

Name: Finn

Name of Indigenous Group Studying: Assiniboine

Who were they:

The Assiniboine were an indigenous tribe inhabiting the Great Plains region of Canada. They split from the Sioux sometime before 1640. They sometimes shared hunting grounds with the Cree and Blackfoot tribes and sometimes lived with the Cree but had their own distinct culture.

Worldview Pre-contact:

The Assiniboine worldview was most likely centred on the land they lived on; they had a rich oral history of stories, songs, myths, and ceremonies, with a strong belief that all living things should be loved and respected.

connecting with French and English for several reasons

Trade allowed the Assiniboine to access products like guns, gunpowder, alcohol, fabric, and other manufactured things.

Interaction experience:

Fairly

Reasons for interacting with French or English

Trade, the Assiniboine gained access to goods such as firearms, gunpowder, liquor, cloth, and other such manufactured goods.

Experience of interaction:

Positively, the Assiniboine played a key role in the fur trade as intermediaries, trading European goods with the more distant Plains people; they did suffer greatly from European diseases, smallpox in particular and as a result their population went down from around 10,000 in the 18th century less than 2,6700 by 1890;

The missionaries also exposed them to Christianity and tried to convert them, converting some but with most sticking with their own beliefs and practices

expectations of what the relationship would be

Mostly positive, both parties had something to gain from the trades.

Reality of what relationship there was

Also mostly positive, the Assiniboine were regarded positively by the settlers, and they played a key role in the fur trade.

So overall it was were fairly positive, except for the treaties.

Subsection: the treaties.

I don't really know where to. But this but I feel like it's kind of important so here it is: so basically, sometime in the 1870s the government must have decided they didn't have enough land already and they wanted to establish permanent settlements, new people probably wanted to move to Canada, things like that, so, who had all this land, just sitting around? The indigenous peoples. The government then employed a tactic now used by all sorts of people, from used cars dealerships to Face*cough* Meta, making a long legally binding agreement, so they made these treaties with the indigenous people promising regular payments, education and medical aid among other things if they would live on a reserve, with the bison, their main resource, nearing extinction the Assiniboine agreed. Now the government didn't really keep many of their promises, or respect the indigenous people rights, with the treaties imposed many restrictions on land use and resource access leading to tension that still lasts to this day.

Impact on the colonizers:

They allowed the colonizers to spread their trade further as middlemen to the tribes that lived farther out in the great plains and colonizers used their trails as trade routes and some of their campsites as trading posts.

Impact of the colonizers on their way of life:

With the Assiniboine as intermediaries the colonizers didn't have to go as far to access even more people to trade with, they also gained access to horses and could provide the trade posts with fresh meat, which was a difficult task, meaning the settlers often didn't have access to it.

Changes in Worldview:

some of the Assiniboine peoples changes in worldview were; Increased involvement in trade, exposure to Christianity and European languages and the impacts of diseases on their population.

Sources:

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/assiniboine>