

READING LOG #3

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The Beothuk First Nations of Newfoundland had their lives completely changed when the Europeans arrived on the island many centuries ago. Before the Europeans intruded the island, the Beothuk peoples had a solid culture and way of life. They survived off the wilderness, hunting and gathering for their food and supplies. The majority of prehistoric Beothuk sites are found along stretches of coastline that allowed them to exploit the resources of both the near shore and the interior of the island.¹ The coast allowed them to hunt and gather seal, fish, polar bears and mussels. Whereas the interior provided them with caribou, bear, beaver, artic hare, ducks, berries and other vegetation. With substantial amounts of goods to allow the Beothuk to live, they were happy on their own.

The arrival of the Europeans wreaked the way of life that the Beothuk had been living. Not wanting to interact, encounter or establish trade relationships with the euros, the Beothuks started to migrate away from the coast where the Europeans were arriving, essentially, forcing the Beothuks to the interior of the island. Both parties weren't interested in setting up a trading relationship due to different economic objectives and they both knew they were capable to collect their own goods required to live.

As one might think, the Europeans invading the Beothuks land wasn't a popular topic with the Beothuks. The Beothuks responded similarly to the deprivations against them- the seizure of their land and resources- with destruction and violence of their own.² The battle was on, the Beothuk began challenging the Europeans rather than fleeing from it. It became very gruesome and violent, leading to the death of many Beothuks because of the lack of weapons. Sadly enough, the numbers of Native Beothuks soon dropped, and according to Holly, they were actively negotiating within their historical situation- even on the eve of their extinction.³

¹ Ralph Pastore, "The Collapse of the Beothuk World," *Acadiensis* 19: 1 (Fall 1989), pp. 53

² Donald Holly, "The Beothuk on the Eve of Their Extinction," *Arctic Anthropology* 37: 1 (2000), pp. 87

³ Donald Holly, "The Beothuk on the Eve of Their Extinction," *Arctic Anthropology* 37: 1 (2000), pp. 91