

WALKING TOGETHER

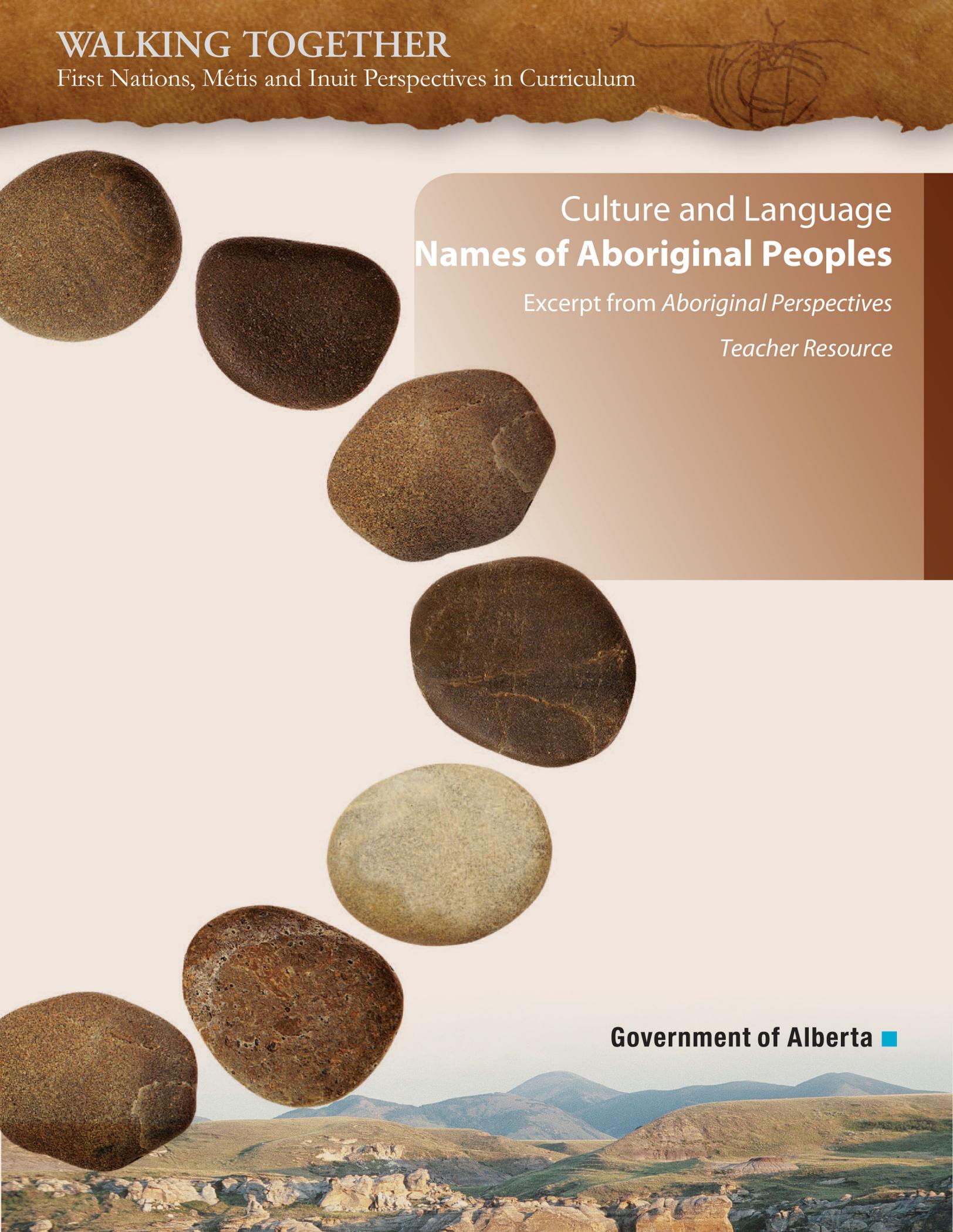
First Nations, Métis and Inuit Perspectives in Curriculum

Culture and Language Names of Aboriginal Peoples

Excerpt from *Aboriginal Perspectives*

Teacher Resource

Government of Alberta ■





NAMES OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

Excerpt from *Aboriginal Perspectives Teacher Resource*

NAMES OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

Throughout history, different names have been used to refer to the Aboriginal peoples of North America. Some of these names have been attributed incorrectly or inappropriately. For example, the reason that the first European explorers called the original inhabitants of the North American continent “Indians” was that they believed they had sailed around the world to India, as was their intent. Christopher Columbus had set out in 1492 to find a sea route from Spain to the Orient. At the time it was believed that there he would find not only spices and other valued trade items, but also a race of dog-headed people living in the mountains.

Often the names used for North American Aboriginal groups have little to do with how those peoples referred to themselves. For example, the “Thompson” Indians were named after the explorer who “found” their river, and the term Eskimo might have been a southerly attempt at insult.

Many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples have recently begun to use more meaningful and accurate names for themselves. Some of these changes are minor historical corrections, and some are substantially different. Some of the other names may continue to be acceptable, or they might be considered offensive today. It is most appropriate to use the name by which the community itself wishes to be known.

NAMES OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLES cont.
Excerpt from *Aboriginal Perspectives Teacher Resource*



Contemporary Name	Alternate Name(s)	Notes
A'aninin (ah-nin-in)	Gros Ventre, White Clay people, Aaninen	
Achumawi or Atsugewi	Pit River	
Ahiarmiut	Cambridge Bay mainland Inuinait	
Alutiiq (p. Alutiit)	Aleut, coastal Alaska	
Anishinabé (a-nish-na-bay) or Saukteaux (so-tow)	Ojibway, Ojibwa, Anishnaabe, Anishnabe, Bungee	The language is often called Ojibway, Saukteaux in Alberta, and Chippewa in the U.S.
Aamskaapipikani	South Peigan, South Piikani, Blackfeet	U.S. nation related to the Blackfoot Confederacy
Blackfoot Confederacy		
Cayuga		Member of Six Nations Confederacy
Cree or Nehiyaw		
Dakota	Sioux	
Dené Tha' (de-nay-thah)	Slavey, Slave, Dene-thah, Dene Dha	
Dene Suliné (de-nay-soong-lin-ay)	Chipewyan, Dene Souline, Denesuline	
Dineh, Diné	Navajo	
Dunne-za (da-nay-za)	Beaver	
First Nations	Indian, Tribe, Native	
Gitsan	Tsimshian, Gitskan	
Gwich'in	Kutchin, Loucheaux, Tukudh	
Haisla	Kitimat	
Haudenosaunee (how-den-o-show-nee)	Iroquois	Six Nations Confederacy
Heiltsuk	Bella Bella	
Innu	Montagnais-Naskapi, Montahfais	
Inuit	Eskimo	
Iñupiat	Eskimo, Alaska	
Inuvialuit, Inuinait	Western Inuit	
Jemez, Pueblo of	Pecos	
Kainai	Blood	Member of Blackfoot Confederacy
Kichesipprini	Algonquin	
Killinirmuit	Cambridge Bay and Victoria Island Inuinait	

NAMES OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLES cont.
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Contemporary Name	Alternate Name(s)	Notes
Ktunaxa (doo-na-ha)	Kutenai, Kootenay	
Kwak'waka'wakw, Oweekeno	Kwakiutl, Kwaguitl, Kwakwawaw, Kwagiulth	
Lakota	Sioux	
Lenape, Powhatan-Renápe	Delaware	
Lil'wat	Lillooet	
Métis	Half-breed, Country-born, Mixed-blood	
Mesquaki	Fox	
Mi'kmaq	Micmac, Mi'maq, Micmaw	
Mohawk		Member of Six Nations Confederacy
Nakoda	Stoney, Assiniboine, Nakota	Paul First Nation prefers the name Stoney.
Nakota	Assiniboine, Sioux	
Nisga'a	Niska, Nishga, Nisga	
Nlaka'pamux	Thompson	
Numunuu	Comanche	
Nuu-chat-nulth	Nootka	
Nuxalk	Bella Coola	
Odawa	Ottawa	
Oneida		Member of Six Nations Confederacy
Onondaga		Member of Six Nations Confederacy
Ouendat	Huron, Wendat	
Piikani	Peigan, Pikuni, North Peigan	Member of Blackfoot Confederacy
Powhatan-Renápe, Lenape	Delaware	
Puivlirmiut	Coronation Gulf Inuinait	
Quechan	Yuma	
Secwepemc	Shuswap	
Seneca		Member of Six Nations Confederacy
Siksika	Blackfoot	Member of Blackfoot Confederacy
Stl'atl'imx	Lillooet	
Swinomish	Squinamish	
Thcho	Dogrib	
Tionontati	Tobacco, Petun	
Tlingit		

NAMES OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLES cont.
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Contemporary Name	Alternate Name(s)	Notes
Tohono O'odham	Papago	
Tolowa	Chetco, Tututni	
Tortugas	Piro, Tigua	
Silhquot'in	Chilcotin	
Tsuu T'ina	Sarcee, Sarsi	
Tuscarora		Member of Six Nations Confederacy
Twana	Skokomish	
Unangax	Aleut	
Unkechaug	Poosepatuck, Patchogue	
Wet'suwet'en	Babine Carrier	
Yup'ik	Eskimo, southern Alaska	