

MÉTIS CULTURE • THE FUR TRADE 1600–1700 • A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A MÉTIS VOYAGEUR • Activities from the Métis Education Kit Teacher's Guide

Learning goal: Students will understand the key role that Métis people played in the development of Canada through the Fur Trade.

Suggested timeline: 2 x 75-minute periods

Subjects: Geography, Canadian History, English

Lesson opener

See it: Métis Voyageurs helped expand European influence deep into the interior of Canada by traveling the waterways and connecting with First Nation communities across the country. Through exploration and trade, the Métis Voyageurs helped to form the political and social circumstances that were necessary across Canada to begin Confederation.

Strategy/Lesson activity

Feel it: Have students research the Fur Trade and make a list of the things that changed across Canada as a result. Use this information to analyze aspects of the modern community and how they helped to influence these elements. Ask: what impact did the Fur Trade have on the economy? Political structure? Travel? Living? Family life? What lasting effects of the Fur Trade do we see today?

Know it: Students will research a prominent Métis figure from the Fur Trade. Write a journal detailing a summer as a Voyageur. Ask: What would your life be like? What would you look forward to? What challenges would you face?

Assessment

Do It: Extension: invite a community member in who builds canoes or who is a canoeist. Have them describe how they prepare for canoe trips. What supplies do they take and why? Discuss with students: what role would a musician play?

Suggested Resources:

Métis Nation of Ontario Website—Culture and Heritage:

metisnation.org/culture-heritage/who-are-the-métis

Métis—The Canadian Encyclopedia: thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/metis

Métis Nation of Ontario Website—Métis Historic Timeline with explanations of events:

metisnation.org/culture-heritage/métis-timeline

Métis Educational Resource Kit—Teacher's Guide:

louisrielinstitute.com/metis-educational-resource-kit.php

Our Legacy; Métis Culture: scaa.sk.ca/ourlegacy/exhibit_metisculture

Fur Trade: Our People's Story youtube.com/watch?v=2HHGmxQ2C4w

Beaver Pelt Trade: Curriculum Services Canada:

youtube.com/watch?v=JGoVlgcT6tM

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