

M4RR Quiz – Did You Know?

Today, we hear the term Aboriginal used quite often when speaking of First Nation People. This term appears to be an all-encompassing term. So, who is included when the word “Aboriginal” is used?

The term Aboriginal is found in the Canadian Constitution as a legal term which identifies groups of people. Can you identify them? There are three groups.

- First Nations (Status & Non-Status)
- Inuit
- Metis

"The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), adopted in 2007 (Canada in 2016), affirms the rights of Indigenous Peoples "to maintain and strengthen their own institutions, cultures and traditions, and to pursue their development in keeping with their own needs and aspirations."

So, what does Indigenous mean? Any guesses? This term is now used internationally and by the United Nations. The term itself means the original people of the land which would include Aboriginal people of Canada. Recently, the Canadian Federal Government adopted the new legal term “Indigenous” when speaking or dealing with Indigenous peoples.

According to the United Nations, there are approximately 400 million indigenous people worldwide, making up more than 5000 distinct tribes. Together they are one of the largest minority groups in the world, spanning over 90 countries. While Indigenous Peoples total only about 6% of the world’s population, they represent 90% of the cultural diversity. Indigenous territories constitute 20% of the Earth’s land mass, and that land mass harbours 80% of the world’s remaining biodiversity.

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