



Canada: present challenges and past perspectives

What can the archives show us about environmental science, exploration, indigenous representation, and infrastructure?

Colonies, exploration, and settlement

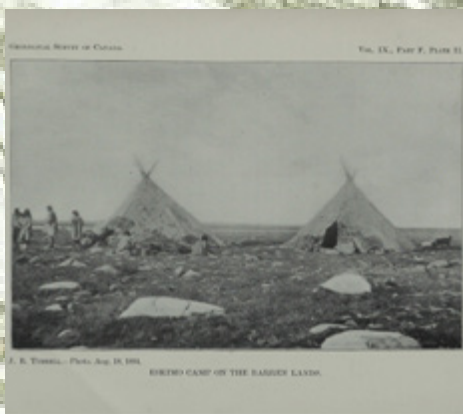
The history of colonialism and European settlement in Canada is documented through maps and atlases that capture changes in territory, colonies, town development, and place names. These resources trace Canada's evolution from an indigenous homeland to periods of French and British rule, and to its independence in 1867. Our archives offer a glimpse into the shifting sovereignty, population dynamics, and geography that have shaped the nation over time.

WHAT RESOURCES CAN RESEARCHERS FIND ON WILEY DIGITAL ARCHIVES?



Starting with the 1763 Treaty of Paris, New France formally became a part of the British Empire. This 1823 map depicts Canada as part of the British Empire. Created by William Faden, the geographer to the King of England, it documents the development of new settlements and townships.

A Map of the Located Districts in the Province of Upper Canada, Describing all the New Settlements (...), *Map, America, Div. North*, 1823. Source: *Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)*



In 1897, 20 years after Canada gained independence, J. Burr Tyrrell, Canadian geologist, cartographer, mining consultant and historian, wrote this report on the country's geology and resources. His two-year exploration includes interactions with local indigenous guides who assisted him in navigating the region.

Report on the Doobaunt Kazan and Ferguson Rivers and (...), J. Burr Tyrrell, *University of Glasgow, Lord Kelvin Monographs*, 1897. Source: *British Association for the Advancement of Science archive*

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Canada. A. G. McArthur, *Lantern Slides*, n.d. Source: *Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)*

Confronting Environmental Concerns

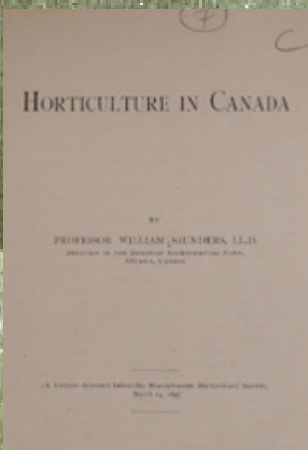
Canada's plan to curb climate change focuses on carbon pollution pricing, monitoring greenhouse gas emissions, developing a federal sustainability strategy, protecting biodiversity, and more. Rising temperatures have led to longer summers, shorter winters, and an increase in extreme events like wildfires and floods, impacting the nation's economy. As a result, environmental science has become more critical than ever to mitigate challenges and secure a sustainable future.

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Hudson Bay's shifting land, documented through accounts and surveys, reveals the impact of isostatic rebound, sea level changes, and the long-term consequences of these processes on ecosystems and human structures.

Is the Land around Hudson Bay at Present Rising? J. Burr Tyrrell, *University of Glasgow, Lord Kelvin Monographs*, 1896. Source: *British Association for the Advancement of Science*



What did horticultural progress look like in Canada in 1898? A manuscript describes the Fruit Growers' Association, the impact of climate, and even the deliberate sowing of non-native plants and vegetables in Canada as well as their reactions to the environment.

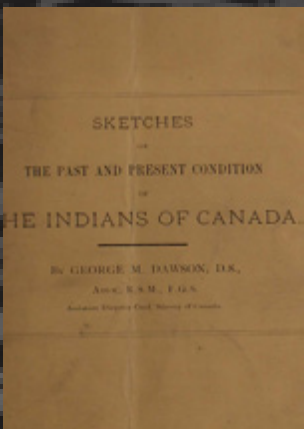
Horticulture in Canada, William Saunders, *University of Glasgow, Lord Kelvin Monographs*, 1898. Source: *British Association for the Advancement of Science*

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Indigenous Rights and Challenges

The Constitution Act of 1982 recognizes three distinct groups of Indigenous Peoples in Canada: First Nations, Inuit, and Métis. According to the 2021 Canadian Census, the Indigenous population consists of 1.8 million individuals, accounting for 5% of the national population. Despite legal protections, Indigenous communities continue to face significant challenges, including systemic inequities, health disparities, and cultural erosion.

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Explorer and geographer George Mercer Dawson looks at Algonkin, Hurons, Iroquets, and Iriquois histories through a late 19th-century lens. An early advocate for indigenous rights, Dawson exposed unfair parameters regarding the government purchase of indigenous lands.

Sketches of the past and Present Condition of the Indians of Canada
George Mercer Dawson, *Pamphlets*, n.d. Source: *Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)*



Featured here are members of the Blackfoot tribe, including Winnipeg Jack, or Dog Child, who gained recognition for tracking horse thieves that moved stolen livestock across the US-Canadian border. The most mysterious aspect of his life is his possession of a Japanese katana, which has sparked intrigue about how it was acquired.

Canada, A. G. McArthur, *Lantern Slides, Canada*, n.d. Source: *Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)*

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Metis, *William Buller Fagg Collection, Box 93*, n.d.
Source: *The Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland*

Science, industry and infrastructure

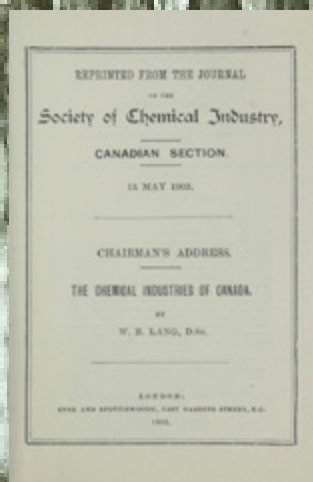
In the 19th and early 20th century, the vast and challenging landscapes of Canada—characterized by rugged terrain, dense forests, and harsh winters—posed obstacles for European settlers. Advances in science, engineering, and infrastructure transformed the country, enabling the harnessing of its immense natural resources. The development of railways and canals were monumental achievements that connected remote regions, facilitated trade, and supported economic development.

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The first railway in Canada, Champlain and St. Lawrence Railroad, began construction in Spring 1835. This 1910 map of a railway system in Canada shows how far-reaching the railroad had become, stretching from Vancouver to Nova Scotia. This had a tremendous impact for the movement of people and resources in Canada.

Canadian Northern Railway and the railway systems of Canada, *Map, America, Div. North*, 1910. Source: *Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)*



During the 19th and 20th centuries, Canada became one of the world's largest producers of asbestos, used widely in construction at the time. Additionally, salt deposits were mined for both industrial and domestic use. Canada's abundant mineral wealth, including metals like gold, nickel, copper, and iron, were all of interest to the 1903 Chemical Industries of Canada report.

The Chemical Industries of Canada, W. R. Lang, *University of Glasgow, Lord Kelvin Monographs*, 1903. Source: *British Association for the Advancement of Science*

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Canada. A. G. McArthur, *Lantern Slides*, n.d.
Source: *Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)*