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How the Fur Trade Affected Native American and European Alliances

Students will understand that alliances between English settlers and Native Americans in colonial New England were influenced by the fur trade, French settlers, and other Native American tribes. They will be able to explain and map settlement patterns, fur trade routes and alliances using a variety of primary and secondary sources.

Grade 7 Geography

The following maps will be used by students to locate required information relating to English, French and Native American activities in New England:

- “Fur Trade Historically in the Region” www.conservewildlife.org/fur_trade.html
- “New France 1600 map: Trade Routes early modern North America”
<http://www.lasalle.edu/~mcinneshin/325/wk04/images/1600%20New%20France.jpg>, for French settlements
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_France, scroll down to “Fur Trade”
- From *Ninnuock (The People): The Algonkian People of New England*, by Steven F. Johnson, print the following maps:
“Algonkian Tribes of Connecticut and Rhode Island”, pg. 6
“Algonkian Tribes of Massachusetts”, pg. 12
“Algonkian Tribes of New Hampshire and Vermont”, pg. 14
“Algonkian Tribes of Maine”, pg. 19
- From the PBS video- *We Shall Remain: Episode 1: After the Mayflower*, print the maps in the “Post-Viewing Questions” section:
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/weshallremain/beyond_broadcast/post_view_1
- From the *Raid on Deerfield: the Many Stories of 1704* website, “Maps” section:
<http://1704.deerfield.history.museum/maps/index.do>, print the following maps:
“Settlement Patterns in the Connecticut River Valley”
“Map of New France...”
“A Map of New England”
“Wobanaki Homelands”
“The Colonial Northeast”
“The Northeast Showing Native Homelands and Movements”

Reading for information and content:

- A Way of Life: Traveling and Exploring Where We Live – 300 years ago: http://www.conservewildlife.org/fur_trade.html
- A Way of Life: Historical Perspective <http://www.conservewildlife.org/history.html>
- Furbearer Guide: What is a furbearer? <http://www.conservewildlife.org/furbearers.html>
- Wildlife Fact Sheets, http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Wildlife/wildlife_profiles.htm
- Fifteen Furbearers

Related activities: **1703 beaver pelt trading activity**- use the provided list of items that could be bartered for beaver pelts. Fill in the shopping list and show whether you have enough pelts to purchase everything on the list.

View “July 14th. 1703. Prices of Goods.” Here

http://www.americancenturies.mass.edu/classroom/curriculum_5th/lesson1/resources/1703_broadside.html to look at the original document showing a broadside of beaver pelt equivalents for trade and compare these with the list you were given.

Watch the video, “Fur, Fabric of a Nation” by the Fur Institute of Canada:

Part 1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=apG-411fsVc>

Part 2 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DOKEdapvV_E

Part 3 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ybDPwTMYHII>

Using the information you learn from watching, information you have acquired from the related readings and general knowledge, explain **how the fur trade played a vital role in the culture and survival of Native Americans, French and English settlers in New England**. You must include a map of colonial New England to help explain your answer- you may make your own or use one from class discussions.

You may present your information:

- In a short (3 complete paragraphs) essay
- On a poster
- Using a Powerpoint document

Fifteen Furbearers

1. Eastern Coyote- dog family, lives in many settings, predator; active year-round, lives in groups
2. River Otter- weasel family, lives around water, excellent swimmer and diver, predator
3. Raccoon- lives in many areas, depends on natural features or other animals for dens, omnivorous, nocturnal, hibernates
4. Virginia Opossum- marsupial, nocturnal, excellent climber and swimmer, omnivorous and scavenger, mostly in southern US, hibernates
5. Bobcat- wildcat family, lives in mixed forests with openings for hunting, active year-round, nocturnal, solitary
6. Striped skunk- weasel family, likes open areas with some shelter, nocturnal, omnivorous, hibernates
7. Muskrat- rodent, spends lots of time in water, mostly plant eaters, nocturnal, have waterside dens they build themselves, sleeps and eats in winter
8. Mink- weasel family, lives and hunts along the water, mostly nocturnal, predator, often stores food, eats muskrats, solitary
9. Weasel (ermine) - weasel family, lives in the Arctic (and other areas), predator, lives in dens, active in winter
10. Gray fox- dog family, undisturbed woodlands, competes with coyote and red fox for food, lives in northern US, will climb trees for prey, somewhat nocturnal, active year-round
11. Red fox- dog family, lives in woodland and farmland, solitary, may use same den in the ground year after year, omnivorous, will store some food, will pounce through snow to catch prey
12. Fisher- weasel family; lives in dense forest, predator, travels widely, active year-round, nocturnal
13. Beaver- rodent, lives along slow moving streams bordered by woods, plant eater, builds elaborate dens near water, sleeps and eats in winter
14. Marten- weasel family, omnivorous, den in the ground or in stumps, active year-round, has fur on feet and will burrow in snow
15. Gray squirrel- rodent, eats seeds and nuts, active year-round, makes dens in tree trunks or in high branches

Name _____ Date _____

You have arrived at the trading post and need to exchange your 50 beaver pelts for supplies for your family. It is 1703. Do you have enough furs to get the supplies you need? Fill in the chart below to see:

<u>Item you want</u>	<u>One pelt will purchase</u>	<u>Total pelts needed</u>
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1. 20 pecks corn
2. 6 pints gunpowder
3. 4 small hoes
4. 10 pints of shot
5. 18 knives
6. 12 combs
7. 4 small axes
8. 10 yards cotton cloth
9. 10 fox pelts
10. 24 mink pelts
11. 20 pounds of feathers
12. 2 otter pelts

Use the "In the Days of Bartering" price list to fill in this chart. TOTAL _____

Do you have enough beaver pelts? _____

In the Days of Bartering-

In 1703 you didn't sell a beaver pelt- you traded one. In fact, the beaver pelt was the "dollar" of the day.

This is what your choices were for one beaver pelt:

**1 yard and half broad fine cotton cloth
6 knives
5 pecks of Indian corn
6 combs
2 pints of gunpowder
1 shirt
1 pint of shot
2 small axes
10 pounds of pork
2 small hoes**

Or if you wanted to trade a beaver pelt for other pelts, here were your choices for one beaver pelt:

**1 otter
8 minks
1 bear
4 martens
5 pounds of feathers
4 raccoons
2 woodchucks
2 foxes
4 large seal skins
½ moose hide**