

THE PEOPLE

Canada's estimated population as of April 1, 1968, was 20,700,000.

Over two-fifths is of British stock. French-speaking descendants of the original French colonists constitute about 30 per cent. The rest are of other origins.

Because the French retained their language, culture and traditions after the British conquest of Quebec, French Canada has a distinct cultural life of its own. Most French-speaking Canadians live in Quebec, but there are also many in other parts of the country, notably New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba.

The English-speaking population has increased mainly by immigration from the British Isles and the United States. More than 3.6 million are of Scottish and Irish descent; many others are descended from the thousands of American colonists who moved into Canada at the time of the American Revolution (1776-1783).

The early European immigrants to Canada, other than those of French and British origin, settled mainly in the Prairie Provinces; more recently they have settled in all the provinces. The third largest ethnic group in Canada are the Germans. Other large groups are the Ukrainians, Italians, Scandinavians, Netherlanders and Poles.

The native peoples of Canada, the Indians and Eskimos, comprise only 1.2 per cent of the population. There are 230,997 Indians, 74 per cent of whom live on government reserves occupying nearly 6 million acres. Canada's 15,854 Eskimos live in the Northwest Territories, northern Quebec and Labrador.

Almost 74 per cent of Canada's population lives in urban areas concentrated within 100 miles of the United States border.