

THE GRADE 7
CANADIAN 
HISTORY SERIES

THE BEAVER WARS

BLOG ASSIGNMENT

**ASSESSMENT
TOOLS
INCLUDED**

NEW
2013 Ontario
Curriculum
Requirements

THE BEAVER WARS BLOG ASSIGNMENT

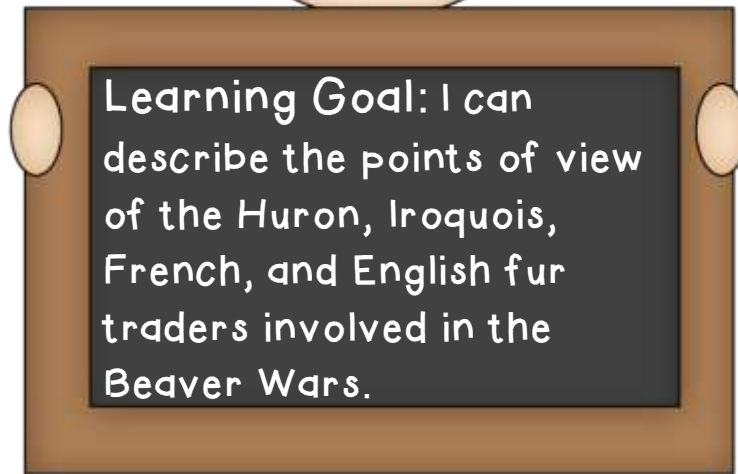
Overall Expectation #1:

A1. **Application:** analyse aspects of the lives of various groups in Canada between 1713 and 1800, and compare them to the lives of people in present-day Canada



Overall Expectations #2:

A3. **Understanding Historical Context:** describe various significant events, developments, and people in Canada between 1713 and 1800, and explain their impact.



THIS PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- ✓ Assignment Instructions
- ✓ Perspective Cards BLM
- ✓ Perspective Organizer BLM
- ✓ Student Self-Assessment Check-Brick
- ✓ Teacher Assessment Check-Brick

Meets New
2013 Ontario
Curriculum
Requirements

THE BEAVER WARS BLOG ASSIGNMENT

The Beaver Wars took place in the seventeenth century between the Iroquois and the French. They were over the expansion and control of the newly evolving fur trade. The Iroquois were allied with their trading partner, the English. The French were allied with their trading partners, the Huron. Both groups wanted to have more of the beaver fur trade for their own reasons and as a result, some of the bloodiest battles in early settlement history were fought during these years.

ASSIGNMENT REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ Read the Perspective Cards for all four points of view.
- ✓ Complete the Gaining Perspective About the Beaver Wars Chart.
- ✓ Create a pretend blog conversation between the different groups involved in the Beaver Wars.
- ✓ Self-Assess you learning.

DUE DATE: _____

IROQUOIS PERSPECTIVE

Trading with the English provides us with the European goods that our tribes now depend on. They provide us with iron goods and firearms that have changed the way we live. The more goods our families have, the better their lifestyles become. But we have now found that the beaver supply in our territory is starting to dwindle, and we cannot keep giving the English the number of beaver pelts that they want. They won't trade with us unless they get the fur that they use. We need to expand our hunt into new territories, but the French and the Huron will not work with us. If we want to find the beaver pelts we need, we have to attack their villages. Sometimes we attack our enemies' canoes carrying lush supplies of beaver pelts down the river to Montreal and Trois-Rivieres. We take their supplies by force so that we can supply the English with our furs. The English have encouraged us in these raids by providing us with their European firearms. If we cannot keep hunting beavers then our tribe will suffer greatly!

FRENCH FUR TRADER PERSPECTIVE

In Europe, felt hats are all the rage. They have turned into a real fashion trend and the wealthy people living in Europe are buying them up to show off their upper class status. This fashion statement is making us fur traders in New France wealthy because of the large beaver supply that can't be found anywhere else in the world. The merchants are buying up beaver pelts faster than we can get them in! I feel like we've struck a gold mine! We've set up trading posts and formed a partnership with the Huron tribes to supply us with pelts. They know how to hunt and survive off of the land. In return we trade our manufactured goods with them and they seem pleased to bring us furs. But the Huron were not happy when an Iroquois chief approached us to trade with them and open up Huron territory to hunt in. The Huron warned us against working with them and told us not to trust the Iroquois. I'm starting to see why. Since then they have started attacking us and interfering with our fur shipments. More and more reports are coming back to us that beaver shipments have been pirated and hijacked off of the river and left our men for dead. Some villages have even been attacked in areas that the Iroquois want access to hunt in. What savages! We are starting to arm the Huron with better weapons to defend themselves, and our military is preparing to fight back!

HURON PERSPECTIVE

The Iroquois tribes are full of greed! They have overhunted the beaver supply in their own land and now they want to take our supply as well. They attack our hunters and traders and ambush our supplies as they travel to our trading posts. We will not stand for this! We have lost many men due to their greed, and the French are willing to help fight against them. Their military and our warriors will work together to protect our trading. The French cannot get the beaver pelts on their own without us, and they are willing to trade us useful goods for our assistance. Their loyalty to us was proven when the Iroquois wanted to hunt our lands and start trading with the French as well as the English. We will continue to arm ourselves with European firearms and weapons so that we are prepared for their attacks!

ENGLISH FUR TRADER PERSPECTIVE

New England is going to be a thriving colony, but in order to fund our expansion we need the money we are getting from the fur trade. Our biggest competitors are the French and their Huron allies. The Iroquois have been trading with us for some time, but lately they have not been able to find the same kind of beaver supply that they've had in the past. We need to attract furs and deter our native partners from turning to the French. We've decided that it's time for us to increase the price we will pay for our furs. This will motivate the 5 Nation tribes to work harder to find us beaver pelts using any means necessary. If we offer superior European goods and firearms we may attract pelts from further away than normal. Even the law breaking Coureur de Bois have shown interest in smuggling furs to us if we will pay more for them. New England must survive!

GAINING PERSPECTIVE ABOUT THE BEAVER WARS

Use the boxes below to summarize the perspectives of each group.

THE FRENCH

What is their main problem?

How are they fixing it?

How is it affecting other groups?

THE IROQUOIS

What is their main problem?

How are they fixing it?

How is it affecting other groups?

THE HURON

What is their main problem?

How are they fixing it?

How is it affecting other groups?

THE ENGLISH

What is their main problem?

How are they fixing it?

How is it affecting other groups?

Name: _____

A BLOG DEBATE BETWEEN FUR TRADERS

Start a fictional conversation between the French, Iroquois, Huron, and English. Base your conversation on what you learned from the perspective cards you read. What would their opinion be of the fur trade? How would they respond to one another based on what you've learned? Make sure you express each perspective's feelings and why they might feel that way. Be sure to make up a relevant online name for each person to use in the blog posts below (ex. Frenchtraderforever99)

Online names:

French: _____

English: _____

Huron: _____

Iroquois: _____

Post by: Blogstartertrender

The hottest trend right now is the fur trade and everyone is fighting over it. Let's ask our bloggers what they think about this issue.

Post by:

Post by:

Post by:

Post by:

Post by:

Post by:

STUDENT SELF-ASSESSMENT “CHECK-BRICK”

| Criteria | Limited | Some | Good | Excellent |
|---|---------|------|------|-----------|
| I used relevant online names that made sense. | | | | |
| I expressed in a clear way the feelings of each fur trader character accurately. | | | | |
| I explained in a clearly way why each fur trader character felt this way. | | | | |
| My blog demonstrates my full understanding of the different perspectives about the fur trade. | | | | |

Name: _____

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TEACHER “CHECK-BRICK”

| Criteria | Limited | Some | Good | Excellent |
|---|---------|------|------|-----------|
| I used relevant online names that made sense. | | | | |
| I expressed in a clear way the feelings of each fur trader character accurately. | | | | |
| I explained in a clearly way why each fur trader character felt this way. | | | | |
| My blog demonstrates my full understanding of the different perspectives about the fur trade. | | | | |

Name: _____

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Alyson Domm has been teaching primary and middle school students for 8 years. She currently teaches grade 7 in Ontario, Canada.

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