History of Toronto

The **history of Toronto, Ontario, Canada** begins several millennia ago. Archaeological finds in the area have found artifacts of First Nations settlements dating back several thousand years.

The Wyandot people were likely the first group to live in the area, followed by the Iroquois. When Europeans first came to Toronto, they found a small village known as Teiaiagon on the banks of the Humber River.

Between visits by European explorers, the village was abandoned by the Iroquois, who moved south of Lake Ontario and the Mississaugas, a branch of the Ojibwa settled along the north shore of the lake.

The French first set up trading posts in the area, including Fort Rouillé in 1750, which they abandoned as the British conquered French North America. In 1788, the British negotiated the first treaty to take possession of the Toronto area from the Mississaugas. After the United States War of Independence, the area north of Lake Ontario was held by the British who set up the province of Upper Canada in 1791.

See also: Name of Toronto

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:DavenportBathurstSoutheast.jpg

Davenport Road, as shown here in 1914, does not follow Toronto's standard street grid pattern, as it originated as a First Nations travel route between the Humber River and the Don Valley named Gete-Onigaming, Ojibwe for "at the old portage."[1]

Toronto is located on the northern shore of Lake Ontario, and was originally a term of indeterminate geographical location, designating the approximate area of the future city of Toronto on maps dating to the late 17th and early 18th century. Eventually, the name was anchored to the mouth of the Humber River, the end of the Toronto Carrying-Place Trail portage route from Georgian Bay; this is where the city of Toronto is located today.

There are several explanations for the source and meaning of the name "Toronto". One claim is that the origin is the Seneca word *Giyando*, meaning "on the other side", which was the place where the Humber River narrows at the foot of the pass to the village of Teiaiagon. Another is that the term is from the Mohawk word *tkaronto* meaning "where there are trees standing in the water", which could refer to either Toronto Bay (Toronto Harbour) or Lake Simcoe, Lake Simcoe being at one time known as Lake Toronto. As the portage route grew in use, the name became more widely used and was eventually attached to a French trading fort just inland from Lake Ontario on the Humber.

Part of this confusion can be attributed to the succession of peoples who lived in the area during the 17th century and before: the Neutral, Seneca, Mohawk, Cayuga and Wendat nations.[2]

The Mississaugas arrived in the late 17th or early 18th century, driving out the occupying Iroquois,[3][4] and settling along the Lake Ontario shore, including the Port Credit area.