

Classroom Activity—The Fur Trade

Map and Tell

Objective: Students will complete the *Map and Tell* worksheet. This activity will help students to think critically and creatively about how objects get from place to place and draw connections from their life to what have learned about the Fur Trade.

Materials:

Map and Tell worksheet

Backstory:

For two hundred years Wisconsin life was dominated by the beaver. Because the fur is waterproof, beaver skins could be shaved and pressed into a felt that kept the wearer both warm and dry. From Russia to the Riviera and across the American colonies, the preferred hats were made from beaver. Merchants in Canada imported products that Indian hunters wanted, and demanded beaver skins in return. Beavers caught in Milwaukee or Waukesha would end up on the heads of customers in Paris or London. Trade routes were established to make sure that trade goods came in and pelts went out with as little interruption as possible.

This activity will help students learn how and why goods get to them from other countries and how it is different to the time of the Fur Trade.

Activity:

- Instruct students to complete the *Map and Tell* worksheet at home. NOTE: students will need a world atlas or online map tool to complete the worksheet.
- One at a time, have students show and describe their object.
- Instruct each student to mark where it came from on a large or projected world map (with a post-it or masking tape). You can also ask students to do this on their map on the worksheet by marking dots on the countries.
- Ask the students if their object would get here quickly if it was part of the Fur Trade. Ask what they think it would cost in a trading post.
- Ask the students to keep a list of the distances. This list can be used to determine greatest, smallest, average, median, and total distances the objects traveled!

MAP and TELL Activity

Name:

Instructions

Find an object in your home that was made in another country.

Use a world atlas or an online map to answer the questions below.

Bring your object and completed worksheet to school to share!



1. On the map above, write the letter “B” on your home, and the letter “A” on the country your object came from. Draw a line between the two countries. What is the distance between these two places?

2. How many different modes of transportation would you need to transport your object from where it was made to your home? What are they?

3. What are three reasons that your object may have been brought here from another country and not made here?