

Nation vs. State

Important Definitions

Nation: a large group of people sharing the same culture, language, or history, and inhabiting a particular geographic area.

State: a defined territory with clear borders and institutions considered as an organized political unit under one government.

FYI

"First Nations" is a term proposed in the 1970s to replace "Indian," which was considered offensive. Although widely used, there is no legal definition of the term. It can refer to the Indian peoples in Canada, Status and non-Status. Some Indian peoples have also adopted the term "First Nation" to replace the word "band" in the name of their community.

"Indian" is a legal term in Canada. It means a person who, pursuant to the Indian Act is registered as an Indian or is entitled to be registered as an Indian.