

Name: _____

THE FRENCH COME TO MICHIGAN

Over 500 years ago, many different countries traded different goods with each other to get the things people wanted and needed. When the Native Americans came into contact with the people from Europe, these Native Americans referred to them as the "White Man" or the "Pale Skinned." When the European explorers, from France, came to America, they changed the way the Native American's lived. They traded different items that would change their lives, but also brought illnesses that would result in the death of many people.

The French explorers left Europe in search of silk and spices from China. China was known for having the best silk and spices. When they left Europe, they sailed west in search of China. When they reached land, they sailed the St. Lawrence River and into the Great Lakes region of North America. This discovery would become very valuable to the French.

Many European's loved to wear beaver fur hats, but because the beaver had been hunted to near extinction in Europe, they experienced scarcity in their ability to produce these goods for consumers who wanted them. When the French explorers came into contact with the Native Americans, they began a fur trading system between the French and the Native Americans throughout the Great Lakes region. The Native Americans would kill the beavers and other animals to trade their furs with the French for things such as knives, guns, blankets, and cooking pots. In the beginning of this trade system, the French would go to the Native

American's to trade goods, but eventually trading posts were created where these deals could take place.

The French explorers who made these trades possible were known as voyageurs. They were mostly men who traveled throughout the Great Lakes area to Montreal, Canada with the furs that were to be taken to France. During their travels they ate a mixture called pemmican – a mixture of meat, grease, and berries. The voyageurs traveled by canoe, a skill of travel they learned from the Native American's and would spend nearly twenty hours a day paddling to where they were going. Each night, they would stop at nearby shores and set up camp where they would tell stories by the fire. When the waters were rough or there were waterfalls, the voyageurs would have to carry the canoes, furs, and supplies over land.

Other people followed the voyageurs on their journeys, they were called missionaries. A missionary is a person who travels to a place to teach them their religion. The missionaries wished to spread the word of their Christian faith to the Native Americans. One of the most famous missionaries, Father Jacques Marquette, established the first mission in Sault Ste. Marie in 1668. This would also become the first European settlement within Michigan. In 1671, Father Marquette moved his mission to St. Ignace, establishing a second European settlement.

1. Why did the French explorers sail west?

2. Why did the French need to trade with the Native American people?

3. What is the difference between a voyageur and a missionary? Why do you think they traveled together?

4. How did the voyageurs survive while traveling throughout the Great Lakes to Montreal, Canada? What kinds of challenges did they face?



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Catapults and Fulcrums

After you have built your catapult, try the fulcrum in at least 3 different places and test how far/high it shoots. Extra space is provided if you want to try more places. Remember to do multiple trials!

| Fulcrum position (draw or describe) | Observations |
|--|--------------|
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| | |

Looking at your data above, what are you noticing? When is the catapult shooting

Highest?

Farthest?

Lowest?

Shortest?

Now, design the "best" catapult for shooting items long distance. What did you do? How far did it go?

