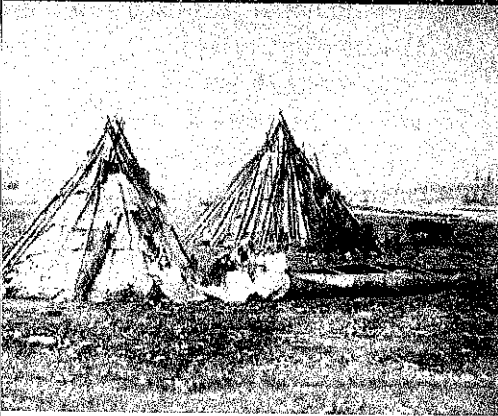


What was life like in Acadia?

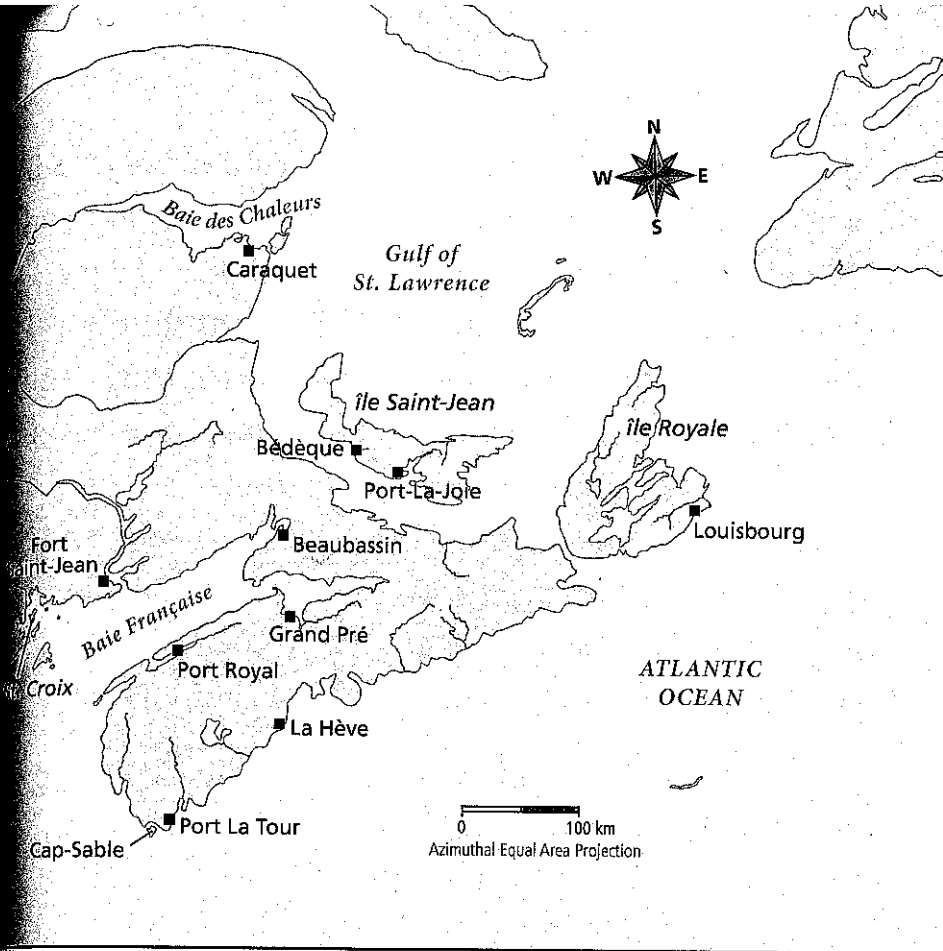


▲ A typical Acadian home, around 1750. Acadians lived in permanent communities and farmed the land.

▲ A Mi'kmaq camp, Sydney, Nova Scotia, 1857. In spring and fall, the people of this camp migrated between Nova Scotia and the island of Newfoundland.

France had another colony in North America—Acadia. This colony was located in what are now Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick, where Luc's ancestors settled. French newcomers arrived in the area beginning in 1604. First Nations, such as the Mi'kmaq and Maliseet peoples, had lived in the area from early times.

The Acadians and the Mi'kmaq had different lifestyles. The Acadians tried to make their communities like the ones they had left behind in France, with farms and permanent homes.



▲ Communities in Acadia, around 1700

This map shows some of the larger communities in Acadia around 1700. Why might the Acadians have chosen such locations?

They hunted, fished, and farmed to support themselves. They also began to trade with British newcomers living in what is now New England. The Mi'kmaq continued to live a migratory life according to traditional ways, hunting and fishing throughout the region.

For 150 years, the Acadians and the Mi'kmaq and Maliseet lived together as allies. They traded together, and the Acadians respected the First Nations' territories and hunting areas, which were throughout Acadia.

The British Expel the Acadians

In 1713, France and Britain signed the Treaty of Utrecht to end a war in Europe. As part of the treaty agreement, control of Acadia was given to the British.

expel to forcibly remove a person or people from a place

LEARNING TIP

When you look at art of historical scenes, ask yourself, "What does the artist want me to feel?" Compare this feeling with the facts you know to discover whether the artist is biased—for or against one side or person.

In the early 1750s, the British governor of Acadia worried that the Acadians would take the French side if another war broke out. He wanted the Acadians to swear that they would fight for the British in any war—even against the French or the Mi'kmaq.

As you read in Luc's story, the Acadians refused to swear the oath. In 1755, Britain began to **expel** them from their land. Around 11 000 people were forced from their homes and sent away by boat. Some went back to France if they could, but many were scattered among the British colonies.

▼ This engraving from the 1800s shows the Acadians preparing to board the British ships. What do you see that suggests how big the operation might have been? How do you think the Acadians might have felt?



About 4000 settled in Louisiana, which is now part of the southern United States.


After 1763, some Acadians managed to return to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. They found that their farms had been taken over by British farmers, so they turned to fishing and forestry to make a living.



◀ Grand-Pré National Historic Site, in Nova Scotia. The statue is of Evangeline, a fictional Acadian woman who was the subject of a popular poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The poem, published in 1847, is called *Evangeline, A Tale of Acadie*. This tragic story is set during the expulsion of the Acadians.

Thinking It Through

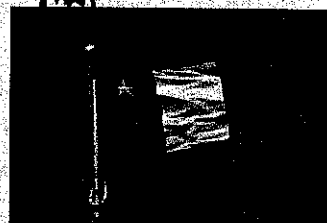
Key Ideas

1. What reasons can you give for the peaceful relationship between the Acadians and the First Nations? 
2. Why did the British expel the Acadians? Explain whether you think this was a valid reason from the points of view of the Acadians and the British.

Thinking Critically

3. For what reasons, if any, do you think nations or armies might have just cause to uproot the lives of civilians, just as the British uprooted the Acadians? Explain your answer.

Acadia Today



The Acadian culture still flourishes throughout the world. More than 96 000 people identify themselves as Acadian. This is the Acadian flag.