

**Date Reviewed**

February 2023

**Course**

[Social Studies 4](#)

**Topic**

Impact of Colonization on First Peoples of BC

**Big Idea**

Demographic changes in North America created shifts in economic and political power.

**Essential Question**

How did colonization change how First Nations people made a living?

**Learning Standards****Content:**

*Students are expected to know the following:*

- the impact of colonization on First Peoples societies in British Columbia

**Curricular Competencies**

*Students are expected to be able to do the following:*

- Sequence objects, images, or events, and determine continuities and changes between different time periods or places (continuity and change)

**Core Competencies**

[Communication](#) – I can describe how First Peoples contributed to the economic development of BC.

[Thinking](#) - I can explain the impact of colonization on the ways First Peoples made a living.

[Personal and Social](#) – I can consider how work is connected to identity.

**First People's Principles of Learning**

Learning involves recognizing the consequences of one's actions.

**Introduction**

- Explain that “economy” is the wealth of a country or province. On the board, or on a sheet of chart paper, list the three major areas of the economy:
  - Resources—using nature

- Industry—making things
- Services--helping people
- Have students brainstorm different types of jobs that people do in British Columbia. As students suggest a job, ask them in which area of the economy it belongs. Write it under the appropriate economic activity. For example:
  - Resources--farming, fishing, forestry, and mining
  - Industry--making clothing, paper, furniture, houses.
  - Services--medical, educational, and entertainment.
- Explain that all these ways of making a living contribute to our province's economy.

### Pre-Assessment

- Write the essential question on the board: How did colonization change how First Nations people made a living?
- Explain to students that they will be watching [First Economies](#), a short video about the various kinds of work that First Nations people did in BC before newcomers came, after newcomers came, and then after BC became a colony.
- Show the video a first time. Afterwards, ask students what information they already knew.

### Interactive Learning Activities

- Provide each student with a copy of the chart "First Peoples' Work"
- Show the video [First Economies](#) a second time, stopping at appropriate spots to give students time to fill in the chart.
- Students can then use the information at the top of the handout to finish filling in the chart.
- Organize students into groups of two or three and assign each pair or triad one type of work from the chart:
  - Hunting
  - Fishing
  - Trading
  - Trapping
  - Mining
  - Guiding
  - Building Houses
  - Cooking and Cleaning
  - Logging
  - Farming
  - Milling Lumber
  - Canning Fish
- Have students use pictures show what they know about that type of work.
- Label three pieces of chart paper "Before Newcomers", "After Newcomers", and "After BC Becomes a Colony" and place these around the room. Have pairs decide which time period(s) their pictures of work represent and glue or tape their pictures to that chart paper. If the type of work fits into more than one time period, they should put their pictures under all appropriate categories.
- Have students do a [Gallery Walk](#) to add labels to the images and comments about the different types of work on each chart paper.

## Post-Assessment

- Have students work with a partner to respond to the questions on the handout: “How did colonization change how First Peoples made a living?”

## Extension Activities

- Show the short video [Everything is Connected](#) (1:29).
- Explain that Indigenous tourism in BC has become an important part of the economy.
- Divide students into six groups and assign each one of the tourism regions of BC:
  - Cariboo Chilcotin Coast
  - Kootenay Rockies
  - Northern British Columbia
  - Thompson Okanagan
  - Vancouver Coast & Mountains
  - Vancouver Island
- Have groups access the [Indigenous Tourism BC](#) website and click on the tab “Places to Go”. Student should come to consensus on one experience they would like to have within their assigned region.

## Additional References

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## **Materials and Resources**

## First Peoples' Work

During the fur trade, First Nations trapped animals for fur. They prepared furs and traded them for goods. Some First Nations people worked for trading posts.

After colonization, more First Nations people began to work for wages. Many no longer had access to the resources on their traditional territories, so they needed to work for others to earn money. They helped build houses and farm the land. Some did household chores like cooking and cleaning. They also worked for sawmills, fish canneries, and mining and logging companies.

Work Before Newcomers Came	Work After Newcomers Came	Work After BC Became a Colony

### Answer Key: First Peoples' Work

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Work Before Newcomers Came	Work After Newcomers Came	Work After BC Became a Colony
hunting	trapping	Building homes
fishing	coal mining	Domestic work (cooking and cleaning)
trading	trading	Labour in mining and logging
	Guides and suppliers during gold rush	Labour in farming
		Labour in sawmills, fish canneries, fishing companies

## How did colonization change how First People made a living?

Work with a partner to read each of the sentences below. Circle the word that makes the sentence true.

1. Were First Nations people spending more or less time outdoors while working?
2. Were more of them working independently or not independently?
3. Did their work demand more or less skill?
4. Did more or less of them keep the products that they gathered or produced?
5. Did more or less of them earn a wage?
6. Did more or less of them do work that matched the work done by their ancestors?

Look at the chart “First Peoples’ Work” and the sentences above to help you answer the following questions:

How did the work of First Nations change after newcomers arrived?

How did the work of First Nations change after BC became a colony?

How might the changes to First Nations work affect their identity?

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Look at the chart “First Peoples’ Work” and the sentences above to help you answer the following questions:

How did the work of First Nations change after newcomers arrived?

They were still involved with trading, but they did more trapping for furs rather than hunting for food.

How did the work of First Nations change after BC became a colony?

They worked for wages rather than doing their traditional work.  
They worked more indoors and did less skilled independent work.

How might the changes to First Nations work affect their identity?

They might have lost their connection to their ancestors, their land, and their culture.  
They might have become less independent.