

Les fourrures et les marchandises

Goals:

- Identify and classify the kinds of trade goods that Native people found useful and exchanged for furs, and explain why these goods were desirable
- Analyze the French use of Native objects for their life far from the city, in the “pays d’en haut” and “pays des Illinois”
- Predict the kinds of animals that would have been living in the student’s home area at the time of the fur trade

World-Readiness Standards for Learning French:

- Interpretive Communication
- Interpersonal Communication
- Presentational Communication
- Relating Cultural Products to Perspectives
- Making Connections
- Cultural Comparisons
- School and Global Communities

Activités

A. Comprenez-vous?

1. Mettez les mots dans la bonne catégorie: **marchandise utile, marchandise décorative, fourrure**

le castor	l’ours	les grelots	le drap
le couteau	la poudre	le vison	la broche
le miroir	le ruban	le chaudron	le rat musqué
le chat sauvage	le renard	la couverture	les pendants d’oreille
la hache	la peau de chevreuil		

Marchandise utile	Marchandise décorative	Fourrure

2. Quels articles est-ce que les voyageurs adoptent pour s’adapter aux conditions de vie dans le “pays d’en haut”? Qui est leur modèle pour cette adaptation? Pourquoi?

B. Considérez: Réfléchissez, discutez.

- Quels animaux vivaient dans votre région dans le passé, à l'époque de la traite des fourrures? Est-ce que ces animaux vivent aujourd'hui dans votre région?
- Why would the "voyageurs" adopt these particular articles from the Native people, in order to survive more easily in the "pays d'en haut" and "pays des Illinois"—what are the advantages of using these articles instead of their European equivalents?
- Why did the Native people find these particular trade goods ("marchandises") desirable? To what use would they have put them?
- Are some trade goods both useful and decorative? Can some be adapted or changed so that they have several potential uses by the Native people?

C. Projet

In French, create a dialogue or role-play in which a French trader and a Native tell each other what goods and furs each has available for exchange, and negotiate a trade.



Photo: R. Dwick