

Fur Trade

The Beginning of the Fur Trade

1. Why was beaver fur so valuable?

Europeans Discover North America

1. Why were explorers looking for the Northwest Passage?
2. The explorers were originally looking for the Northwest Passage. How do you think this search led to the development of the fur trade in Canada?

Fashionable Furs

1. How did fashion play a part in starting the fur trade?
2. How did Europeans discover there were so many beaver furs in North America?
3. What did John Davis and Henry Hudson start to do that would be helpful in the settlement of Canada? Why do you think it helped in the settlement of Canada?
4. Why was the beaver fur so popular?

The Fur Trade Expands (and then slows down again)

1. Why did the English want to fight the French in North America?
2. What impact was this starting to have on the First Nations?
3. Why do you think European explorers needed First Nations for the fur trade?

Two Brave Adventurers

1. What happened to Radisson and Groseillers?
2. Why did Radisson and Groseillers decide to work for the English?
3. What effect do you think this had on the French fur trade?
4. What are the Coureurs de Bois?
5. Why do you think the fur traders started to establish permanent settlements or forts?

The Hudson's Bay Company is Formed

1. What is the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC)? (Hint: click on stories if you need more info)
2. Why do you think the HBC stopped looking for new sources of fur and let the First Nations come to them?
3. How did the Hudson's Bay Company trade with the First Nations? What impact do you think this might have had in the long run?
4. What are trading posts? How is this different from the first time explorers traded with First Nations?
5. Where were the trading posts located? Why do you think they were here?

Conflict and Change

1. What is the North West Company? How did it change the fur trade? (think where they started to go)
2. How do you think the competition between the North West Company and the Hudson Bay Company helped bring settlers to Canada?
3. Compare the map on page 6 to page 7. How has it changed?

Transfer of Power

1. What is the North West Company? How did it change the fur trade? (think where they started to go)
2. How do you think the competition between the North West Company and the Hudson Bay Company helped bring settlers to Canada?
3. Compare the map on page 6 to page 7. How has it changed?