

to east as far as Greenland, but confined themselves to the far north. A number of Indian groups were scattered throughout the rest of the country.

Historically, a European consciousness of Canada began to form by the end of the fifteenth century. Heading an English expedition, John Cabot claimed Newfoundland and the east coast of Canada in the name of King Henry VII of England in 1497. However, it was Jacques Cartier, from St. Malo, France, who in 1534 sailed up the St. Lawrence River as far as the Indian village of Hochelaga, the present site of Montreal. While he failed to find the passage to Asia he was seeking, he opened the interior of Canada to French fur traders and colonizers.



The English and French became rivals in the gradual conquest of those parts of North America not claimed by the Spanish. In 1608, Samuel de Champlain established his "habitation" in what is now Quebec City, to lay the roots of French Canada. In 1610, Henry Hudson gave his name to the huge bay in northern Canada. From here the Hudson's Bay Company of "adventurers of England" would later begin a vigorous competition with the French for control of the fur trade with the Indians. While the English moved north