

# CALL IT HOME

## USEFUL VOCABULARY

### THE FUR TRADE

**Aboriginal People** – the original inhabitants of the lands that are now Canada and their descendents; there are three groups of Aboriginal people, First Nations, Métis and Inuit

**First Nations** – all aboriginal people who are not Métis or Inuit

**Indian** – First Nation has replaced the word Indian. It is more respectful to use the words First Nation. Indian is still the legal word and you will see it used by the government.

**Métis** – The children of First Nations women and the French or Scottish fur traders. The word is used by people with mixed Aboriginal and European ancestry.

**Culture** – how people live their lives, including their food, clothing, and shelter

**Discrimination** – treating someone differently without a fair reason, usually used in a negative way – to discriminate against someone, to treat them poorly

**Traditional Materials** – natural materials found in the environment, includes bone, stone, antler, hide (animal skin), wood, feather, shell, porcupine quill

**Trade goods** – materials that aboriginals obtained by trading with Europeans such as beads, cloth (wool), metal (iron, copper) and finished items – blankets, axe heads, pots, guns

**Archaeology** – the study of how people lived in the past by looking at the objects they left behind

**Artifact** – something that has been made, used or changed by people in the past

**Replica** – a copy of an artifact

**Beaver** – a large rodent with sharp front teeth, webbed back feet and a flat tail

**Made Beaver** – one whole, good quality beaver pelt

**Felt** – a kind of material made by pressing or “felting” animal hairs together; during the fur trade era felt hats were made from beaver hair

**Fur Trade** – the business of bartering or trading furs for trade goods

**Trading Post** – a place where a company does business; a place where furs were traded for trade goods; company employees lived at the post

**Charter** – a document written by a ruler or government to create a company, a group or a city; King Charles II granted a royal charter to the Hudson’s Bay Company

**Hudson’s Bay Company** – an English company that traded furs in Canada and transported them from Hudson Bay to England; also known as the HBC; now called The Bay.

**Rupert’s Land** – a large area of Canada where waters flow into Hudson Bay; the land was granted to the Hudson’s Bay Company in its charter; named after Prince Rupert, the first head of the HBC

**Northwest Company** – a Canadian company that traded furs from Montreal to the Canadian West; it was the main rival or competing company to the HBC; in 1821 the Northwest Company joined with the Hudson’s Bay Company

**Voyageur** – an employee of the Northwest Company

**Monopoly** – complete control of business in an area with no competition