
**FIRST NATIONS:
OTTAWA, OJIBWE, POTAWATOMI,
AND THE HURON/WYANDOT**

The Great Lakes region was the traditional land of many indigenous tribes, including the Ottawa, Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and the Wyandot. The Wendat tribe was believed to have migrated to Southern Ontario and Michigan in the early eighteenth century, and it was then that the migrants changed their name to the Wyandot.

The early Aboriginal groups of the area lived a hunter-gatherer lifestyle, relying on the local population of animals and fish for food and clothing. This included beaver, deer, and other fur pelts, which were used both by the indigenous populations themselves and as a trading commodity with European settlers.

Women in these tribes, particularly the Ojibwe, were often heavily involved in healing, spiritual practices, and tribal governance. In later years, the indigenous populations in Southern Ontario and Michigan had close personal and commercial ties with the French colonists that populated the area on both sides of the Detroit River, and they commuted across the river regularly.

However, the colonial settlers greatly influenced the lifestyles of the indigenous populations in the Great Lakes region. Upon later British expansion, Aboriginal lands were put under land treaties. In most cases, these treaties meant that the amount of land on which the indigenous populations may live and hunt was greatly diminished.

The majority of southern Ontario became covered under the McKee Purchase of 1790 or Treaty 35 of 1833.
