

Canadian History

# Chapter Three

## European Exploration and Colonization

### **CHAPTER 3 Outcomes**

Students will...

- Learn how First Peoples and Europeans interacted in the Northwest, and what the results were

## The Rise of the Hudson's Bay Company – p. 78-82

### Word Bank

Prince Rupert	<i>Nonsuch</i>	fur trade
Hudson's Bay Company	Baymen	Rupert's Land
Orkney Islands	Hudson Bay	voyageurs
	York Factory	

- In the early 1600s, the French had established the colony of Nouvelle-France along the St. Lawrence River. The British had started colonizing Atlantic Canada.
- The Northwest – the area north and west of Lake Superior, was mostly unknown to Europeans, but after 1670, the French began to travel west more often.
- The desire for furs, especially the beaver, had led to the growth of the \_\_\_\_\_, and the exhausting of the supply of furs around the eastern Great Lakes.
- In order to find new supplies and increase profits, the French began building fur-trading forts further west along the St. Lawrence River and Great Lakes.
- In 1654 two coureurs de de bois, Médard Chouart Des Groseilliers and his brother-in-law Pierre Esprit Radisson travelled from Quebec to the interior of North America.
- They built the first European trading post on Chequamegon Bay on Lake Superior.
- First Nations people in the area told them of large fur-trading regions to the north and west of them, in the area known as \_\_\_\_\_
- In 1659, Radisson and Groselliers returned to Montreal with a plan to set up a trading post in Hudson Bay, which would cut down on the cost of transporting furs from the Northwest to Europe. They hoped the French king would help finance this plan.
- They hoped to be welcomed by the French king, but instead were punished for trading furs without a license and had their furs confiscated.
- 1665 – Radisson and Groselliers presented their Hudson Bay fur trading plan to the British. King Charles II agreed to sponsor the plan. The king's cousin \_\_\_\_\_ helped organize the finances for the journey.
- 1668, two ships left England, bound for Hudson Bay. One ship, *The Eaglet*, turned back off the coast of Ireland. The other ship, the \_\_\_\_\_, completed the journey, reaching as far as James Bay, within Hudson Bay. After a successful trading period during the winter of 1668-1669, the *Nonsuch* returned to England.
- Because the fur-trading expedition was successful, King Charles II granted a charter (kind of like a licence to organize) to Prince Rupert and his partners. The group was called the "Company of Adventurers of England Trading into Hudson's Bay" – better

known as the \_\_\_\_\_  
(HBC).

- The HBC was given a monopoly over the fur trade in all the land whose rivers drained into Hudson Bay. It also had wide legal and trading powers over the area, as well as complete administrative and judicial control.

- The name of the area controlled by the HBC was \_\_\_\_\_. It included what is now Northern Quebec and Ontario, all of Manitoba, most of Saskatchewan and southern Alberta, a portion of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, and parts of Minnesota and North Dakota in the US.



**Above: Rupert's Land**

- During the 1600s, British businesses were expanding around the world. Companies such as the British East India Company and the HBC were formed to make money from resources that were unique to different parts of the world.
- The HBC appointed a governor and a committee that oversaw the running of the company.
- By 1685, there were several trading forts. A fort was commanded by a chief factor and a council of officers.
- The HBC headquarters was in London, England, where the governor and committee set the basic policies for Rupert's Land, based on a variety of

different reports supplied by the officers working on Hudson Bay.

- HBC employees were often called \_\_\_\_\_. Most were indentured servants (labourers who would work under contract for a period of several years) who came from the \_\_\_\_\_, off the coast of Scotland.
- The HBC considered Orkney Islanders to be well-suited for life in the Hudson Bay fur trade, as they were used to a harsh climate, had excellent boat-handling skills and were hard workers.
- In theory, the HBC's monopoly was enormous, but in reality the HBC only controlled a small area near Hudson Bay.

- The British fur-trade system depended on First Nations traders bringing furs to the coastal forts. French fur-traders ventured further inland to trade directly with the First Nations people.
- The HBC's original mission to seek the Northwest Passage to Asia became second once the fur trade began to grow in size and profit.
- First Nations peoples across North America had long had their own

network of trading partnerships. At first Europeans easily fit into these trading patterns, and both Europeans and First Nations profited during these early years. First Nations people received new trade goods, such as metal tools and Europeans received knowledge and technology that helped them survive and travel in the new environment.

**VIDEO: The Company That Built a Country**

**Covering pages 77-82, please complete the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.**

**Fur Trade Questions, Part 1**

1. What was the main plan of Radisson and Groseilliers during the 1650s?
2. Why did Radisson and Groseilliers go to the British with their plans?
3. What was the Nonsuch? Where did it finally land?
4. When was the Hudson's Bay Company founded? What was its purpose?
5. What land made up Rupert's Land?
6. Where was the HBC management located?
7. What is an indentured servant?
8. Why were the Orkney Islanders considered to be well-suited for work with the HBC?
9. How much territory did the HBC actually control?
10. How was the French fur trade different from the English (HBC) fur trade?
11. What did Europeans and First Nations receive during the trading process?

**European Rivalries and the Western Fur Trade (p. 83-87)**

**The French-British Rivalry: Part One**

- In the early 1600s, the French dominated the North American fur trade.
- Montreal was the main depot. Furs were shipped from there to Europe.
- Between 1640 and 1670, two events motivated French expansion into the Northwest:
  - Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Wars: French lost their allies in the fur trade, the Wendat

(Huron) and Algonquin First Nations. They were forced to seek trading partners farther west.

- Creation of the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) in 1670. Caused a reduction in the number of furs that were being sent to Montreal before being shipped to Europe. French responded by negotiating with the First Nations and aggressive military

policies designed to break the HBC's hold on Hudson Bay.

- 1681: French authorities began giving licenses to *coureurs de bois*, to recognize the role they played in the fur trade. The licensed traders were called \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Battle for the Bay**

- From 1670-1700 the French tried to destroy the HBC's forts along Hudson Bay.
- 1682: HBC establishes their first headquarters at Port Nelson. The French sent out a naval force to capture and destroy the fort in 1684.
- The HBC then relocated and rebuilt the fort on the Hayes River, and called it York Factory (which is still there).
- After war broke out in Europe in 1688, the British and French regularly sent expeditions to raid and capture each other's trading posts.
- In 1697, France captured \_\_\_\_\_ and prevented the English from having a monopoly in the region for the next 16 years.
- 1713: Treaty of Utrecht was signed, ending the War of Spanish Succession involving England and France. France gave up all claims to Hudson Bay and the region returned to British fur traders. The French then planned to expand fur trade operations in territories in the Northwest.

### **The French-British Rivalry: Part Two**

- 1730: government of Nouvelle-France financed an expedition by La Verendrye

to explore the West in order to find a route to the Pacific Ocean. The French wanted to find a route through the continent to establish trade with Asia and extend the fur trade.

- La Verendrye left Montreal in 1731 with a group that included three of his sons. Over the following years, he built a series of fur trading posts that became French bases for operations in the West.
- 1738 La Verendrye establishes forts at Fort Rouge (present-day Winnipeg) and Fort La Reine (present-day Portage la Prairie).
- La Verendrye travelled through Lake Manitoba, Lake Winnipegosis, Lake Winnipeg and the Saskatchewan River. He was part of the founding of Fort Dauphin, Fort Bourbon (Grand Rapids), Fort Paskoya (The Pas).
- La Verendrye also explored the Saskatchewan River and two of his sons even reached the Rockies. They also explored North and South Dakota.

### **Trade Pushes Inland Expansion**

- The French move to inland trading provided a great deal of competition for the British.
- Instead of waiting at a coastal post for First Nations to bring furs to them, the French travelled to First Nations territory to trade with them.
- The HBC found that voyageurs had been diverting many furs from English to French traders by intercepting First Nations traders on their travels north. The HBC realized that to combat this, they had to move inland to trade, just like the French.

### The First Inland Fort

- 1743: HBC built its first inland post at Henley House, 200 km inland from the coast on the Albany River (northern Ontario, emptying into James Bay).
- 1750s: Henley House was attacked twice by the French, who saw its

presence as intrusion into their territory.

- Anthony Henday sent by the HBC to journey inland to invite First Nations to trade at British posts. Henday travelled across the prairies to the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, but the journey did not result in changes to trade.

### VIDEO: Fort Prince of Wales

### Chapter 3 Notes p. 88-92

#### Word Bank

Country-born  
Custom of the country

Home Guard  
Metis

Pemmican  
firearms

- The Innimowin (Swampy Cree) and Nakota (Assiniboine Cree) were the primary middlemen for the fur trade involving the Hudson's Bay Company until the 1720s.
- Using pre-existing trading alliances, the Innimowin and Nakota controlled trade in the areas near the HBC posts for decades.
- These HBC middlemen would transport furs upriver to trading posts on Hudson Bay.
- Many middlemen and their families who settled near the HBC forts began to be known as the \_\_\_\_\_. Some First Nations people worked for the traders, hunting paddling supply canoes and making snowshoes.
- After trading posts began to spread inland in 1774, the role of middlemen declined. Later on, Home Guard First Nations took part in the fur trade by supplying fur traders with food and other supplies.
- Many French traders married First Nations women in a process known as

the \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_.

- This followed the First Nations' tradition of building alliances through marriages.
- French officials hoped that marriage between the French and First Nations would aid acculturation, where the First Nations brides and children of country marriages would adopt French language, religion and culture.
- Instead, many of the French traders began adopting First Nations ways of life. A new culture and people began to arise from the country marriages – the \_\_\_\_\_. The children of this culture were raised with elements of both First Nations and French culture.
- The London-based HBC initially did not permit its workers from marrying First Nations women. This policy was broken many times. By the 1740s, the HBC began to relax this rule. HBC employee families began to settle around HBC forts and became a large part of the Home Guard.

- The children of HBC Baymen and First Nations were known as \_\_\_\_\_. These families developed a culture distinct from that of the French Metis.
- First Nations women in the fur trade served in several valuable roles, such as companionship and providing knowledge of survival in the wilderness of the Northwest.
- The women also accompanied fur traders and explorers, providing food, preparing furs for travel, helping paddle and repair canoes and acted as guides.
- First Nations women also provided kinship connections to the European men they married, which opened the door to trading partnerships.
- Women married to European men also raised families, made moccasins, cleaned and tanned pelts. They helped make various types of food, including a mixture of dried bison meat and fat or berries called \_\_\_\_\_.
- Fur traders that moved west carried diseases such as smallpox, influenza, measles and scarlet fever. As the fur trade expanded westward, so did these diseases, sometimes wiping out entire communities.
- As had been the case around the Great Lakes, the uneven distribution of \_\_\_\_\_ resulted in deadly conflicts between First Nations communities. First Nations groups that traded for guns often used their new weapons to maintain control over territory and positions within the fur trade.

p. 94-101 from Textbook GUIDED NOTES

<u>Word Bank</u>		
(yes, the word "pemmican" appears twice)		
1821	Metis	monopoly
North West Company	pemmican	David Thompson
pemmican	Simon Fraser	Seven Years' War
voyageurs		Scots

**Competition and Exploration**

- Competition between Britain and France across the world turned into war in 1755, with the start of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The French surrendered control of New France in 1759.
- The HBC expected that with the lack of a French presence that they would be assured of a continued \_\_\_\_\_ of the fur trade.
- The French traders were replaced, however with non-HBC English, Scottish and American traders taking the French presence, trade routes and place in the fur trade.

**Competition Heats Up**

- The French approach to the fur trade, of moving inland, was successful.
- The HBC experienced a decline in the number of furs received.
- In 1774, HBC's Samuel Hearne established an HBC post inland on the Saskatchewan River.

**The North West Company is formed**

- The costs of moving further inland made the fur trade more expensive for the non-HBC traders. Many were working together to save money.
- 1779: several independent operators form the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The NWC was led by Simon McTavish and included in its shareholders 3 of Canada's best-known explorers:

Alexander Mackenzie, Simon Fraser and Peter Pond.

- The NWC made efforts to blend Scottish and French cultures and worked to build relationships with First Nations customers in the Northwest.



**The Pattern of Expansion**

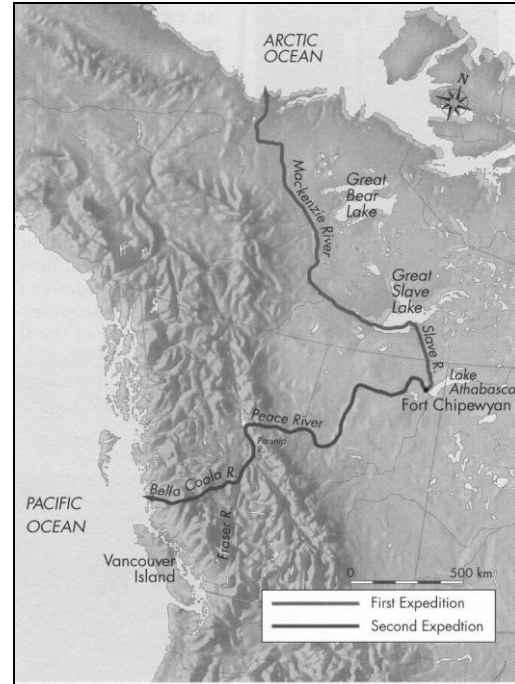
- NWC refused to recognize the HBC's monopoly. The HBC had no way to enforce the monopoly.
- NWC kept the French pattern of exploring inwards to trade with First Nations and HBC was forced to adopt similar methods.
- Often, the NWC would build a post and the HBC would build one nearby.

**Exploring the West**

- The HBC-NWC drive to expand and establish more posts led to more exploration.



- 1783: NWC's Peter Pond mapped the Methye Portage in Saskatchewan. The portage brought Pond to Lake Athabasca. In 1788, the NWC established Fort Chipewyan on the western tip of Lake Athabasca.
- Pond also learned how to make \_\_\_\_\_. This eventually became the main food source for traders. The HBC and NWC even set up posts just to trade in \_\_\_\_\_. Many First Nations and Metis communities played a major role in the fur trade.
- Pond felt that the waters flowing into Lake Athabasca would lead to the Pacific Ocean. The British government refused to fund an expedition.
- Alexander Mackenzie felt that Pond was correct and in 1789 followed the Slave River to the Beaufort Sea. He tried again and by following the Peace River, reached the Pacific Ocean on July 22, 1793.
- Mackenzie's path was not a practical major fur-trade route. NWC tried to explore further south.
- 1808: \_\_\_\_\_ finds the river later named the Fraser River and takes it to the ocean, but again the route, was too difficult and dangerous.



### Mapping the West

- 1811: \_\_\_\_\_ finally finds a practical trade route to the Pacific Ocean. He had started working for the HBC in the 1790s, but was hired away by the NWC in 1797.
- Thompson became the chief surveyor for the NWC and spent seven years mapping the West and travelling over 80 000 km doing so.
- Many explorers were aided by their wives, who were often of First Nations or Metis background. They served as labourers, translators and had a great deal of knowledge of the land.
- The voyageurs also played a major role in the expeditions, as they spoke French and First Nations languages and were experienced in canoe travel and portages.



### **The North West Company's Competitive Advantage**

- The NWC dominated the fur trade until it merged (was bought out) by the HBC in \_\_\_\_.
- At times the NWC had more posts than the HBC.
- The NWC was owned and operated by fur traders, explorers and voyageurs, who personally travelled into the

interior and traded with the First Nations, while the HBC was governed from afar.

- Despite all these seeming advantages of the NWC, it was made a part of the HBC (as opposed to the other way around) and ceased to exist as the NWC after 1821.

### **The Metis Nation**

- NWC partners and clerks were mostly \_\_\_\_\_. The lower ranks were made up most of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- Many voyageurs married First Nations women of the Northwest. Their children felt they were distinct as a culture, knowing both First Nations and French culture. Distinct Metis communities began to emerge, especially near the Red River.

## The Beaver Club

The Beaver Club was the social organization of the NWC partners at Montreal. It was formed in 1785 with a membership of 19 tried wintering partners, each of whom had spent at least one winter in the interior. Its first members included 8 French-Canadians, 6 Scots, 2 Americans and 3 Englishmen. No one could be admitted who had not passed the test of a winter in the Northwest beyond the Height of Land west of Grand Portage and received the unanimous vote of the members. Although Simon McTavish had never wintered beyond this point, he was made a member in 1792 in recognition of his role in the formation and the success of the NWC.

The table of the Beaver Club was always open to strangers of distinction and to partners of the interior. It entertained in a brilliant, expensive and noisy manner. Its motto, "Fortitude in Distress", appeared on the large gold medals which the members wore on special occasions. Medal holders were compelled to wear their decoration at all meetings. The club had no permanent quarters, but met at various taverns or elite locations in Montreal.

One of the main objects of the club was to bring together, at stated periods during the winter season, a set of men highly respectable in society who had spent their days in the interior. The club also intended to bring into society the traders who wanted to retire from the fur trade.

The regular meetings would begin in the first week of December and were held once a

fortnight until the second week of April. Great dinners were held twice monthly, and no member who happened to be in Montreal at the time was allowed to be absent. The only excuse was poor health. At every dinner, the members would proudly pronounce five toasts:

*To the fur trade and all its branches*

*To the Mother of all Saints*

*To the King*

*To Voyageurs, Wives and Children*

*To absent members*

The dinners began at 4pm and lasted until the final guest was able to sit in his chair. At the meetings, the members often re-staged "le grand voyage", sitting on the floor, using whatever came to their hands as paddles, stroking and singing the songs of the voyageurs. Their imaginary canoes faced imaginary rapids and they had to traverse across the tables and chairs as they paddled on to their imaginary destinations. The members were hardy eaters and drinkers and the dinners often continued well into the next morning. At one dinner attended by Alexander Mackenzie and William McGillivray, guests were still singing and dancing at 4am. Close to 120 bottles of wine were either drunk, broken or spilled that evening. There were 20 people present.

Beaver Club meals began with pipers ushering in a flaming boar's head on a dais of red velvet. Before the grand entrance a piece of camphor was lit and placed in the mouth of the Boar's Head. The food served included:

-Braised venison and bread sauce

-"Chevreuil des Guides"

- Venison sausages with wild rice and quail
- Partridge "du Vieux Trappeur"
- Pickled turnips
- "Sweet Pease" Applesauce
- Bag pudding
- Highland Scotch, Old Madeira, Mahogany liquor & High Wine
- Athol Brose

The Beaver Club remained active from 1785 to 1804. It was revived again in 1807 and immediately passed out of existence except for a brief return in 1827, when it held its

last dinner at the old Masonic Hall in Montreal. The Club declined as Montreal lost its preeminence in the Northwest fur trade. Over its 40 years of existence, the Beaver Club hosted 32 dinners and voted the membership of over 100 fur traders.

The name lives on, as the fine dining restaurant at the Le Reine Elizabeth Hotel in Montreal is called "The Beaver Club"

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Beaver Club medal