

THE FUR TRADE AND WESTERN EXPLORATION

- The fur trade brought the first European settlers to western Canada.
- The Hudson's Bay Company (1670) had been given a Royal CHARTER for control over fur trading in Rupert's Land.
- The westward expansion of the fur trade was initiated, not by the Hudson's Bay Co., but by French fur traders.

HUDSON'S BAY CO. vs NORTHWEST CO.

- The Northwest Co. (est. 1784) established itself as a strong competitor with the Hudson's Bay Co. in western Canada.
- The Northwest Co. was built on the experience of the French fur traders who has traveled west from Montreal.
- The Northwest Co. continued to use the French approach to fur trading which forced the Hudson's Bay Co. to change their strategy. They would have to become more aggressive in their search for new sources of fur.

FORT WILLIAM, A FUR TRADING CENTRE

- Fort William, located at the western end of Lake Superior, was the control centre for the Northwest Co.'s trading activities in the west.
- The traders and voyageurs based at Fort William faced arduous labour and endured many hardships in their search for furs.

Vocabulary words: *Hivernants – people who traded all winter*
Canots de Maitre – big canoe, not very portable
Portages – carry canoe on land to water
Voyageurs – employees of NWC
- deal directly with natives

THE FUR TRADE AND NATIVE PEOPLES

- The fur traders depended on the Native peoples of Western Canada to operate their trading system in the west.
- Tragically, the fierce competition between the 2 great trading companies led to trading practices which has profoundly harmful effects on the Native people who provided the furs.

THE TRIUMPH OF THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

- The conflicts over the Red River colony greatly disrupted the fur trade in the west.
- Faced with dropping profits, both rival companies agreed to end the hostilities and to merge.
- The merger appeared to give the Northwest Co. control over the fur trade.
- In fact, the Hudson's Bay Co. emerged stronger than before, controlling all trade and commerce on a resource rich frontier covering 1/6th of North America.

The Fur Trade

- the fur trade began in the mid 1600's, soon after the first French settlement in 1608
- French expanded into the area around the Great Lakes to trade goods to the natives for beaver pelts
- the many rivers and lakes in the Canadian Shield made it easier for transportation and the trading of items
- in 1670 the Hudson's Bay Company was given "all the land drained by rivers flowing into Hudson's Bay" by the King of England--- this was known as Rupert's Land
- the French established forts throughout the area, going where the natives were located.
- the HBC initially set up forts on Hudson Bay and let the natives come to them but by 1750 they set up their own forts inland because they were losing too much business to the French
- HBC still used Fort Churchill as their main post to transport furs back to Europe
- In 1784 the Nor'West Company was formed
- Their main base of operations was Montreal. The disadvantages to this were:
 - a) the large distance made it difficult to transport large numbers of pelts eastward or large amounts of trading goods westwards
 - b) many portages made travel difficult
 - c) large travel made attack by Iroquois more likely
- partners of the NorWesters that remained in the West throughout the year were called hivernants
- traders used guides, mostly native, called voyageurs to paddle the canoes
- NorWesters were encouraged to explore to find new trade routes and they were also more motivated than the HBC because they got a cut of the profits rather than a simple salary like the HBC
- Fort William on Lake Superior was used as a transfer point between traders with small canoes and larger "canots de maitre" to finish the journey to Montreal
- as competition between the HBC and the Nor'Westers grew, each company expanded their forts further and further into the Canadian plains where buffalo hides and beaver pelts were traded

The Fur Trade

- the fur trade began in the mid 1600's, soon after the first French settlement in 1608
- French expanded into the area around the Great Lakes to trade goods to the natives for beaver pelts
- the many rivers and lakes in the Canadian Shield made it easier for transportation and the trading of items
- in 1670 the Hudson's Bay Company was given "all the land drained by rivers flowing into Hudson's Bay" by the King of England--- this was known as Rupert's Land
- the French established forts throughout the area, going where the natives were located.
- the HBC initially set up forts on Hudson Bay and let the natives come to them but by 1750 they set up their own forts inland because they were losing too much business to the French
- HBC still used Fort Churchill as their main post to transport furs back to Europe
- In 1784 the Nor'West Company was formed
- Their main base of operations was Montreal. The disadvantages to this were:
 - a) the large distance made it difficult to transport large numbers of pelts eastward or large amounts of trading goods westwards
 - b) many portages made travel difficult
 - c) large travel made attack by Iroquois more likely
- partners of the NorWesters that remained in the West throughout the year were called hivernants
- traders used guides, mostly native, called voyageurs to paddle the canoes
- NorWesters were encouraged to explore to find new trade routes and they were also more motivated than the HBC because they got a cut of the profits rather than a simple salary like the HBC
- Fort William on Lake Superior was used as a transfer point between traders with small canoes and larger "canots de maitre" to finish the journey to Montreal
- as competition between the HBC and the Nor'Westers grew, each company expanded their forts further and further into the Canadian plains where buffalo hides and beaver pelts were traded

The Trading Procedure

- all HBC traders were initially restricted to a "standard" of goods to be traded--- blankets, guns, tools etc. but later had to match the Nor'westers unrestricted trade practices which included alcohol
- because all the indians had no idea of what money was, the price of all items was set in MB or "made beaver"
- generally the price was 1 MB for 1 blanket although both sides bartered to get the best deal possible
- before trading a formal gift giving session took place to renew friendships--- the better the gift, the easier the negotiations went
- if natives didn't like you, they wouldn't trade with you
- HBC usually received a gift of furs and the natives were given a "luxury" such as alcohol or tobacco
- before trading a peace pipe was shared
- trade controlled by letting only 1 native into the trading building to ensure the good quality of the goods while all others had to trade through a "hole in the wall"--- this was to prevent theft since most natives wouldn't consider taking a few "extra" rifles etc as stealing
- natives eventually became very picky about the quality of goods that were traded to them--- they demanded the best and when a trader did not have the best goods or the prices were too high, the natives would go to somebody else or not trade at all

CONCEPT WEB OF THE FUR TRADE

Find all of the information listed below and arrange into a concept map of your design. Make sure your map is easy to read.

1. When did the fur trade begin?
2. Why did the trade begin/
3. What type of furs was trapped?
4. What role did the natives play in the fur trade?
5. What was traded between the Europeans and Natives?
6. Explain the rivalry between native groups and different European groups that took place.
7. How did the fur trade contribute to Canadian exploration?
8. What impact did the fur trade have on the Native groups?
9. What role did fashion play in the fur trade?
10. Who were the Black Robes? What role did they play in the fur trade?
11. What were French fur traders called?
12. Name the two rival fur trade companies that competed for furs in Canada.
13. Where were each company headquartered?
13. Name the two Frenchmen who greatly aided the English in the fur trade.
14. Name Canada's first big highway of the fur trade.
15. State and explain four very important settlements created by the rival fur trade companies?
16. Make your map visually appealing.



Sample Rubric for Evaluating a Concept Map

Performance Levels

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient number of concepts selected relating to topic • Arrangement of concepts illustrates no understanding of conceptual relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal but acceptable number of concepts selected, with some relationships to the topic • Arrangement of concepts demonstrates simple understanding of subordinate conceptual relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most concepts relating to topic were selected • Arrangement of concepts demonstrates an understanding of subordinate conceptual relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most concepts and all significant concepts selected and they clearly relate to the topic • Arrangement of concepts demonstrates complete understanding of subordinate conceptual relationships
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concepts are displayed in a linear sequence. Little or no sense of hierarchical structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited hierarchical structure used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concepts connected in a hierarchical structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concepts connected in a hierarchical structure leading to more specific concepts
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some basic relationships indicated by connected lines • Linking words are simple and repetitive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Straightforward relationships connected with linking words • Linking words show variety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most relationships indicated with a connecting line and labeled with linking words • Linking words are accurate and varied 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All relationships indicated by a connecting line and accurately labeled with appropriate linking words • Linking words are expressive and purposeful
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross links not used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few cross links are used to illustrate minimal connections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross links used to reflect straightforward connections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross links show complex relationships between two or more distinct segments of the concept map

Designed by: Shirley Smith, Bev Elaschuk

Feel free to adapt this rubric or create your own.

THE OPENING OF THE WEST
VIDEO-THE MAGNIFICENT GIFT

1. What was significant about the year 1665?
2. What organization developed the Canadian West for more than 200 years?
3. What was the name of the English king that granted the charter?
4. What was the main commodity of exchange between the Europeans and Indians ?
5. What was known as the 'Great Persuader'?
6. What disease killed many of the Indians?
7. What rival company was created in 1784?
8. What river became known as the first Trans Canada Highway?
9. What commodity did the 'free traders' give to the Indians in exchange for furs? What was the result?
10. What happened in 1821?
11. What writer did Chief Dan George refer to at the end of the film? Why does he do this?