

MÉTIS CULTURE • THE FUR TRADE 1600–1800 • MAPPING THE FUR TRADE •
Activities from the Métis Education Kit Teacher's Guide

Learning goal: Students will learn about the waterways and communities of the Fur Trade and how they have evolved into many of the large cities we have today. In later years historic Métis communities (which still exist today) formed around many of these fur trade centers.

Suggested timeline: 2 x 75-minute periods

Subjects: Geography, Canadian History, English

Lesson opener

See it:

Ask: Discuss the different modes of transportation during the fur trade. Have students speculate on the size of canoe that was required on different waterways (e.g. Great Lakes vs. inland lakes and rivers) and why. Compare the canoe with the York boat and Red River Carts.

Strategy/Lesson activity

Feel it:

Students will take on the role of a Voyageur about to embark on a Fur Trade expedition. What items will they need to survive the long trip? What will they need to be prepared for? Have students create a packing list as well as a trip plan.

Know it:

Have students create a map of Canadian Forts and Fur Trade Posts. Using a modern map identify the towns and cities that are located on these same sites. Choose one city and see if you can trace its connections to the original Fort or Post.

Why, how and where did the Métis communities develop in this city/community? How did colonialism impact Métis communities? Why were Métis homelands, homes and farms attractive to incoming settlers? Why did politicians want to dispossess Métis of their homelands, home and farms to make room for new settlers? How does the dispossession of Metis land violate the historical Royal Proclamation and the current United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?

Assessment

Do it:

Using maps of Canada have students identify the different physical features of the land traveled by the Voyageurs. **Ask:** Why did Voyageurs choose the routes they did? Were Forts and Fur Trade Posts placed in specific locations for a reason? What were some of the opportunities and challenges posed by the geography of Canada?

Assess the importance of the Métis in impacting the boundaries of the map of Canada (e.g. helping to open Western Canada, fighting with the British against the U.S. during the war of 1812, choosing to negotiate with Canada instead of the United States or France for the inclusion of the province of Manitoba into Canadian confederation and helping the Canadian government during the Fenian invasion of Manitoba in 1871).

Suggested Resources:

Métis Nation of Ontario Website—Culture and Heritage:
metisnation.org/culture-heritage/who-are-the-m%C3%A9tis

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

Exploring the Fur Trade Routes of North America: Discover the Highways that Opened a Continent
by Barbara Huck

Where Two Worlds Meet: The Great Lakes Fur Trade
by Carolyn Gilman, Alan R. Woolworth, et al.

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

Aboriginal Beliefs, Values and Inspirations (student textbook)—ISBN:978-0-13-510651-8 Co-published by Pearson Education Canada and GoodMinds.com

indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca/royal_proclamation_1763

aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-INTER-HQ-ACH/STAGING/texte-text/nahm_250_pt_1379596017260_eng.pdf

aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1379594359150/1379594420080

ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/IPeoples/UNDRIPManualForNHRIs.pdf

un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf

files.unicef.org/policyanalysis/rights/files/HRBAP_UN_Rights_Indig_Peoples.pdf

nwac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/UNDRIP-Poster.pdf

HBC History: hbcheritage.ca/hbcheritage/history/overview

HBC Canoe Poster
hbcheritage.ca/teacher-resources/TG-HBC-Canoe-ENG.pdf

Posts of the Canadian Fur Trade (Map):
ftp.maps.canada.ca/pub/nrcan_rncan/raster/atlas_4_ed/eng/historical/079_80.pdf

Lobsticks:

My First Métis Lobstick
by Leah Marie Dorion

fortedmontonpark.ca/1846-fort/the-lobstick-pine

theglobeandmail.com/opinion/the-lobstick-our-next-national-symbol/article4648053

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lobstick