

BLACKLINE MASTER 4-7

Epidemics

In the table below you will find some estimates of the First Nations population over time. Graph the figures to give a strong visual representation of the effects of epidemics and other diseases on the population.

British Columbia First Nations Population, 1835–1963				
	1835	1885	Low Year	1963
Haida	6,000	800	588 (1915)	1,224
Gitksan, Nisga'a, Tsimshian	3,000	4,550	3,550 (1895)	6,475
Kwakwaka'wakw	10,700	3,000	1,854 (1929)	4,304
Nuu-chah-nulth	7,500	3,500	1,605 (1939)	2,899
Nuxalk	2,000	450	249 (1929)	536
Coast Salish	12,000	5,525	4,120 (1915)	8,495
Interior Salish	13,500	5,800	5,348 (1890)	9,512
Ktunaxa	1,000	625	381 (1939)	443
Athapaskan	8,800	3,750	3,716 (1895)	6,912
Total	70,000	28,000	22,605 (1929)	40,800

Source: Wilson Duff, *The Indian History of British Columbia, Volume 1. The Impact of the White Man*. British Columbia Provincial Museum, Victoria, 1965.

Note on validity of statistics:

It is very difficult to find accurate population figures, especially before 1881 when the first Canadian census was carried out in British Columbia. Early dates are estimates at best, based on figures gathered by the Hudson's Bay Company and others. Early census figures are not considered accurate, as often people who were out on the land were not counted when the census taker came by.

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Four Transforming Factors

Transforming Factor	Evidence of Impact on First Nations Societies			
	Resources and Economy	Leadership and Governance	Oral Traditions and Spiritual Practices	Demographics (Population)
Iron and guns. The impact of European trade goods.				
Epidemics. The impact of disease on First Nations societies.				
Children of the fur trade. The impact of the contributions of First Nations women.				
Changing settlements. The impact of trading forts on settlement patterns.				