

Early Explorers of Canada — Knowledge Organiser

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Key facts

- European explorers such as Cartier and Champlain reached Canada in the 1500s–1600s.
- They were searching for routes, furs and new land.
- Indigenous peoples, already living there, often guided and traded with them.
- Samuel de Champlain founded Quebec City in 1608.

Key vocabulary

- Explorer — someone who travels to learn about new places.
- Settlement — a place where people make homes.
- Fur trade — trading animal furs.
- Encounter — a meeting, especially a first one.

Not an empty land

Explorers did not find empty wilderness — Indigenous peoples had lived here for thousands of years and their help was vital for survival.

Two perspectives

As elsewhere, exploration looks different depending on who tells the story: opportunity for newcomers, but great change for Indigenous peoples.