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# INDIGENOUS CANADA

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## HIS 262S: #3 Indigenous Civilizations: Canada Before 1500

Worldviews, Systems of Knowledge and Histories

Professor Heidi Bohaker

Logo University Alberta MOOC for course of same title.

# What do you know?

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- ▶ And why don't you know more?



# Canada's Indigeneity is all around us

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- ▶ Canada
- ▶ Quebec
- ▶ Ontario
  - ▶ Toronto (Tkaronto) – where there are trees in the water (NOT meeting place) – actually Narrows (Mnjikaning)
  - ▶ Spadina
  - ▶ Oshawa
  - ▶ Etobicoke
  - ▶ Mississauga
- ▶ Manitoba
- ▶ Saskatchewan
- ▶ Nunavut



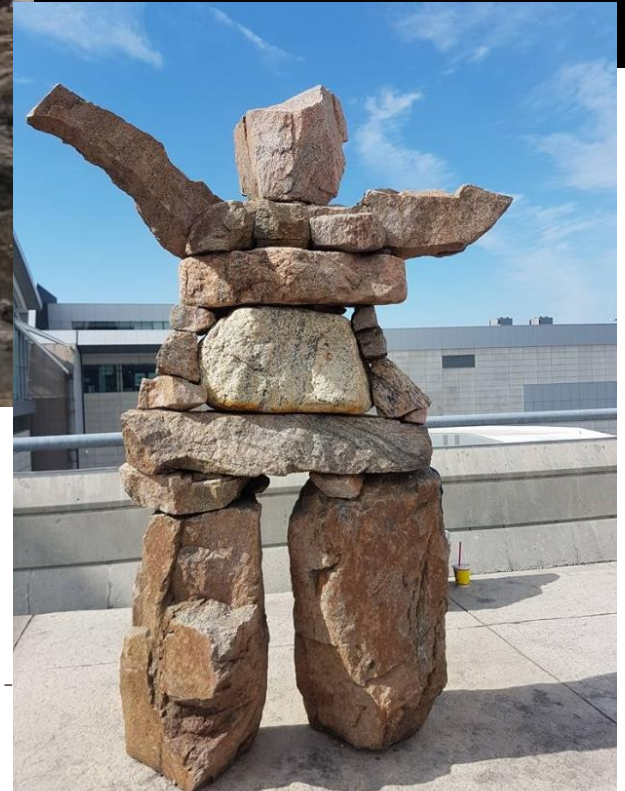
# Inukshuk or Inunguat?

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An inukshuk stands outside in Iqaluit, Nunavut (CBC),  
Right: At Pearson Airport: the wrong message.

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# In the beginning...

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► Haudeonsaunee Creation Story, Onondaga Historical Society



Bannerstone from Ohio



Birdstone head ROM



Bannerstone: Michigan, ca. 4800 B.C. Banded Slate, h. 12.7 cm. Steve and Susan Hart Collection Hunting, Indiana (cat. 5/G21894). Art institute of Chicago.

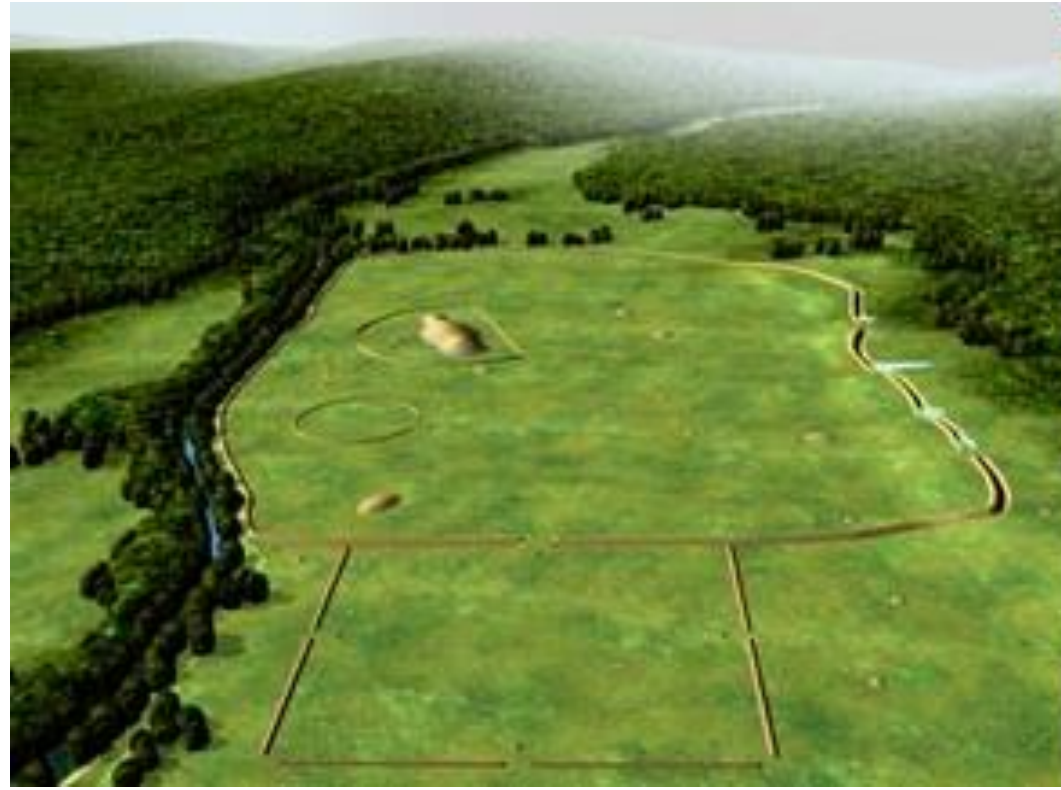












Newark Ohio, 1700 BP





Hopewell: Claw, AD 100-400,  
Field Museum, Chicago

Left & above: Ohio Historical  
Society







Serpent Mound, at Serpent Mounds Park, National Historic Site (Hiawatha First Nation)

Hopewell Influence



A solid red vertical bar is positioned on the left side of the slide, partially enclosed by a thin red rectangular border.

# Art Shaped by Stories

And Stories Teach How to Live



Curious Raven, coaxing humans to emerge from a clam shell.

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- The Raven and the First Men, cedar sculpture by Bill Reid.





Cultivation comes in many forms: clam garden, Gulf Island National Park Reserve

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# Indigenous Civilizations: Canada Before 1500

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- ▶ Ancient: in the Americas to 35,000 years ago, and in what is now Canada, confirmed to 15,000 years ago.
- ▶ Diverse
- ▶ Expanded definition of personhood
- ▶ Humans not central actors
- ▶ Polities sustained through exchange and alliance networks
- ▶ Alliances defined relationships of mutual care: becoming a relative, obligations of kin
- ▶ Autonomy, independence, yet idea of shared jurisdictions – a negotiated place
- ▶ Philosophies, histories, beliefs evident in expressive culture



## Northwest Coast



UBC Museum of Anthropology

Left: House pole, Above: Bentwood box

Both Haida.



Haida Feast Bowl, 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> C.







## Plains Beaded Saddle







## Northeast & Great Lakes







# Reconciliation and the work of history

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- ▶ The subtle ways in which language colours our judgement.
- ▶ “By the sixteenth century, [Europeans] certainly enjoyed a degree of technological advantage in specific areas such as gunpowder and ships. Still, Aboriginal peoples were clearly better adapted to their terrain and climate.”
  - ▶ Colin Coates, “Introduction” *Visions* Modules in Canadian history.











1981 Protests on Parliament Hill



**MEMBERS OF THE LAND COMMITTEE OF THE NISHGA TRIBE.**

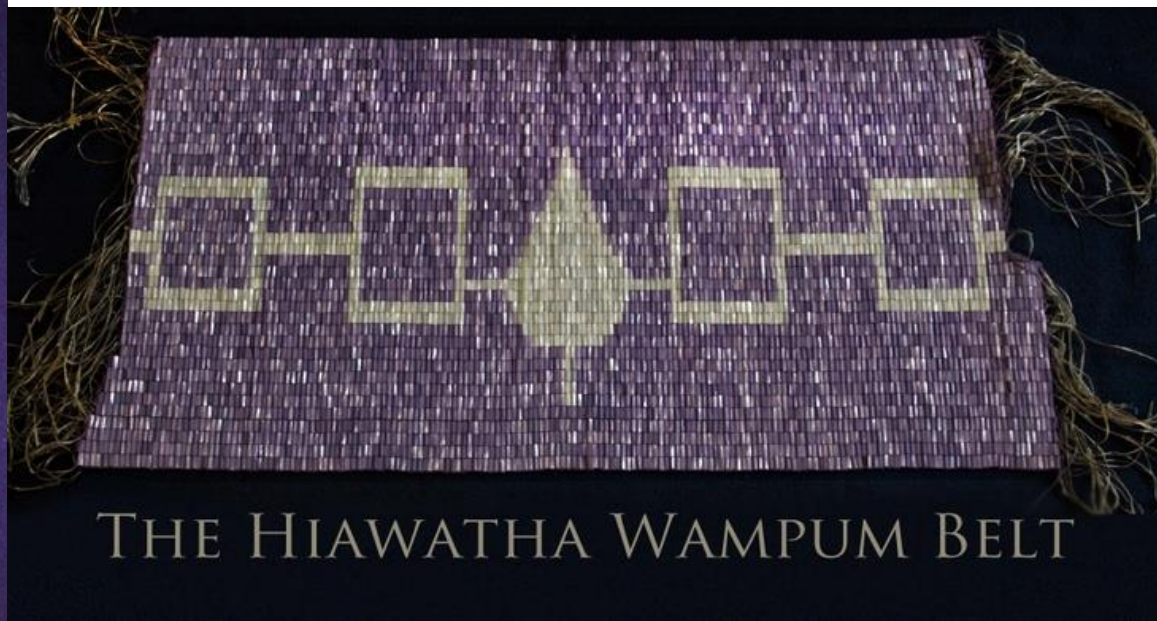
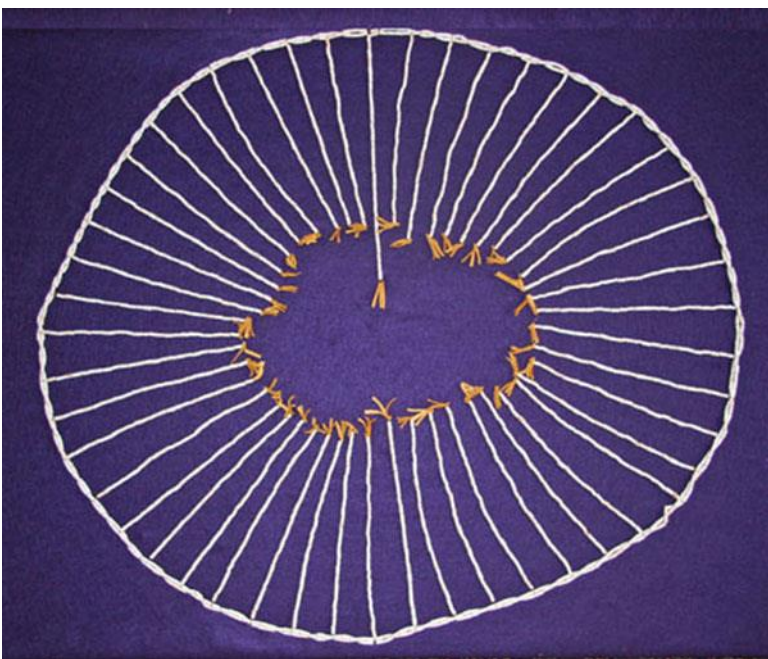
**Photograph taken at Aiyansh, Naas River, upon occasion of a meeting of the Tribe held there in October, 1913.**





Chiefs Chingwackonce (Little Pine), Nabunagosing (The Eclipse) and Menissinowenninne (The Great Warrior) in Montreal to present a petition to Gov. Gen. Lord Elgin, in early July 1849, demanding that their rights be respected and the government engage in a treaty process.





THE HIAWATHA WAMPUM BELT

