

Questions to supplement "A Cree Legend": Cartoon Interpretation

1. Why is the aboriginal person sitting alone on the log at the beginning of the legend? What does the log represent?
2. What happened when the first Europeans arrived in the country?
3. What happened as more and more settlers arrived in the country?
4. What evidence is there in the legend that aboriginal people welcomed the Europeans and showed friendliness towards them?

A Cree Legend

Long ago a Whiteman came from across the sea to our land. He spoke to our ancestor, who was sitting on a huge log.

"Move over," said the Whiteman.

Our ancestor moved over a little and the Whiteman sat on the log. The Whiteman nudged him and again said, "Move over." The Indian moved over a little.

Soon the Whiteman repeated, "Move over."

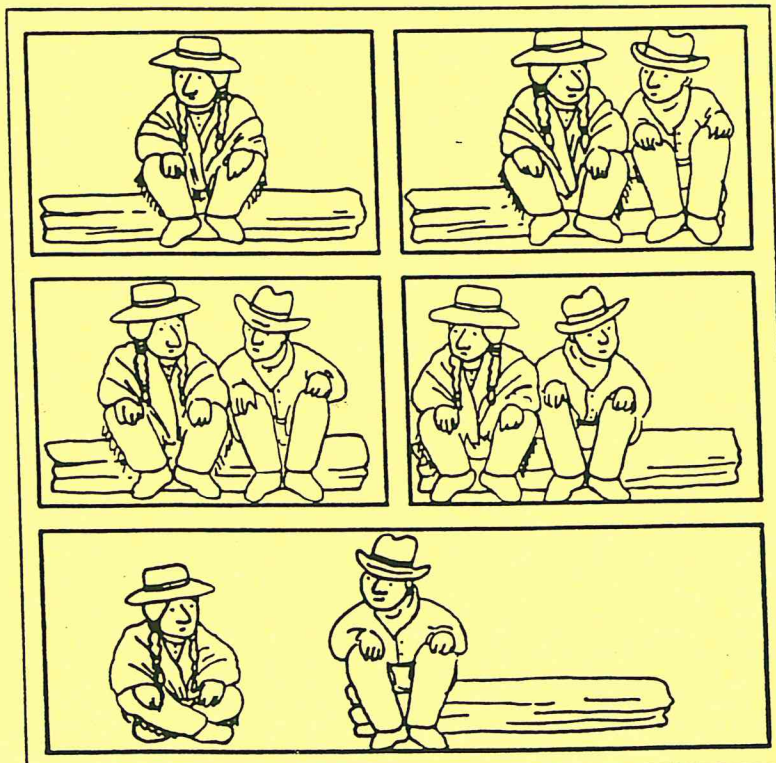
This happened again and again until our ancestor was pushed off the log. Then the Whiteman said, "The log is now mine."

Our ancestor took off his hat and respectfully asked, "May I sit on one part of the log?"

"No," said the Whiteman. "I am using all of the log. But the stump of the tree is nearby. Why don't you sit on it?"

Since then the Indians have been sitting on the very small stump and hoping that the Whiteman would never want it.

Recounted at Shamattawa, Manitoba.



GRAPHING POPULATION TRENDS

Use the data supplied here to create a graph (e.g., on a legal-sized sheet) resembling the sample shown, on which you plot two population lines—one for British Columbia's First Nations and the other for non-Aboriginal people settling in the province. Study your completed graph and make a list of five questions a person looking at this graph might want answered.

<u>1st NATIONS</u>	<u>POPULATION</u>
First Nations population in <u>1750</u> (est.):	300,000 <u>400,000</u>
First Nations population in 1830 (est.):	100,000
First Nations population in 1870 (est.):	35,000
First Nations population in <u>1881</u> (CDN Census, 1881-1921):	25,000
First Nations population in <u>1891</u> (CDN Census, 1881-1921):	25,000
First Nations population in <u>1901</u> (CDN Census, 1881-1921):	25,000
First Nations population in <u>1911</u> (CDN Census, 1881-1921):	20,000
First Nations population in <u>1921</u> (CDN Census, 1881-1921):	<u>22,000</u>
First Nations population in <u>1998</u> :	<u>150,000</u>
<u>Non Aboriginal</u> population in <u>1750</u> :	<u>0</u>
Non Aboriginal population in 1830 (est.):	<u>100</u>
Non Aboriginal population in 1870 (est.):	10,000
Non Aboriginal population in <u>1881</u> (CDN Census, 1881-1921):	24,000
Non Aboriginal population in <u>1891</u> (CDN Census, 1881-1921):	<u>73,000</u>
Non Aboriginal population in <u>1901</u> (CDN Census, 1881-1921):	153,000
Non Aboriginal population in <u>1911</u> (CDN Census, 1881-1921):	370,000
Non Aboriginal population in <u>1921</u> (CDN Census, 1881-1921):	<u>500,000</u>
<u>Total population</u> in <u>1998</u> (est.):	<u>3,900,000</u>

