

TOPIC 5 – FUR TRADE

Topic Overview

Topic 5 highlights fur trade in North Dakota. It includes primary sources that will help you understand the effects of the fur business on traders, Europeans, and Indian People.

Topic Objectives

- As a result of the study of Topic 5, you will be able to
 - Analyze and interpret primary documents.
 - Explore pros and cons of the fur trade business on the Indian People of North Dakota.

ND Content Standards

- 8.1.2
- 8.3.2
- 8.3.4
- 8.6.2

Common Core Standards

- RH 7
- WHST 1
- WHST 2
- WHST 9

Topic Activities

- Debate/Discussion
- Creative Interpretation



Debate/Discussion

To access a photo/document/map, refer to the topic reading assignment or use the SEARCH feature to enter its name or number.

The fur trade business resulted in both positive and negative consequences for the Indian People in North Dakota. Jot notes in the *Pros* and *Cons* columns and write a paragraph summarizing your conclusions. Then, in a group or as a class, discuss the consequences of the fur trade business on the Indian People. See if you and your classmates can reach a consensus as to whether the overall outcomes of the fur trade business affected the Indian People in a positive or a negative manner.

| PROS | CONS |
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Concluding paragraph:



Creative Interpretation

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Bartering is a method of exchanging goods or services without using money. During The Fur Trade period, the currency (or money) was a beaver pelt. When it was stretched and dried into an oval shaped piece, the pelt became known as “made beaver” and was used to trade with the fur traders for European items. Look at **Document 1 Made Beaver Chart** and answer the questions below.

1. If I were to buy 1 brass kettle, 12 dozen buttons, 2 pounds of sugar, and 20 steel fish hooks, how many “made beaver” would I need?
2. If the Indians had 15 “made beaver” pelts to trade, what do you think they would trade for? Why? With a partner or in a small group, explain or discuss your choices.
3. Based on your reading of the text and the Images and Captions, do you think the bartering done by the fur traders with the Indians was fair and equitable? Why or why not?

