3-3 Population Change in Canada
People, People Everywhere — but from Where?
The Land Before Canada

**Aboriginal** - is a term used by Canada’s Constitution to refer to the descendants of the original inhabitants of the land that is now Canada. Includes First Nations, Inuit, and Metis people.

**First Nations** - refers to a distinct group of Aboriginal peoples who share the same culture and history.

**Inuit** - refers to Aboriginal people who live in Canada’s Arctic regions.

**Metis** - descendants of European fur traders or settlers and Aboriginal peoples.
• Many Aboriginal peoples were hunters and gatherers, others were farmers and fishers.

• All depended on the land.

• They traded with other Aboriginal groups.

• They lived in organized societies with a form of government.

• Some people believe they arrived by land bridge across the Bering Strait.

• Many Aboriginal peoples believe they were always here.

• There are 50 Aboriginal languages in Canada but only 3 may survive.
Aboriginal Cultures at the Time of European Colonization
Aboriginal Population, 2011

FIGURE 4.25 This map shows where Aboriginal people live in Canada.
Transatlantic Migration (1500–1900)

Map of the world in 1489
With the landing of John Cabot in 1497 came the discovery of the cod fishery. A permanent fishery and settlement was eventually established by European countries.
The French in Canada

France wanted to strengthen its position in North America by permanently colonizing the region.

• In the early 1600’s Acadia became the first permanent settlement of Europeans in North America. It now includes Nova Scotia, P.E.I. and part of New Brunswick.

• A few years later New France was established in what is now Quebec City. Later money and tools were offered to anyone who would come and farm the land. Couples who married and produced children were given cash bonuses.
The British in Canada

English settlements had already been established in some areas in 1763 when the British took control of Canada.

- **Loyalists** – American colonists who remained loyal to Britain arrived in Canada from the U.S.
- By the mid 1800’s hundreds of thousands of immigrants from the United Kingdom settled in Upper Canada (Ontario).
- Thousands of Irish families came to escape the potato famine and mass starvation.
By 1900 the Canadian government was offering free land to immigrants in order to settle the prairies.

- Many immigrants from Eastern Europe took advantage of this because they were used to farming in harsh conditions.
- Many British immigrants arrived to work in manufacturing industries.
- After World War I and II many Europeans came to escape war-torn Europe.
During the 1970’s Canada’s immigration policy began to change from one that favoured British and western Europeans. Canada changed the policy for 3 reasons:

1. Canada wanted anyone with the education, language ability, and job skills to help Canada.
2. Canada wanted to become more multicultural.
3. A declining birth rate meant immigration was necessary to have enough people to grow economically.