



EXPLORING THE FUR TRADE

DEAR TEACHER:

Thank you for allowing us to enrich your students' education with this program. We hope that our combined efforts will provide a worthwhile, enjoyable and 'smooth' Museum visit.

Please note:

Enter your bookings in your Daybook (forgotten bookings are disappointing).

Class size is 30 students.

Double check your confirmation letter for accuracy and inform us of any changes immediately.

Cancellation policy:

7 days notice must be provided to avoid being charged for your program.

Call us at **988-0626** if you have any students with special needs in your class or if you prefer to have particular areas of the program emphasized.

Divide your class into two groups before arriving. One supervisor per group is required to follow behind the students.

Arrive early out of courtesy to our volunteers and for an optimal experience.

Have the admission fees collected before arriving and make the payment to the Museum box office (located on the main level) before the program's starting time. Please make cheques payable to The Manitoba Museum.

Class control remains the teacher's responsibility.

Lunches: A number of areas in the Museum complex or the surrounding area are suitable for lunch. Spaces cannot be booked in advance. For more information phone **988-0626**.

Jackets and lunches can be stored in pull-out racks located near the classrooms on the lower level of the Museum. Valuables should be left at home.

Call **988-0626** or write us if we can help you develop specific Museum activities or if you have questions, suggestions or concerns.

We appreciate hearing from the students and often display their posters and drawings if you would like to share them with us.

Enjoy your visit!

THE PROGRAM: Grade 6 (1 hour)

The program is introduced by a 15 minute overview of the who, when, and why of the fur trade - this serves as a good introduction or review for students. The class will then be divided into 2 groups. One group will begin with a tour of the Hudson's Bay Company Gallery. The tour focuses on the people and processes involved in the fur trade. Stops include a muskrat hunting camp, a trading post, York boat and the HBC headquarters in London, and a hat-making station. The other group will begin by looking at artifacts that represent objects and technologies Aboriginal people acquired through trade with Europeans and those that Europeans acquired from Aboriginal people. The groups switch so everyone sees the same things.

Pre-visit and post-visit activity suggestions

1. Keep a journal - We know about the lives of early fur traders because they kept journals. Try keeping a journal of your life for the next week. The most interesting thing is reading it a year later and realizing how your opinions and life have changed.
2. Write a script for a movie or a play - examples of stories: HBC men encounter a brigade of Nor'Westers; a day in the life of a Métis family; a new HBC employee adjusts to life in the North; bargaining at the trading post etc.
3. Make a diorama of something that would have taken place during the fur trade era. You can use the line drawing on the back as a guide in your building project. Be creative with the types of materials you use in making your diorama.
4. Use the drawing on the back to make a list of the variety of activities that went on at a typical Hudson's Bay Company fort in the summer. Students can also try to associate each of these activities to a specific job or person, whether directly or indirectly, related to the fur trade. This is a good way to prepare students for their museum visit.



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