



DUNDAS
MUSEUM &
ARCHIVES

DISCO

GRADE 5 SOCIAL STUDIES

The First Nations Meet the First Europeans

*This Education Module Complements Strand A - Heritage And Identity:
First Nations And Europeans In New France And Early Canada*



1 Inside a First Nations longhouse

Did you know that the name of our country – *Canada* – was actually a mistake that resulted from a conversation between a European explorer and a First Nations Chief?

Why would Benjamin Franklin look to First Nations in designing the American Constitution?

Any idea how much cargo a Huron birch bark canoe weighing less than 130 kilograms could carry? A lot more than you think!

How is the Mi'kmaq First Nation related to our national sport?

This social studies module explores what is perhaps the greatest impact one people had on another in all history. The lives of Canada's First Nations people were dramatically and forever altered by the immigration of explorers from Europe.

To nurture an appreciation of the extent of this cultural impact, your students will first explore pre-contact First Nations way of life, especially as it pertains to relationships with nature, with each other and with the spiritual. This inquiry will involve spending time in the model longhouse at the museum and investigating the many artifacts in the gallery.



2 Coureurs de bois running rapids in a birch bark canoe



3 Canadian beaver hunted almost to extinction for its fur

Next, this lesson looks at several of the first European explorers and their motivation for sailing west to Canada. The students will discover how these early voyages to Canada had their roots in the travels of Marco Polo and the European market for silk and spices found in the Orient.

What was so lucrative about the cod fish off Newfoundland's Grand Banks? Why was the Canadian beaver trapped almost



4 Shawnadithit - the last surviving Beothuk of Newfoundland

to extinction? This unit explores the beginnings of The Hudson's Bay Company, the extensive fur trade, and the impact on First Nations of the Coureurs de Bois. How did the rivalry between the French and English fuel the existing rivalry between the Iroquois and the Huron? What happened to the Attewandaron – Neutrals – who inhabited the Dundas valley? In what ways did the First Nations assist the Europeans to survive in the harsh Canadian climate?

The First Nations were already a deeply spiritual people. How did they receive the insistence of conversion to Christianity brought by the Jesuits?

The story would not be complete without exploring the fate of the Beothuk First Nations tribe who lived in Newfoundland, how the Mi'kmaq were cheated out of their land when the Treaty of Paris ended the Seven Years War, and the impact of disease brought by the Europeans on all First Nations people.

From *The Ontario Curriculum, Social Studies Grades 1-6; History and Geography, Grades 7 & 8, 2013*, this Education Module offered by the DMA addresses the following expectations: A1.1, A1.2, A2.1, A2.5, A3.1, A3.2, A3.3, A3.5, A3.7 (pp. 108-111).