



Lieu historique national du Canada du Commerce-de-la-Fourrure-à-Lachine
Fur Trade at Lachine National Historic Site of Canada

Re: Preparation for your visit

Teachers,

We are pleased to confirm your group's visit to the Fur Trade at Lachine National Historic Site of Canada.

Please note that the following entrance fees will be charged during your visit :

2,95\$ per student or accompanying adults (2 accompanying adults per group enter free of charge).

Payment must be made when you arrive at the site, either in cash or by cheque payable to the **RECEIVER GENERAL FOR CANADA**. Please note that it is also possible for us to send an invoice to your school. Simply state your preference upon arrival.

Our team of interpretive guides strives to offer services of the highest quality and has thus suggested certain activities that may be done in class before your visit. These activities are adapted to the level of your class and will help your students to familiarize themselves with the themes and specific vocabulary of the fur trade. The time they spend at our site will therefore be all the more educational and entertaining.

We request that your students come prepared with:

- good walking shoes;
- a wind-breaker.

We request that you:

- ready your students by going over the preparatory activities in class;
- divide your group into two sub-groups, if your group is larger than 35 students;
- provide discipline within your group, if need be.

We remind you that it is possible to picnic at our site as outside installations are available (picnic tables, garbage bins, drinking fountains, etc), however no interior space is available for lunch. We also have a souvenir shop that will be open to students before and after their visit, although there will be no sales during the tour. Finally, we remind you that latecomers may see their program modified.

We look forward to welcoming you and your students to our site!

The Fur Trade at Lachine National Historic Site of Canada Interpretation Team

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Preparatory Activities – Fur Trade at Lachine

Goal: At the end of this exercise, the student should be able to recognize the different terms related to the fur trade. He/she will be more familiar with the themes and vocabulary that will be covered during his/her outing at the Fur Trade at Lachine National Historic Site of Canada.

Preparation: Photocopy an edition of the Touki-Times for each student (you will find an edition annexed to this document).

Getting started:

1. Distribute a copy of the Touki-Times to each student.
2. Divide the class into six groups. Each team will have one section of the newspaper to work on. (The student will fill out the rest of the newspaper on his own.)
3. Provide the definitions of the following words to the students. Mention that these words are identified with an asterisk throughout the newspaper:
 - Warehouse**: A building in which goods are stored before or after shipping.
 - Trapper**: One who hunts with the help of traps.
 - Barter**: Trading of goods for other goods; an exchange in which no money is used.
 - Trading post**: An area where bartering is done; can be compared to a store today.
 - Coureur des bois**: One who traps animals, transports goods and participates in the fur trade; can be compared to a self-employed person today.
 - Voyageur**: One who is employed by a company to transport furs and trading goods; can be compared to a trucker today.
 - Bourgeois**: The merchant who buys trading goods and furs, hires the voyageurs and sells the furs in Europe.
 - Company**: A commercial enterprise that employs a large number of workers. The bourgeois are the owners of fur-trading companies.
4. Each team reviews the page of the Touki-Times that was assigned to them and completes the activities on that page. Mention that each page includes an activity that is to be completed by a team (a drawing, a game, a composition, etc). The words written in capital letters in the newspaper are part of the vocabulary of the fur trade and will be discussed during the visit at the historic site.
5. Finally, each team presents an oral summary of the page it worked on to the class. Particular attention should be paid to the words defined above.

Here are the answers to the different games found in the Touki-Times:

1. closet
2. cap
3. felt
4. Native Peoples
5. hats

Correct order of the frames of the comic strip on page 5: 1.G; 2.H; 3.E; 4.B; 5.C; 6.A; 7.F; 8.D

TOUKI-TIMES

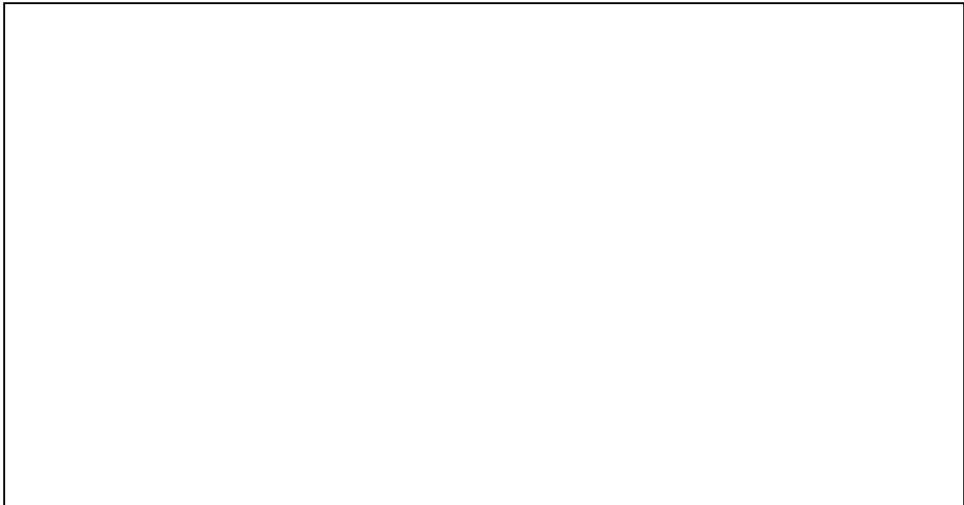


Letter from the editor

I heard that you will soon come visit my WAREHOUSE*. I have prepared a newspaper that will make your tour much more fun! In it, you will learn all kinds of things about the fur trade. There are many interesting sections: fashion, society, travel, business. As well, you will find a mystery word game, a comic strip, a job offer and many other amusing activities.

Touki, the beaver

Oh! I forgot to insert a picture here! I need you to be my illustrator. Draw what you think you will see inside my warehouse* during your visit at the Fur Trade at Lachine National Historic Site. (You can consult books, Internet or other sources of information.)



The Warehouse* at Lachine

The Fur Trade at Lachine is located in an old WAREHOUSE*. A warehouse* is a place used to keep all kinds of goods. Furs and trading goods were stored at Lachine. You also have a warehouse* in your home. Oh yes you do! The place in which you put your clothes is a _____ (1). It is like a warehouse* for your clothes. A warehouse* is not a trading post*. A trading post* is more like a store.

Today, you can wear a _____ (2) on your head to be in fashion, but this was not always the case. Can you believe that Touki the Beaver's fur was once used to make HATS? It's true! The fur was used to make FELT hats.

Yes, felt was made with beaver fur. It was not the same kind of synthetic felt you cut up in art class. During the fur trade, beaver fur was used to make a strong felt that was shiny, waterproof and easy to assemble. With it, the most solid hats in the world were made.

How do we make a beaver felt hat? In Europe, the men who made the hats were called hatters. They dipped the beaver hairs in chemical solutions and boiling water. This made all the hairs come together to make a felt that could last 75 years! The making of the hat took a lot of time and effort. As well, these hats were very expensive! Only rich men, like the BOURGEOIS*, could buy them; they were a sign of wealth and elegance.

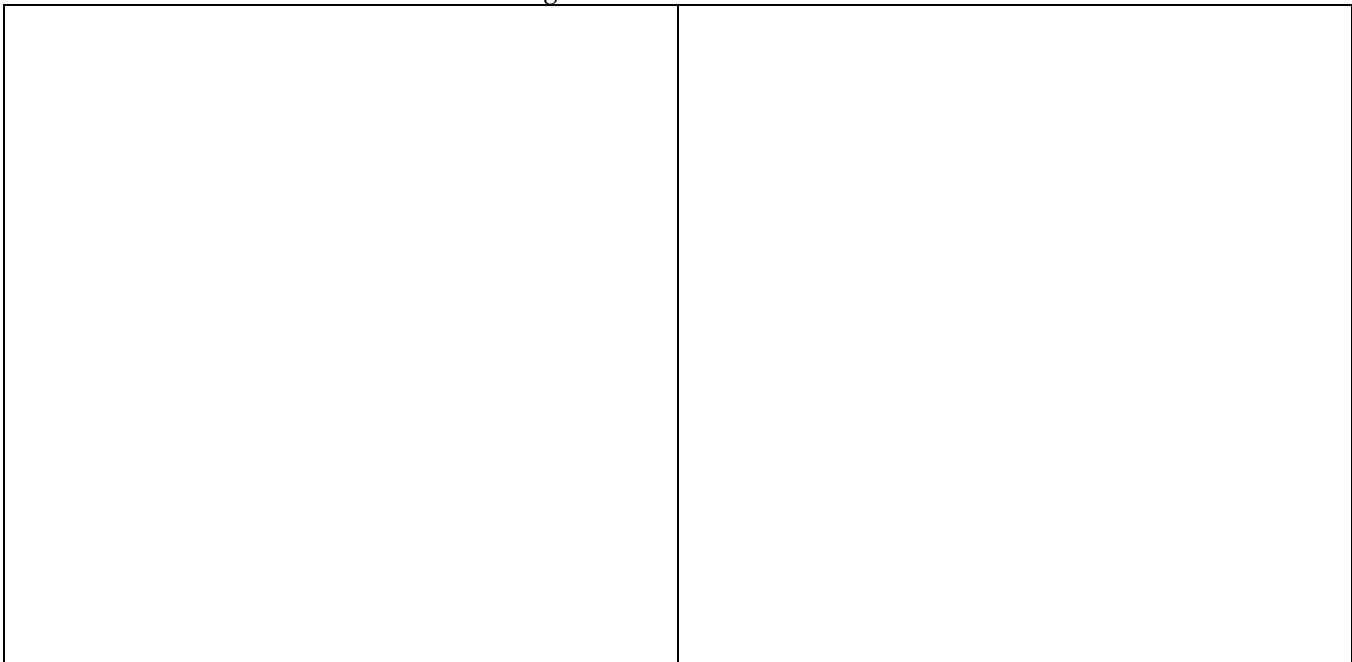
Today, men and women can wear felt hats, but they are usually made of synthetic felt which is much less expensive.

You do not have to be rich to wear felt because it is no longer made from beaver fur.

Touki is certain that you have already seen a felt hat. Think of a magician. Where does he pull out the rabbit from? A felt hat, of course!

At the same time beaver felt hats were in fashion, we also made clothing that was lined with fur. It's true! Furs of all kinds of animals were used to line the collars and the cuffs of coats. We also made muffs, stoles, etc. Fur-lined clothing was so popular that all the bourgeoisie wore some.

Here is a beaver felt hat and fur-lined clothing:



Oh no! Once again Touki forgot to insert these pictures. In the blank spaces, draw yourself wearing a beaver felt hat and then wearing fur-lined clothing. (You will see examples of this during your visit.)

M	A	R	T	E	N
T	R	E	T	T	O
O	E	V	F	F	O
U	E	A	O	E	C
K	D	E	X	L	A
I	T	B	E	A	R

MARTEN
DEER
OTTER

BEAVER
BEAR
RACCOON

FOX
TOUKI

Mystery Word: _____ (3)

Society

Who trapped the animals?

It was the Native peoples who trapped the animals named in the mystery word game. They trapped the animals in cunning ways and then prepared their furs to trade them in TRADING POSTS*. The VOYAGEURS* are not the ones who did the trapping.

At the TRADING POST*, the Native person could trade the furs for different trading goods like blankets, metal objects (pots, knives, guns, etc) and other objects he could not make himself. An exchange of an object for another object is called BARTER*.

There are still TRAPPERS* today, but they must follow certain rules. They are not allowed to trap as many animals as before. As well, it is not only the Native peoples who trap today. Anyone who has a trapping permit may do so.

Travel

Équipe 4 : Voyageurs

Jean-Baptist's Diary: My First Trip

Hello! My name is Jean-Baptist and I am a VOYAGEUR*. Voyageur* is a French word meaning "traveler". I'm not a modern-day traveler like those who go to Florida in the winter. During the fur trade, the voyageurs* traveled far away, to the North-West of Canada, to get furs. They went there with trading goods, and returned to Lachine with many furs. Let me tell you about my first trip.

At this time, there were no roads like the ones you use today. Our roads were the lakes and rivers and we traveled by canoe. I wanted to earn some money, so I got a

job as a voyageur*. In early May, I left Lachine in a canoe with nine other voyageurs* to go to Fort William, a far-away place.

The first day I paddled very fast from morning until night. I was very tired, but after a few days I was used to the hard work. Suddenly, we arrived at a waterfall and it was impossible to go on. We had to PORTAGE. A portage is when you take all the bales of furs and goods out of your canoe and carry them, two at a time, on your back around the waterfall. A bale is like a suitcase in which we



Frances Ann Hopkins, Shooting the Rapids, Archives nationales du Canada

would put the furs and the trading goods.


Whew! On top of paddling in hot weather and being bitten by mosquitoes, I had to carry two bales that weighed more than I did! The work was not even close to being finished—there would be about 34 other portages after.

Two months later, we finally arrived at our destination: Fort William. I was tired but happy. We celebrated and rested for two weeks. After, it was time to return to Lachine with our bales now filled with furs. The return trip was easier; I had become used to all the hard work.

Jean-Baptiste

Compare the following...

... THE COUREUR DES BOIS (New-France)	... THE VOYAGEUR (Province of Canada)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is his own boss. He can work alone or with 2-3 other men. He is like a self-employed worker today. - Can trade with trappers*. - Traps, transports and sells the goods and furs himself. - Explores the Saint-Lawrence River valley and the Great Lakes as he looks for furs. - Is in contact with the Algonquins and the Hurons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is hired by a COMPANY*. - Leaves in large groups. - Is involved only in transporting goods, like a trucker today. - Does not trap, does not sell. - Follows the lakes and rivers to the North-West for furs. He will explore these territories. - Is in contact with the Chippeweyan.

 Now that you've read Jean-Baptist's diary, Touki would like to know about your last trip. Write a short description of your last trip, telling Touki where you went, by what means of transportation you got there, who you were with, ...

Business

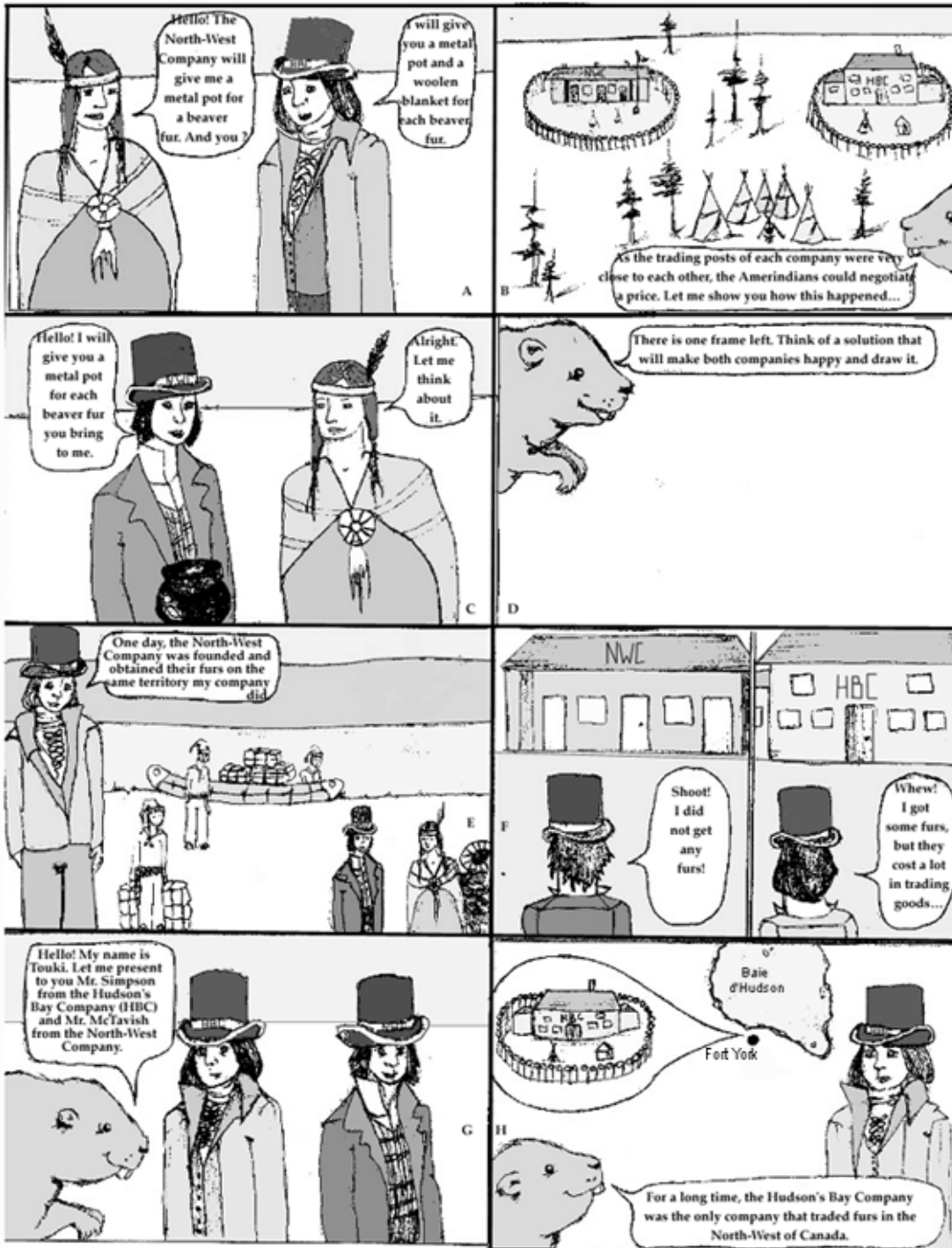
The voyageurs* were employees of the companies* who obtained furs in North America, especially the North-West, and then sold them in Europe to those who made hats

and clothes. At this time, there were two major companies involved in fur-trading: the North-West Company and the Hudson's Bay Company. Read the comic strip to learn more

Team 5: Company about these companies. You will also find out from whom these companies obtained their furs.

Comic Strip

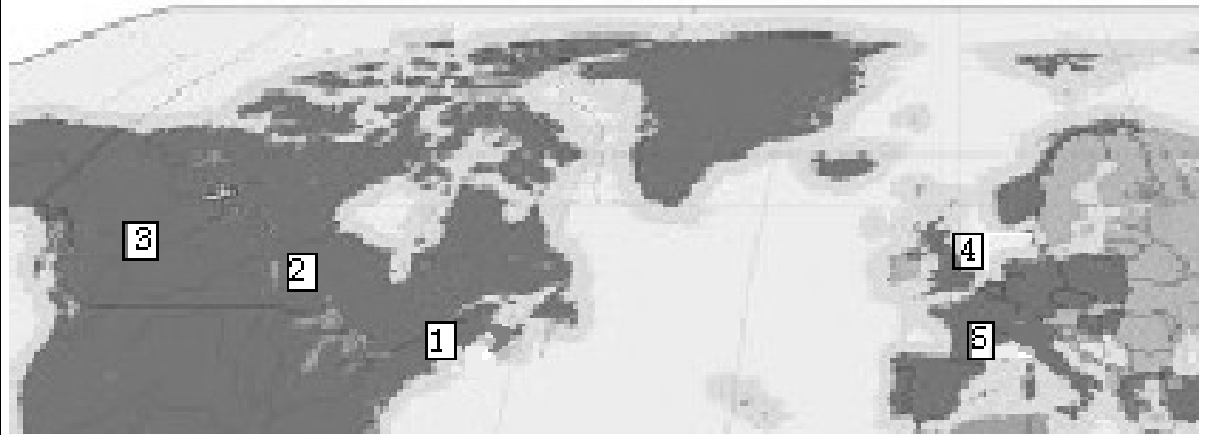
In this comic strip, the frames are not in the correct order. Cut the frames and place them in the correct order. Touki has given you hints to help you:



1. Touki introduces you to the bourgeois*.
2. The story of the company* that travels through Hudson's Bay.
3. The story of the company* that leaves from Lachine with the voyageurs*.
4. The place where we barter*.
5. A metal pot is offered to a Native person.
6. A metal pot and a blanket is offered to a Native person.
7. Two unhappy bourgeois.
8. Draw the merger of the two companies.

The owners of these companies* were the bourgeois. They obtained furs from the _____ (4) and then sold them in Europe where they were transformed into _____ (5).

Map: North America and Europe



- ① Lachine
- ② Fort William
- ③ North-West
- ④ England
- ⑤ France

Here are some pictograms that you can cut out and glue on the map. Read the following hints to help you find the right place to glue them.



Pictograms	Hints
Hat	It is in fashion in Europe
Boat	Means of transportation between Lachine and England
Canoe	Means of transportation between Lachine and the North-West of Canada
Beaver	There are many in the North-West of Canada
Bourgeois*	Some are in Montréal, others in England
Voyageurs*	They leave Lachine in the spring
Native peoples	They trap animals in the North-West of Canada

Job offer

The North-West Company is hiring about ten voyageurs*. They are not needed to go on a trip to Mexico. Oh no! These voyageurs* are needed to go to Fort William, at the western end of Lake Superior, by birch-bark canoe. They will also have to paddle all the way back to Lachine, bringing with them furs that will be used to make hats. These voyageurs* must meet the following criteria:

- maximum height: 1m70;
- maximum weight: 63.5 kg;
- be able to carry 80 kg at a time;
- be able to paddle 40 strokes per minute;
- be able to endure mosquitoes.

The salary offered is \$100 for six months of work. If you are interested, please contact the North West Company at the Lachine warehouse.