

Answer Key—Royal Proclamation: Analysis

Background information:

https://indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca/royal_proclamation_1763/

<p>What type of document is this?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• claim of British ownership of North America
<p>Who created this document?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• King George III
<p>Why was it written?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• set out guidelines for European settlement of Aboriginal territories in North America
<p>Why is this a valuable source to examine when considering the history of Indigenous treaties in Canada?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• states that Aboriginal title has existed and continues to exist, and that all land would be considered Aboriginal land until ceded by treaty

Below is a section of the Proclamation:

“It is just and reasonable and essential to our Interest, and the Security of our Colonies, that the several Nations or Tribes of Indians with whom We are connected, and who live under our Protection, should not be molested or disturbed in the Possession of such parts of our Dominions and Territories as not having been ceded to or purchased by Us, are reserved to them, or any of them, as their Hunting Grounds...any Lands whatever, which, not having been ceded to or purchased by Us as aforesaid, are reserved to the said Indians, or any of them. ...

And We do hereby strictly forbid, on Pain of our Displeasure, all our loving Subjects from making any Purchases or Settlements whatever, or taking Possession of any of the Lands above reserved, without our especial leave and Licence for that Purpose first obtained.

And We do further strictly enjoin and require all Persons whatever who have either wilfully or inadvertently seated themselves upon any Lands within the Countries above described or upon any other Lands which, not having been ceded to or purchased by Us, are still reserved to the said Indians as aforesaid, forthwith to remove themselves from such Settlements.”

What rights of Indigenous people are laid out in this document?

- Recognizes that Indigenous tribes are Nations
- Land that is not ceded to or purchased by the British Crown belongs to the Indigenous people to live on and use

What does it say about colonists buying or settling on Indigenous land?

- Colonists cannot buy or settle on Indigenous land without permission from the British Crown
- If colonists have already settled on Indigenous land, they have to leave their settlement