# **Jacques Cartier: Discoverer of Canada**

Jacques Cartier was a French explorer who made three voyages to North America in the 16th century. He is best known for discovering the St. Lawrence River and for claiming the land for France. Cartier's voyages were important in the early history of Canada, and he is considered one of the country's founding fathers.

#### Early life and career

Jacques Cartier was born in Saint-Malo, France, in 1491. He was the son of a fisherman, and he grew up to become a skilled sailor. In 1520, Cartier was commissioned by the French king, Francis I, to lead an expedition to North America. Cartier's goal was to find a northwest passage to Asia.





#### First voyage

Cartier's first voyage departed from Saint-Malo in April 1534. He sailed west across the Atlantic Ocean and reached the coast of Newfoundland in July. Cartier explored the coast of Newfoundland and then sailed south into

the Gulf of St. Lawrence. He entered the St. Lawrence River in September and sailed up the river as far as the present-day city of Quebec.

Cartier spent the winter of 1534-1535 at Stadacona, a Huron village located on the site of present-day Quebec City. During the winter, Cartier met with the local Huron and Iroquois Indians. He also explored the surrounding area and claimed the land for France.

#### Second voyage

Cartier's second voyage departed from Saint-Malo in May 1535. He sailed west across the Atlantic Ocean and reached the coast of Newfoundland in July. Cartier then sailed south into the Gulf of St. Lawrence and up the St. Lawrence River. He reached the present-day city of Montreal in October.

Cartier spent the winter of 1535-1536 at Hochelaga, a Huron village located on the site of present-day Montreal. During the winter, Cartier met with the local Huron and Iroquois Indians. He also explored the surrounding area and claimed the land for France.

### Third voyage

Cartier's third voyage departed from Saint-Malo in May 1541. He sailed west across the Atlantic Ocean and reached the coast of Newfoundland in July. Cartier then sailed south into the Gulf of St. Lawrence and up the St. Lawrence River. He reached the present-day city of Quebec in September.

Cartier spent the winter of 1541-1542 at Charlesbourg-Royal, a fort that he built on the site of present-day Quebec City. During the winter, Cartier explored the surrounding area and claimed the land for France. He also met with the local Huron and Iroquois Indians.

### Legacy

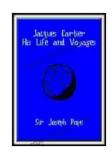
Jacques Cartier's voyages were important in the early history of Canada. He discovered the St. Lawrence River and claimed the land for France. Cartier's voyages helped to open up North America to European exploration and settlement.

Cartier is considered one of the founding fathers of Canada. He is remembered for his courage, his determination, and his spirit of adventure. Cartier's legacy lives on in the many places in Canada that bear his name, including the Cartier Bridge in Montreal and the Jacques Cartier National Park in Quebec.



## Bibliography

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