



BC Archives, pdpo2258

# Simon Fraser: Explorer and Fur Trader

HSBC  School Visits Programs

Teachers' Guide

Grades 4/5



## Simon Fraser: Explorer and Fur Trader

### Introduction ..... 1

Prescribed Learning Outcomes

Pre-Visit Instructions

### Program Itinerary..... 2

Program theme and stations ..... 2

### Background Information ..... 3

Simon Fraser..... 3

### Pre-Visit and/or Follow Up Activities..... 4

Word Search..... 4

**Program Level:** Grades 4/5

**Program Length:** 90 minutes

## Introduction

This program will introduce students to one of Canada's great explorers and to the fur trade in British Columbia. Simon Fraser has been called the father of British Columbia because he established the first permanent European settlements west of the Rockies in what is now mainland British Columbia. Establishment of these trading posts in the interior of BC gave Great Britain claim to the land that Fraser called New Caledonia. Students will also learn about the fur trade in Canada and the exploration of British Columbia - result of traders searching for new sources of furs.

## Prescribed Learning Outcomes

This program is designed to fulfill the following prescribed learning outcomes as stated in the Ministry of Education's Integrated Resource Package.

### Grade 4 – Social Studies

- B2: demonstrate knowledge of early European exploration of BC & Canada
- B3: identify effects of early contact between Aboriginal societies and European explorers and settlers
- D1: compare bartering and monetary systems of exchange
- D4: describe technologies used in exploration

### Grade 5 – Social Studies

- B1: describe the significance of key events and factors in the development of BC and Canada, including the fur trade
- B3: describe the contributions of significant individuals to the development of Canada's identity

## Pre-Visit Instructions

The students must be divided into 3 groups PRIOR to arriving at the museum. If possible they should also wear nametags.

## **Program Itinerary**

The Simon Fraser program will take place in both the museum's Modern History and First Peoples galleries and each station will be lead by trained docents. The students' program will include the following themes and will conclude with an interactive trade game.

### **Simon Fraser**

A short history of Simon Fraser and his famous journey down the river that bears his name. Included will be a discussion of Fraser's first expeditions into what is now BC and the establishment of the first permanent European settlements west of the Rockies.

### **Exploration: Expanding the Fur Trade**

By the late 1700s the fur trade had expanded far into western Canada and independent traders were having an increasingly hard time financing and supplying their operations due to the distance from centres of trade in the east.

It became apparent that a co-operative venture might make trade more efficient by reducing expenses associated with competition. The result of negotiations between these independent traders was the North West Company, a partnership of Montreal merchants and inland traders. Formed initially in 1779, it went through several reorganizations before emerging as the dominant player in Montreal-based trade.

As competition increased between the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company, pressure increased to explore new regions and find previously unexploited sources of furs. The North West Company sent out explorers, map-makers and traders to chart the area west of the Rocky Mountains. The most notable of these were Alexander Mackenzie, Simon Fraser and David Thompson.

At this station students will learn about the tools needed to survey and map uncharted areas - to figure out where you are and how far and in what direction you have gone. They will also learn about the establishment of trading posts – their purpose and the reason for their location.

### **Preparation: A Fur Traders Checklist**

One of the most important parts a journey of exploration into uncharted territory is the preparation. Whether or not your trip was successful or even if you survived the journey depended largely on your preparation and the supplies you chose to take.

Students will learn about items that were taken and why. The importance of the cooperation and assistance of the First Nations People of the area will also be discussed.

### **The Fur Trade: Items of Trade**

Using furs and European trade items students will learn what furs were traded and what European trade goods the First Nations people wanted in return. The value of different furs and trade items will be discussed. Students will also have a chance to trade furs for European items and see how good a deal they can get.

## Background Information

### Simon Fraser

Simon Fraser was born in Mapletown, near Bennington in what is now Vermont during the American Revolution on May 20, 1776. He was the eighth and youngest child of Simon and Isabella Fraser, [Scottish Highlanders](#) from [Culbokie](#) who had immigrated to the United States in 1773. The Fraser family was loyal to the British Crown and Fraser's father joined the British army in July of 1777 where he quickly received a commission as a lieutenant and then as a captain. One month later, in August of 1777 Simon Fraser Sr. was captured at the battle of Bennington and imprisoned in Albany New York where he died 13 months later.

Fraser's mother moved the family to Canada in 1784 with the assistance of John Fraser, Simon's uncle a Montreal judge. At the age of 16 Simon's Uncle John secured him an apprenticeship in the North West Company and at the age of 25 Fraser was made a partner in the company. In 1805 Fraser accompanied by a small group of men journeyed up the Peace River through the Rocky Mountains then into the Parsnip and Pack Rivers to a lake they called Trout Lake. Here Fraser and his men built Trout Lake Fort (today called McLeod Lake) which was the first permanent European settlement west of the Rocky Mountains.

In 1793 Alexander Mackenzie became the first European to cross North America north of Mexico by land. Mackenzie was searching for a route to the Pacific by which the North West Company could transport furs to the coast and then on to Europe. After making his way into central BC via the Peace and Parsnip Rivers, Mackenzie traveled part way down the Fraser River. He was warned by local First Peoples that the river downstream was very treacherous so he abandoned his canoes and headed west on foot arriving on the coast near Bella Coola on July 22, 1793. Although Mackenzie reached the Pacific Ocean the overland route he took was too difficult to be of any use in the transportation of furs.

Mackenzie believed that the river he had abandoned was the Columbia River and in 1805 Fraser was instructed by the North West Company to cross the Rocky Mountains, establish trading posts and attempt to follow the Columbia River to its mouth.



## Simon Fraser Word Search

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

P	O	L	J	C	V	N	R	R	E	V	A	E	B	O	D	G	E	Z	M
O	S	U	L	B	L	O	C	K	F	O	T	T	L	I	G	H	W	O	P
S	F	O	E	U	C	V	A	A	N	Y	R	C	R	S	E	P	S	T	E
P	N	A	S	I	M	O	N	F	R	A	S	E	R	I	I	R	V	B	L
B	R	O	Q	R	E	G	J	D	I	C	E	K	L	M	C	S	E	W	T
E	B	S	R	U	A	O	B	E	V	O	W	V	A	N	V	G	A	R	T
V	O	T	F	T	B	R	L	B	E	D	A	O	F	P	A	C	E	B	E
R	H	E	B	T	H	K	E	G	R	P	N	G	H	T	E	B	L	C	K
E	W	K	C	L	I	W	K	A	I	F	S	Y	R	R	I	L	S	E	W
P	E	N	L	E	V	F	E	D	C	U	O	O	S	K	V	E	T	R	O
O	G	A	C	A	N	O	E	S	I	V	P	I	P	E	I	S	R	U	F
S	N	L	E	S	L	C	Y	C	T	D	C	B	A	C	B	L	A	O	B
T	U	B	E	A	V	L	B	A	V	C	Q	E	T	T	L	O	D	V	D
S	S	T	R	O	F	O	R	T	G	E	O	R	G	E	A	T	E	A	B
C	Q	T	E	A	B	T	E	M	T	E	W	M	O	L	Z	H	O	N	M
L	M	R	I	X	L	H	W	E	I	S	U	B	P	C	K	O	F	M	O
H	B	E	P	E	N	Y	E	C	F	U	O	R	L	A	R	S	I	U	R
T	V	K	P	V	F	U	L	I	R	N	E	O	X	Y	N	S	A	R	F
O	S	D	A	E	B	M	I	S	A	E	F	U	S	E	G	Y	W	T	Q
S	A	U	X	C	L	O	F	T	G	E	R	G	O	R	O	V	H	L	C

AXE

FORT GEORGE

PORTAGE

BEADS

FORTS

POSTS

BEAVER

FURS

RIVER

BLANKETS

KETTLE

SIMON FRASER

CANOE

NORTHWEST COMPANY

TRADE

CLOTH

PIPE

VOYAGEUR

## Simon Fraser Word Search – Solution

P	O	L	J	C	V	N	R	R	E	V	A	E	B	O	D	G	E	Z	M
O	S	U	L	B	L	O	C	K	F	O	T	T	L	I	G	H	W	O	P
S	F	O	E	U	C	V	A	A	N	Y	R	C	R	S	E	P	S	T	E
P	N	A	S	I	M	O	N	F	R	A	S	E	R	I	I	R	V	B	L
B	R	O	Q	R	E	G	J	D	I	C	E	K	L	M	C	S	E	W	T
E	B	S	R	U	A	O	B	E	V	O	W	V	A	N	V	G	A	R	T
V	O	T	F	T	B	R	L	B	E	D	A	O	F	P	A	C	E	B	E
R	H	E	B	T	H	K	E	G	R	P	N	G	H	T	E	B	L	C	K
E	W	K	C	L	I	W	K	A	I	F	S	Y	R	R	I	L	S	E	W
P	E	N	L	E	V	F	E	D	C	U	O	O	S	K	V	E	T	R	O
O	G	A	C	A	N	O	E	S	I	V	P	I	P	E	I	S	R	U	F
S	N	L	E	S	L	C	Y	C	T	D	C	B	A	C	B	L	A	O	B
T	U	B	E	A	V	L	B	A	V	C	Q	E	T	T	L	O	D	V	D
S	S	T	R	O	F	O	R	T	G	E	O	R	G	E	A	T	E	A	B
C	Q	T	E	A	B	T	E	M	T	E	W	M	O	L	Z	H	O	N	M
L	M	R	I	X	L	H	W	E	I	S	U	B	P	C	K	O	F	M	O
H	B	E	P	E	N	Y	E	C	F	U	O	R	L	A	R	S	I	U	R
T	V	K	P	V	F	U	L	I	R	N	E	O	X	Y	N	S	A	R	F
O	S	D	A	E	B	M	I	S	A	E	F	U	S	E	G	Y	W	T	Q
S	A	U	X	C	L	O	F	T	G	E	R	G	O	R	O	V	H	L	C

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