

Grade Five Online Learning Activities

Fur Trading in Newmarket 1603 - 1820

Grade 5 Social Studies: Heritage and Identity: First Nations and Europeans in New France and Early Canada.

The Fur Trade was one of the earliest and most important industries in North America. This timeline shows the chronological order of events.

1603	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Champlain was one of the first people to realize the potential of trade in North America. The King of France gave him permission to establish a permanent settlement in Canada, and told Champlain to develop the fur trade.• Not long after, the English saw the financial potential of the fur trade.• Competition between England and France grew fierce.• Competition in the fur trade also sparked fighting between the First Nations tribes.• In 1610 Champlain sent 18 year old Étienne Brulé to live among the Hurons and explore the wilderness of Huronia. Brulé went on many expeditions for Champlain and the fur traders, travelled over much of the Great Lakes basin to encourage the profitable business of fur trading.
1670	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hudson Bay Company was formed. King Charles granted his cousin, Prince Rupert, a charter creating HBC as a corporate entity.• From 1670 to 1870 the fur trade was the main focus of the HBC.
1774	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A powerful group, made up of nine different fur traders, developed into the North West Trading Company. They dominated the Government and considered the natural riches of the land to be the monopoly of this company.

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1793	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Competition and jealousy raged between the North West Company and the Hudson Bay Company. (By 1821 the North West Company admitted defeat and joined HBC).
1794	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yonge Street was surveyed and blazed all the way to Holland Landing. The Government wanted to have the road opened as soon as possible as a means to attract the fur trade through York as the land grant obligations required of the settlers were difficult.
1801	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• North Yonge Street remained unoccupied until 1801 when Timothy Rogers brought 40 Quaker families from Vermont and Pennsylvania, who were fleeing the American Revolution, to settle in Newmarket.• Their homes and farms were built on the fertile lands close to the Holland River, an important artery for both First Nations and fur traders. Joseph Hill erected the first mill and dam at the end of Lot No. 93, on the west bank of the river.• The immediate legitimate commerce from the north between the First Nations and the settlers was concentrated at Newmarket, and began shortly after the mill was erected.• The Newmarket Fur Trade was the first company and was started by Elisha Beman and his stepsons, Peter and William B. Robinson.
1812	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• William Roe was part of a wave of settlers who came to Newmarket following the War of 1812.• A local fur trader and merchant he owned a house, general store and trading post at the south end of Main Street on the east side. Roe also allegedly traded with the native people beneath the Trading Tree, which stood on Timothy Street until 1947.• In August of 1816, Beman sold five acres of land to Andrew Borland and the trading firm of Borland and Roe.

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1800's

- The Newmarket firm, Laughton, Borland and Roe was among the earliest traders to establish at the Landing and, in some ways were connected with the North West Company.
- First Nations trappers journeyed south by water from Muskoka and areas farther north, along the Holland River to trade at York. Roe and Borland believed that a trading post at this point would encourage the trappers to stop and trade in Newmarket.
- As the land in Newmarket was cleared, the fur bearing animals receded. Borland and Roe circumvented the situation by establishing posts on the northern waters near Orillia with Borland in charge.



A New Market on the Holland River, by John Kuna 2018.

1818

- The Treaty of October 17, 1818 completed the surrender*of the territory from Lake Ontario to Georgian Bay. Chiefs of the Ojibway (Chippewa) took part in the negotiations. At that time they were known as the Chippewa Tribe of Lakes Huron and Simcoe. Their total population was 500.
*Note: Treaty No. 18 Lake Simcoe-Nottawasaga:
- Click the links to learn more. [Article 1](#) | [Article 2](#)

1820

- In 1820 another early fur trading family to establish in Newmarket was the Cawthra family. They built a fur trading post and general store on the south west corner of Water and Main Street.

Activity: Print out the timeline. Cut out the years with corresponding information, mix them up and put the timeline back together again in chronological order.

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Additional Learning Resource for children click the links below:

[Posts of the Candian Fur Trade](#)

[HBC Map: Map of Trade Routes and Posts](#)

[The Changing Shape of Ontario: The Evolution of the District and County System 1788-1899. You can see how the First Nations lands slowly disappear.](#)

[The Toronto Carrying Place](#)

[Map of Carrying Place](#)

[Canada's History Magazine for Kids: How Furs Built Canada](#)

[Canoe cut-out activity from The Canoe Museum](#)

[Colouring Pages from HBC Heritage](#)

Sources:

1. https://web.archive.org/web/20141016235621/http://www.canadiana.ca/hbc/hist/hist10_e.html
2. <http://www.hbcheritage.ca/hbcheritage/history/acquisitions/furtrade/nwc>
3. Index to History of the Town of Newmarket by Ethel Willson Trehwella
4. Newmarket Era, January 10, 1952