

HIS 2307A

Reading Questions:

Canada's First Nations: A History of Founding Peoples from Earliest Times

This is the final list of potential reading questions for the final exam.
I have arranged it in chapter number order.

The following reading questions are examinable at the final exam. The numbers indicated in parantheses after each question tell you how many points are expected, and therefore how many marks the question would be worth on an exam.

Chapter 1: And the People Came

1. Dickason discusses how people first came to North America, saying it is a field of study with no definitive conclusions. What does she identify as “the most generally held anthropological theory”: who first proposed the theory, and according to the theory, how did the first peoples come to North America, and when? (3)
2. Identify two Native groups in Canada and how they tell their creation stories. (2)
3. Dickason acknowledges the difficulty of knowing the population of precontact North America. However, she gives an estimate for North America “north of the Rio Grande” in the early sixteenth century, around the time of European contact. What is the population she cites? (1)
4. What was the average life expectancy of Native people of the Americas prior to contact? How did this compare with Europeans of the same era? (2)
5. According to Dickason, what advantage did stone tools offer over metal tools? What advantage does metal offer over stone? (2)

Chapter 2: Settling In

6. What year was the earliest evidenced agricultural production in the Americas, in Mexico? (Give the date and agricultural product.) What date and first agricultural product does Dickason identify in southern Ontario? (4)
7. What does Dickason cite as “the world’s four major food crops”? How many (and which ones) have their origins in the Americas? (2)
8. What are the “three sisters”? (1)
9. Dickason maps where corn was grown in precontact North America. Where in Canada was corn grown? (1)
10. In precontact Plains cultures, how were chiefs selected, how did they maintain authority, and what happened if a rival chief emerged to challenge them? (3)

11. Why does Dickason say burial mounds found in Labrador offer an “intriguing mystery.” Why was this finding unexpected to archaeologists and anthropologists? (3)

Chapter 3: Metropolises and Intercultural Contacts

12. Dickason writes: “The questions take on another character (and become heated) when the possibility of overseas contact between the Americas and the Old World is raised. Answers arrived at in the present state of our knowledge must be considered as tentative, a pushing back of frontiers perhaps, but not final solutions.” In the chapter, she cites many examples of material or cultural evidence suggesting early transoceanic contact. Identify the ten examples of possible evidence of early cultural transferral. For each one, provide a brief sentence: what was found, where, and what does it suggest? (10)
13. A strong critic of theories of early transoceanic contact is Nigel Davies. Describe two points of Davies’ critique/theory. (2)

Chapter 4: Canada when Europeans arrived

14. Which region of Canada is thought to have been populated the longest? (1)
What evidence has led to this conclusion? (1)
15. Where in Canada were precontact cultures hierarchical, including chiefs, nobles, commoners and slaves? (1)
Name one group that had this social structure. (1)
16. Describe two Confederacies that existed at the time of contact: their name and general location. (4)
17. Who was the most agricultural Native group in Canada at contact? (1)
18. What two distinct Arctic cultures, other than the modern Inuit, does Dickason discuss. Who displaced whom as the predominant Arctic peoples by the fifteenth century? (2)
19. Other than economic value, name four purposes that gifts served in many contact-era Native societies. (4)
20. Dickason stresses the variety of cultures in Native North America. She writes, “the social organization of the Amerindians, like their languages, displayed a wider variety than was the case in Europe.” At the end of the chapter, however, she suggests some cultural commonalities among Native North American cultures. Identify three cultural commonalities. (3)

Chapter 5: Inuit and Beothuk

21. What three categories does Dickason use for describing first meetings? (3)
22. The Norse were first to record contact with Native people in Canada – the Norse meeting with the “Skraelings” circa AD 1000. What groups does Dickason say are the possible identity of the “Skraelings”? Which identification does she say is “probably” correct? (3)

23. In addition to written records (which at this time exclusively recorded by people of non-Native origin), Dickason portrays Native oral history and collective memory of first European encounters. Give one example. How does it compare to the written record? (2)
24. Give three reasons for the population decimation of the Beothuk. (3)

Chapter 6: On the Eastern Edge of the Mainland

25. Write a brief paragraph about Cartier's deteriorating relationship with the St. Lawrence Iroquoians. Include the year and a description of the nature of the first meeting. (2) Name at least three things that led to a worsening relationship. (3) Give the year and description of the nature of the relationship by the time of Cartier's last trip to North America. (2)
26. When was Tadoussac's "heyday" as a trade centre? How many European trade ships are estimated to have visited each year? What Native nation's territory was Tadoussac in? (3)
27. Dickason spends considerable time in this chapter explaining Mi'kmaq, French and British perspectives of land rights during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Quote a sentence from Dickason (pages 88-89) describing each of the following:
- How the Mi'kmaq understood their own land rights, after European contact.
 - How the French understood their own land rights in the area, contact to 1713.
 - How the British understood their own land rights in the area, after 1713. (3)

(If this question is on the exam, I won't expect a perfect direct quote but will expect it to be close enough that I know you have gotten your answer from this section of the reading.)

Chapter 7: People of the Sunrise

28. The Eastern Abenaki occupied a unique position between the British and the French in Acadia and New England. Both countries wanted the Abenaki as their allies, and at times the Abenaki were split between pro-British and pro-French factions.

Identify four reasons why the Abenaki at times considered the French more desirable allies. And/or, how did the French successfully attract or maintain this alliance? (4)

Identify four reasons why the Abenaki at times considered the British more desirable allies. And/or, how did the British successfully attract or maintain this alliance? (4)

Chapter 8: Hurons, Five Nations and Europeans

29. Dickason reports that by the mid-1640s, the Huron accounted for up to fifty per cent of the French fur trade. How were the Algonquins at Allumette Island involved in this trade? (1)

30. Up to the mid-1640s, what was the French practice regarding trade of firearms with the Huron? with the Abenaki? Who were the Iroquois trade partners during the first half of the seventeenth century, and did the Iroquois obtain firearms from them? (4)
31. Why did the Iroquois enter a peace agreement with the Huron and Algonquin in 1624? Why did it end suddenly in 1636? (2)
32. Where did the Hurons go when Huronia was abandoned in 1649? Give at least five answers. (5)
33. Dickason gives at least three major reasons for the Huron defeat. What are they? (3)

Chapter 9: Huronia's Loss is the Bay's Gain

34. What does Dickason mean: "Huron's Loss is the Bay's Gain"? Explain this chapter title in a few sentences. (3)
35. What is a "homeguard"? (1)
36. What were some of the most popular trade items in the Hudson Bay/James Bay trade during the late seventeenth century? Name at least five. (5)
37. Dickason gives examples of how the French and English sought or obtained permission to be in a new trade location, during the late 1600s. Describe briefly a case with the English and another with the French. Give at least three pieces of detailed information in each answer. (6)

Chapter 10: Some Amerindian-Colonial Wars

38. Dickason identifies the "Iroquois War" as the entire period from 1609 to 1701. What marked its beginning? What marked its end? Describe one significant period of peace during the war. Describe one significant campaign during the war. (The last two questions must be *outside* of the period 1641-1651 that we studied in class.) (4)
39. What did the French think of the Iroquois style of fighting? Give three examples of French impressions. (3)
40. Dickason describes Mi'kmaq-British relations that occurred around the founding of Halifax in 1749. How did the Mi'kmaq react? What was Governor Cornwallis' response? How did they secure peace? (3)
41. What does Dickason say was particularly unique about the Mi'kmaq War? (1)

Chapter 11: Amerindians in the French New World

42. Of all of the ways the French tried to maintain the loyalty and relationship with their Native allies, which does Dickason say was "most successful of all"? (1)
43. What level of success did early French school for Native students achieve? Why? (2)

44. What was Champlain's attitude toward intermarriage between the French and the Huron? Quote or paraphrase his words. (1) What was the Huron response to the idea of intermarriage with the French? Give at least three Huron opinions. (3)
45. What is Michif, and why does Dickason say that it is a "rare phenomenon"? (2)

Chapter 12: Amerindians in a Shifting World

46. Describe the first British treaty with the Native people of present-day Canada. Where was it signed? In what year? What Native nations were involved? Why does Dickason say it "broke new ground"? (4)
47. Identify at least three major complaints that Native people had with British administration just after 1760. (3)
48. Identify and describe the significance of the following:
- Belcher's Proclamation (2)
 - The Proclamation of 1763 (2)
 - The Haldimand Grant (2)
 - The Simcoe Deed (2)
49. What value does Dickason give for "wild" land in Upper Canada until about 1798? What price was generally paid (in cash or goods) for Indian land surrenders? (2)
50. How many land cessions were signed from 1815 and 1825? What land was covered by the surrenders during this period? (2)

Chapter 13: On the Great Plains

51. Dickason writes about the effect of horses on Northwest Plains culture. In terms of the timing of their introduction, she uses the Canadian example of the Blackfoot Confederacy. When did the Blackfoot begin to acquire horses? (1)
52. Identify five changes to Northwest Plains culture, as a result of the introduction of horses. (5)
53. Name the four nations of the Blackfoot Confederacy. (4)
54. The people of the Blackfoot Confederacy saw many newcomers on their land during this period. Identify four groups of newcomers, and describe their presence in Blackfoot territory in one sentence each. (You should give the date of their arrival, if it is stated in the text.) (4)

Chapter 14: Westward and Northward

55. In the rivalry between the Blackfoot and the Kutenai, both had something that the other wanted. What was the Kutenai "stock in trade"? What did the Blackfoot control that the Kutenai wanted? (2)

56. What kind of fur was the first major trade staple on the B.C. coast? (1)
57. Dickason describes the Northwest Coast trade from 1785 to 1825. How many trade ships are estimated to have come during this period? What countries did they come from (name three)? What proportion of ships made only one visit? (5)
58. Describe the incident between the Haida Chief Koyah and Captain Kendrick. Give at least three points of detail. (3)

Chapter 15: Turntable of 1812-14

59. What does Dickason mean by the “turntable of 1812-24”? Explain this chapter title in a few sentences. (1)
60. Who was Tenskwatawa? When did he live, what name was he popularly known as, and what was his message? (3)
61. Dickason introduces four men in this chapter named Matthew Elliott, Mascotopah or Robert Dickson, Alexander McKee and Simon Girty. What similarity does she draw between them/what trend is illustrating with these examples? (1) Pick one of the men and give three details about his life. (3)
62. Identify three battles in the War of 1812 in which Native forces fought. (Give the name of the battle, year, and its outcome). (3)

Chapter 16: Canadian Aboriginal World in the Early Nineteenth Century

63. Dickason chronicles the experience of the Inuvialuit people of the western Arctic during the period of European whaling (1820-1900). Describe this experience, giving at least five details. (5)

N.B. While Dickason says that the Inuvialuit “disappeared,” there are many people who identify Inuvialuit ancestry today. Many of these people are of mixed Alaskan Inuit and Inuvialuit descent. (See the work of Dr. David Morrison, Canadian Museum of Civilization.)

64. The text’s discussion of early nineteenth century Native experience in the Maritimes focuses on loss of land. As an example, describe the state of Native land in PEI after 1767. When was Lennox Island set aside as a reserve? Who purchased it for the Mi’kmaq? (3)
65. Several “model villages” were established in Upper Canada for Native people in the early nineteenth century. Name three of these villages. (3) What was the British “model,” that is, identify two similarities among these villages and the “model” Native lifestyle they encouraged. (2)
66. James Douglas, who was the Chief Factor at Victoria and then Governor of Vancouver Island and British Columbia, is a debated figure in Native history. Some portray him as a colonial champion of Native rights, and others disagree. Give two points on each side of this debate. (4)

Chapter 17: Pre-Confederation Administration in the Canadas

67. Identify at least eight recommendations of the Bagot Commission, a government study of Indian Affairs in 1842-44. (8)
68. Dickason describes three changes to eligibility for “Indian status” in late 1851. What were these three changes? (3)
69. What is enfranchisement? When was it first implemented? What was the Native reaction? (3)
70. What general area is covered by the Robinson Treaties of 1850? Describe the treaties’ main clauses (name at least four). (5)

Chapter 18: The Many Fronts within Confederation

71. State the significance to this course of section 91(24) of the *British North America Act*? (1)
72. State the significance to this course of the “Trutch cut-offs.” (Dickason doesn’t use this term specifically but she gives enough information to figure it out. Consider: Who was Trutch? What province is relevant? How did his idea of Indian land differ from his predecessor, James Douglas? What did he “adjust” or “cut off”? (1)
73. How did the rest of Canada respond to Louis Riel after the Red River Rebellion – specifically, what does Dickason’s say were Ontario and Quebec’s general attitudes, respectively? (2) Dickason describes some of Riel’s actions from 1870 to 1874. Identify at least two things he did during this period as described in the text. (2)

Chapter 19: First Numbered Treaties, Police and the Indian Act

74. What are the Numbered Treaties: How many are there? When were the first and last Numbered Treaties signed? In a word or two description, what part of the Canada do they cover? (4)
75. In the negotiation of Treaty One, what Native proposal did the Treaty Commissioners, Adams Archibald and Wemyss Simpson, consider “preposterous”? What did they offer instead? (2)
76. What four factors does Dickason point to in explaining “the growing instability in the West” in the 1870s. (Hint: she uses this exact phrase in the textbook when she cites these factors.) (4)
77. In 1876, Sioux Chief Sitting Bull and approximately 4,000 of his followers came to Canada. What happened to Sitting Bull? How many Sioux people stayed in Canada? What is their role in Canada today in terms of treaties, Indian status, and reserves? (5)

Chapter 20: As the Old Way Fades, the New Looks Bleak

78. What was the St. Laurent council? Who was its leader? When was it established, and (in a sentence) why? When was it disbanded, and (in a sentence) why? (4)
79. Pages 277 and 278 of the textbook have images of four Plains Chiefs: Maskepetoon (Broken Arm), Sweetgrass, Piapot and Big Bear. Identify at least two significant details about each of these Chiefs from the chapter. (8)
80. Identify at least three ways that Native people on the Plains responded to the food shortages from 1876 to 1884. (3)

Chapter 21: Times of Trouble, Times of Repression

81. Dickason begins the chapter by pointing out several important differences between the two Riel Rebellions, in 1869-70 and 1885. Name five of these differences. (5)
82. Dickason gives a brief description of the major events of the Northwest Rebellion in 1885. Give at least two significant details about each of the following events:
 - Duck Lake
 - Frog Lake
 - Fish Creek
 - Cutknife Hill
 - Batoche
 - Frenchman's Butte (12)
83. What kinds of punishments and restrictions did the Cree experience as a result of the rebellion? Name at least three types of punishment or restriction. (3)
84. Who are the "Canadian Cree"? (1)

Chapter 22: Leading to an Administrative Shift

85. Where is the former reserve of the Pahpahstayo (Passpasschasse) Band? (1)
86. Who was Francis Pegahmagabow? (1)
87. Dickason says the 1951 *Indian Act* was the "dawn of a new era." What were six significant changes in this act from its predecessor? (6)
88. What is Bill C-31? (1)

Chapter 23: Canadian Courts and Aboriginal Rights

89. What does the word usufructuary mean? (It's not well explained in your text. Consult a good dictionary if you need to.) (1)

90. What was the final decision about the nature of Indian title in Canada's first Aboriginal rights case, *St. Catherine's Milling* (1888)? (For the final decision, you need to look to the final court of appeal at the time, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.) (1)
91. *Baker Lake* (1980) was a landmark case in re-defining Aboriginal title. What four criteria make up the "test" for Aboriginal title, according to Baker Lake? (4)
92. What was the significance of the *Sparrow* decision (1987)? (1)

Chapter 24: First Nations at Home and Abroad

93. Who was Daskeheh? Identify at least one significant thing that he did, as described by the text. (2)
94. Identify two times that the Mohawks of Kahnawake blocked the Mercier Bridge, a major traffic artery onto the island of Montreal, and why. (2)
95. Did more people in Canada identify as Métis in 1941 or 1981?

Chapter 25: Development Heads North

96. What type of beads were valued by the Gwich'in of the Mackenzie River basin, and why? (2)
97. Dickason writes about the *Unorganized Territories Game Preservation Act* of 1894. Consider both the government and Native perspectives. What rules did the government establish in the area? (Name three.) What particular animal resource did Native people of the area need, which was seasonally restricted by the act? (4)
98. What was the first reserve created in the Northwest Territories? In what year was it established? (2)
99. Regarding Inuit experience of non-Native contact and government control, what does Dickason identify as a significant event of each of the following years: 1903? 1924? 1939? (3)

Chapter 26: Social Fact and Developmental Theory

100. Who coined the phrase "citizens plus"? When (what decade)? What did it mean? (3)
101. What were the major proposals of the 1969 White Paper? (1)
102. What is the difference between a "specific claim" and a "comprehensive claim"? (Your answer should define each term.) (2)
103. Give a brief overview of the claim of the Lubicon Lake Cree. Provide at least five details about the history of the Lubicon land, or the history of the claim, protests, or attempts at settlement. (5)

Chapter 27: Rocky Road to Self-Government

104. What were the terms of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement of 1975. (Give at least four points of detail.) (4)
105. Identify the following people, giving at least three significant points about each. (9)
- Elijah Harper
 - Paul Okalik
 - Johnny Bob (Robert) Smallboy
106. What is the subject of the 1990 National Film Board film *Hunters and Bombers*? (1)

Chapter 28: Coercion, Standoffs, an Agreement, and a Royal Commission

107. What is RCAP? (1)
108. Identify at least three Native communities that have been affected by a government relocation project during the twentieth century. (You can get your answers from this chapter or chapter 26.) (3)
109. Identify the following people, giving at least three significant points about each. (9)
- Jones William ('Wolverine') Ignace
 - Dudley George
 - Joe Gosnell
110. What percentage of the people working for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada are Native (as of 2000)? What is the comparable figure for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the United States (as of 1992)? (2)