

was new...

nwt history

Creation of the Dene and Inuvialuit

"When the world began, all things on earth were people. But the original people felt that they should know what their different roles and purposes were to be. A meeting was called and everyone attended. They set out to determine their future existence on earth. They began by creating a few essentials which they tied up into bundles. And they decided that everyone should abide by certain universal laws. Finally they decided that each person should choose the family to which they would belong. Those people who wanted to be part of the bird family declared their intentions. Those who did not want to be a part of the bird family made their intentions clear..."

Dene Kede K-6

photo provided by: Tessa Macintosh/GNWT Archives

1576

Arrival of the Europeans

Frobisher Sails into Baffin Island area.

Martin Frobisher arrives in the North in 1576. After entering Frobisher 'straits', the Europeans met and traded with the local Inuit. Unfortunately, the relationship between the Inuit and English turned sour and Frobisher left Baffin Island missing five of his men, but with one Inuk captive. Frobisher also returned with a quantity of black ore that he thought contained gold. Although it turned out to be iron pyrite (fool's gold), the metal prompted Frobisher's second trip to the North and fueled the European belief that the North was filled with treasure.



photo provided by: HBC Archives

1713-17

Thanadelthur

The fur trade and the Hudson's Bay Company.

In 1714, Thanadelthur guides an expedition for the Hudson's Bay Company to arrange peace between her people, the Denesuline (Chipewyan people), and the Cree. Expedition members were in awe of her leadership and courage on the difficult overland journey from York Factory, which lasted 10 months. Thanadelthur was successful in making peace, and persuading her people to trade with the Hudson's Bay Company. She died in 1717, at the age of 17.

photo provided by: HBC Archives

The stories of the Dene and Inuvialuit tell us that they have always been here. Everything was held in memory and passed down through storytelling. This oral history provides a story of peoples intimately at home in their environment. Dene and Inuvialuit stories show a world where animals, people and the land they live on are interconnected and dependent upon one another. Although lifestyles and cultures change, the essential elements of Dene and Inuvialuit culture continue in the NWT to the present day.

A voyage led by Henry Hudson leads to the first certain discovery of the bay which today bears his name.

The Hudson's Bay Company is formed by a charter from King Charles II of England, giving the Company a monopoly in trade for the entire watershed of Hudson Bay, known as Rupert's Land.

The end of French fur trade as Great Britain takes over French holdings in Canada. Proclamation of King George III recognizes that Aboriginal people are the legal owners of all North American lands, and are independent nations able to sign treaties.

The Hudson's Bay Company's Samuel Hearne, guided by Malonabbee, travels overland from Churchill to the mouth of the Coppermine River; Hearne is the first European to see Great Slave Lake and the western Arctic coast.

A group of Montreal traders forms the first North West Company, and begins bitter competition with Hudson's Bay Company.

1576

1610

1670

1713-17

1763

1769-72

1779