations Education Steering Committee's Learning First Peoples Classroom Resources](#): This website is a resource for educators and students interested in learning more about Indigenous history, culture, and language. It provides lesson plans, curricula, and other resources that promote Indigenous perspectives in the classroom.
  5. [Inuit History and Heritage](#) (.PDF) by [Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami](#) (ITK): An overview of 5000 years of Inuit history and culture.
  6. [Indigenous history](#) by Government of Canada: The history of Indigenous peoples in Canada, reconciliation and more.
  7. [Métis Nation](#): The history of the Métis Nation is a rich and diverse legacy of a culturally distinct Nation with Indigenous rights under section 35 of the Canadian constitution. Visit: [Manitoba Métis Federation](#); [Gabriel Dumont Institute](#); [Metis National Council](#).
  8. [Indigenous Cinema](#): Discover the National Film Board of Canada's rich online collection of Indigenous-made films
  9. [Indigenous Ways and Decolonization](#): Indigenous Art at the National Gallery of Canada includes works from Indigenous Peoples across Canada and around the globe
  10. [Indigenous Trailblazers](#): Learn about inspiring Indigenous peoples who have helped shape Canadian history and continue to impact our nation.
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