

NOTE HOW ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS GIVEN IN SMALL BOXES

CHAPTER 1: CANADA'S ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

THE ORIGINS OF CANADA'S ABORIGINAL PEOPLES:

A long time ago North America was connected to Asia by a narrow strip of land and ice called the Bering Strait. This land bridge stretched from Asia to northern Alaska. We believe the ancestors of Canada's aboriginal peoples walked across the Bering Strait from Asia to North America. The general name of these people is Athabascans. Their languages are of the Athabaskan family of languages. Athabascans today live in the subarctic. This area covers northern British Columbia, the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Alaska. In the Northwest Territories they are known as the Dene, meaning "people" or "men" in their language.

There are also Cree peoples living in parts of the subarctic. The Cree speak Algonquin languages.

Once the ice began melting over Canada around 10 000 years ago, many Athabascans travelled south along the Pacific coast as far as Navaho and Apache country in the United States (these peoples speak related Athabaskan languages).

The Environment

THE SUBARCTIC:

The first environment Canada's aboriginal peoples encounter after crossing the Bering Strait is a subarctic one. This is a very harsh environment. Winters are very long and cold while



The Pleistocene Epoch:

Between 1.6 million and 10 000 years ago much of the Earth was covered in ice. The sea level dropped by 300 feet. This created a land and ice bridge between Siberia and Alaska. People and animals were able to cross into North America.



NOTE COOL GRAPHICS AND ILLUSTRATIONS!