

DIVING FOR CLUES TO CANADIAN HISTORY

Introduction



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Focus

This CBC *News in Review* story focuses on an expedition to a remote region of northern Ontario whose goal was to search for long-lost artifacts from the fur trade. The fur trade played an important role in Canada's history, and for the first time, artifacts collected from beneath the water were being sought as clues to this important episode in Canada's history.

In the summer of 2009 CBC news reporter Evan Solomon teamed up with Les Stroud of the well-known television program *Survivorman* and a crew of 12 to explore the wild Missinaibi River region of Ontario's northland in search of long-lost artifacts from the area's fur-trading past. The searchers included expert divers and canoeists, a marine archaeologist, and a representative from Ontario Parks, the provincial body responsible for the area. The expedition was a joint venture of CBC's *The National* and *Outpost* magazine, and its goal was to discover what light these artifacts could shed on the dramatic and sometimes violent struggle for supremacy between the Hudson's Bay Company and the Northwest Company that had played itself out in the vast northern reaches of Canada during the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

One site the team visited was the ruins of Missinaibi House, a Hudson's Bay Company trading post that had been burned down by agents of the rival Northwest Company in 1780. But the main focus of the expedition was to see if any important traces of the fur trade could be found beneath the fast-flowing Missinaibi River itself. Fur-trading expeditions had used canoes to traverse the river routes through these forbidding

territories in the past. The team was eager to determine whether any of the items they would have been travelling with might have ended up at the bottom of the river in the event that their vessels had capsized in the raging rapids.

Stroud is passionate about Canada's rugged north country and its history. He is especially fascinated with the role that the fur trade played in opening up this region and forging contacts between European voyagers, fur traders, and Aboriginal people. He enjoys retracing the routes these early expeditions would have taken through exceedingly difficult terrain and treacherous rivers like the Missinaibi, whose rapids have taken the lives of many canoeists over the centuries. As he comments, "the story of the voyageurs coming down the rapids in their birch-bark canoes is one I've thought about my whole life. I mean think about it. Every time one of their laden canoes goes down, so goes their musket balls, guns, knives, pottery, coins—all sorts of very cool objects. To finally have a chance to look for lost artifacts, to dive for them? For sure" (excerpt from "What lies beneath," *Outpost* magazine, www.cbc.ca/thenational/indepthanalysis/story/2009/11/20/national-furtrade.html).

To Consider

1. What was the purpose of CBC's *The National* and *Outpost* magazine's expedition to the remote Missinaibi River region of Northern Ontario in the summer of 2009?
2. What challenges did this region pose to the team mounting the expedition?
3. Why is Les Stroud of *Survivorman* so passionate about the North and the role the fur trade played in this region?
4. How did the fur trade bring European explorers and fur traders and indigenous people together?

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Video Review

Further Research

Learn more about the fur trade in Canada today at <http://fur.ca>.

Pre-viewing Questions

Make notes in response to the following questions. Then select a partner, or form a small group, to discuss your responses.

1. Why do you think the beaver is Canada's national animal?

2. What do you know about the fur trade and its importance in Canadian history?

3. Why are the artifacts archaeologists find in their digs important to our understanding of the past?

4. Do you think people should be able to buy fur products today? Explain.

Viewing Questions

As you watch the video respond to the questions in the spaces provided

1. Where is the Missinaibi River region located?

2. What objects may have fallen to the bottom of the river when canoes capsized in the past?

3. Why are the potential archaeological sites of Northern Ontario of greater interest than those of other parts of the world, according to Les Stroud?

4. Why is mounting this kind of expedition to a remote part of Canada such a complicated undertaking?

5. What is the importance of Ferry Point and the pictographs found there?

6. Why did the Hudson's Bay Company establish a fur-trading post at Missinaibi House in 1777?

7. Why was the fort burned down? Why was it finally abandoned?

8. What artifacts does the team find while exploring the ruins of Missinaibi House? What can they tell us about everyday life in a Hudson's Bay Company post during the fur-trading era?

9. What regulations has the Ontario Ministry of Culture established for the treatment of archaeological artifacts found in their natural settings? What is the purpose of these regulations?

10. Why are the regions of Quittagene and Long Rapids such challenging spots for the team to continue its search for fur-trade-era artifacts?

11. What artifacts does the team find at Quittagene and Long Rapids? According to marine archaeologist Kimberley Monk, what can they tell us about life during the fur-trading era?

12. What does Les Stroud mean when he says, "it's about the chase, it's about the hunt, it's about the chase itself"?

Post-viewing Activities

1. Join your partner or small group again and review the responses you made to the Pre-viewing Questions. Have your responses changed now that you've watched the video? Explain in what ways they have or have not.
2. If you had the opportunity, would you like to be part of an expedition such as the one Evan Solomon, Les Stroud, and the others participated in to the Missinaibi River? Why or why not?

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Fur Trade History

Quote

“The fur trade played a formative role in the creation of Canada. It provided the motive for the exploration of much of the country and remained the economic foundation for Western Canada until about 1870. The fur trade also determined the relatively peaceful pattern of Indian-white relations in Canada.” — John E. Foster, “The fur trade after 1760,” *Canadian Encyclopedia*

Focus for Reading

Create an organizer like the one below in your notebook. As you read the following information on the history of the fur trade, write down key points in your organizer. You should be able to enter three to five points in each section of your chart. You will be using this information in the activities that follow the end of the text material.

Fur Trade History in Canada
1. Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The fur trade is part of the Canadian identity.• The fur trade would not have been a success without the knowledge and assistance of Aboriginal Canadians.•
2. The Early Years of the Fur Trade <ul style="list-style-type: none">•••
3. French Settlements
4. French-English Conflict
5. The Hudson’s Bay Company v. The Northwest Company

1. Introduction

The trade in beaver pelts between the Aboriginal peoples and European fur traders from the 17th to the 19th century was a formative period in Canada’s history and evolution as a nation. Along with the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway in the 1870s and 80s, it has become a powerful national touchstone for our identity as Canadians.

Without the fur trade and the extensive exploration of the remote interior regions of the continent that followed from it, it is very unlikely that Canada would have been settled by colonists from France and later England. And without the assistance of the Aboriginal peoples who knew this forbidding land well and helped the white explorers and fur traders learn to live in and adapt to its harsh climate and terrain, it is doubtful

that these newcomers from Europe could have succeeded in surviving and establishing a permanent presence here.

The contacts that grew from this intercultural exchange between Aboriginal peoples and European traders resulted in the Métis people: descendants of the union of Aboriginal women and French traders and voyageurs. So in many ways, the fur trade helped to foster a very different relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples than the one that developed south of the border in the United States.

2. The Early Years of the Fur Trade

For thousands of years, Canada’s Aboriginal peoples had used the fur from beaver and other wild animals they hunted for making clothes to keep them warm during the harsh winters.

Further Research

An excellent Web site exploring Canada's fur trade can be found at <http://furtradestories.ca>. Check it out and see what more you can learn.

Definition

French fur traders were *coureurs de bois*. In English, this means "runners of the woods."

In the late 15th century, fishing fleets from Europe arrived off the shores of Newfoundland, finding rich catches of cod in the waters of the Grand Banks. In order to preserve the fish before transporting them back to Europe, these fishing expeditions established drying stations on shore, where the catch could be dried and salted. Here, they came into contact with local Aboriginal people curious to see what these strange white people were up to.

Aboriginal peoples were eager to acquire metal goods such as iron knives and copper pots and pans from the Europeans, and exchanged fresh meat and beaver pelts for them. This was the origin of the fur trade, which was to flourish in North America for over two centuries.

Around 1600, a new style began to sweep Europe—the wide-brimmed felt hat. Felt hats became an essential item for the well-dressed lady or gentleman. Felt is a kind of fabric made by pressing, heating, or treating animal hair with chemicals. The best kind of felt comes from the soft under-fur of the beaver, which is composed of strands with tiny barbs that mat together tightly. The numbers of European beaver were dwindling as a result of increased demand for felt, and a new source had to be found. When European explorers found that this animal was flourishing in the forests of North America, the fur trade began in earnest.

3. French Settlements

The French were the first to establish permanent settlements in what is now Canada. Following Jacques Cartier's voyages of discovery in the St. Lawrence River in the 1530s, the French crown claimed these lands and later authorized Samuel de Champlain to bring colonists from France to settle in what came to be known as New France and later Quebec.

Champlain founded his settlement at Quebec City in 1608, and in return for this was permitted to pursue the fur trade. He did so with local Aboriginal peoples, especially the Huron, Algonquin, and Montagnais.

The settlers who arrived in Quebec found that the fur trade was far more profitable, as well as easier and more exciting, than farming. Because of this, the French crown tried to restrict the practice by licensing only a certain number of colonists to leave the settlements of Quebec City and later Montreal to head into the *pays en haut* or the "up-river country" in search of beaver pelts. These regulations proved unpopular and caused two fur-trading *coureurs de bois* to lose their entire supply of beaver furs—100 canoes' worth—because they had obtained them from Aboriginal people without a royal licence.

4. French-English Conflict

At the same time as the French were establishing fur-trading relationships with the Huron, Algonquin, and Montagnais, English explorers were seeking a Northwest Passage that would link Europe to Asia through the frigid waters of the Arctic Ocean. This quest was to prove futile, but it served to increase English interest in Canada, and eventual conflict with the French. Aboriginal peoples would soon find themselves enmeshed in this struggle, as the English turned to the Iroquois, traditional enemies of the Huron, as their allies in the fur trade.

Furthermore, after the French crown confiscated the entire supply of beaver pelts from *coureurs de bois* Pierre Esprit Radisson and Médard Chouart de Groseilliers, the two men decided to look for a new backer. They soon found it in the king of England, Charles II, who met them in London in 1665 and

Did you know . . .

Alexander Mackenzie, a one-time Hudson's Bay Company employee who later switched his allegiance to the Northwest Company, became the first European to reach the Pacific Ocean overland by crossing the Rockies in 1793.

authorized them to lead a fur-trading mission to the shores of Hudson Bay a few years later. This expedition, led by Grosseilliers' ship the *Nonsuch*, marked the beginning of England's entry into the North American fur trade, and the establishment of the Company of Merchant Adventurers, otherwise known as the Hudson's Bay Company, in 1670.

Competition over the fur trade was one of the main factors contributing to the wars England and France were to fight for possession of the North American continent and its economic riches during the late 17th and 18th centuries. In 1763, after England's victory in the Seven Years' War, New France passed from French to English control. France was now frozen out of the fur trade, and the vast French colony became a possession of the English crown. For the Hudson's Bay Company, this meant that it had no competition in carrying on the fur trade in the huge territories the king had granted to it, including all the lands drained by rivers flowing into Hudson Bay, home to the most plentiful stocks of beaver on the continent. This was Rupert's Land, named in honour of Charles' cousin Prince Rupert, an eager supporter of the company at the time it was founded.

5. The Hudson's Bay Company v. the Northwest Company

The Hudson's Bay Company established a chain of "factories," or trading posts on the shores of Hudson and James Bay, the most important of which was York Factory. These posts were given this name because the company official in charge of the post was known as a "factor." Here the company traders waited for local Aboriginal people to bring their supplies of beaver pelts to be exchanged for metal objects, blankets, and sometimes liquor. However, another group of adventurers was beginning to

explore the possibility of taking the trade directly to Aboriginal groups in their own territory, sometimes spending the winters with them and returning with stocks of pelts in the spring.

This practice was to become far more common with the rise of the Northwest Company—the main competitor to the Hudson's Bay Company. The Northwest Company began to build up a rival fur-trading empire in Canada's north that was to challenge the Hudson's Bay Company for supremacy for half a century, especially in remote regions like the Missinaibi River country south of James Bay. From its main base in Fort William at the western end of Lake Superior, Northwest extended its domination over the interior fur trade and appeared well-positioned to supplant the Hudson's Bay Company as the pre-eminent fur-trading operation in British North America.

Both companies began to erect trading posts throughout the region, sometimes literally next door to each other, and raids on rival posts, such as the one that resulted in the burning of Missinaibi House, became common. In addition, The Hudson's Bay Company sought to establish permanent colonies in the west, to guarantee their control over the rich fur-trading region of Athabaska in present-day Manitoba. In 1815, the Earl of Selkirk established a colony of Scottish settlers on the banks of the Red River. One year after its founding, Métis fur traders working for the Northwest Company attacked the infant colony, killing over 20 people in what became known as the Seven Oaks Incident.

The rivalry between the two companies over the fur trade took an increasingly violent turn, causing the British government to intervene and draw it to a close. In 1821, legislation was passed forcing the two companies to merge and giving the Hudson's Bay

Company a controlling position. By this time, the popularity of beaver felt hats in European fashion circles was declining as the silk top hat replaced it. The new Hudson's Bay Company used its control over a vast swath of land stretching from Quebec to the Rockies to diversify and supply goods to Aboriginal people, fur trappers, and settlers in the regions under its jurisdiction.

In 1867 the Dominion of Canada was formed with the Confederation of the provinces of Canada: Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. One of the goals of the country's first Prime Minister, John A. Macdonald, was to extend its authority over the vast western areas as quickly as possible in order to forestall what he viewed as an inevitable American takeover attempt from across the 49th parallel. This meant that the Hudson's Bay Company had to relinquish its hold over Rupert's Land to the new federal government so that a railway, and eventually settlers, could open it up and

solidify Canadian control over it.

In 1869, the Hudson's Bay Company signed a Deed of Surrender to Ottawa, and one year later, the entire region that had been its domain for two centuries became the Northwest Territories of Canada. Much of it would later be carved up to create the new provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta in 1905. But by this time, the era of the fur trade was over, and the Hudson's Bay Company began to transform itself into what it is today—The Bay: the largest chain of retail stores in Canada.

Sources: "Exploration: The fur trade and Hudson's Bay Company," www.canadiana.org/hbc/hist/hist1_e.html; "Fur trade," *Canadian Encyclopedia*, www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=a1ART_A0003112; "History of the fur trade in Canada," <http://faculty.marianopolis.edu/c.belanger/quebechistory/encyclopedia/FurTradeCanada.htm>

Follow-up

1. With a partner compare the information in your summary chart. Help each other to complete any missing information.
2. Why was the era of the fur trade such an important period in the history of Canada and its development as a nation?
3. How did the fur trade result in both co-operation and competition among Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in Canada?
4. How did fashion trends in Europe influence the development of the fur trade in Canada?
5. Prepare a timeline of what you think are the most important events in the history of the fur trade in Canada outlined in the passage above.

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Unearthing History

When most people think of archaeologists the image that often comes to mind is of an Indiana Jones-type of adventurer exploring long-forgotten tombs of Egyptian pharaohs. One of the most famous real-life archaeologists was Howard Carter, an English archaeologist whose discovery of the tomb of King Tutankhamun, or King Tut, in 1922 still ranks as one of the most significant archaeological finds of modern times. Very few Canadians would be aware of the fact that this country contains archaeologists who are in the process of excavating a number of rich and important sites in order to find clues that will help them piece together aspects of the country's long and fascinating history.

Archaeologist Reginald Auger

One of these people is Reginald Auger, an archaeologist at Quebec City's Laval University, who has been deeply involved in explorations of a number of sites in and around that historic location. Every summer since 1982 he has led a group of students on digs in various parts of the city, and in the process discovering a number of interesting facts about its early history at the time of the French regime that dated from its founding in 1608 to the English Conquest in 1759. He has also explored the city's subsequent growth and development as a military base, port, and commercial centre during the 19th century.

One of Auger's most intriguing and important digs was the one that he supervised in anticipation of the 400th anniversary of Champlain's founding of Quebec City, held in 2008. Eight years before the observations of that event, Auger and his team began to excavate the site of the Palais de l'Intendant, located in Bas Ville (Lower Town), the oldest neighbourhood in the city.

Although little of the palace's original architecture remains, Auger and his team did find sections of the wooden palisade that was built to defend the colony from attack. Cedar posts originally erected in 1690 were discovered in very good condition, along with pieces of the original flagstone floor. But the real gold mine for Auger and his group, ironically enough, was the communal latrine or outdoor toilet located just behind the palace itself. Many glass liquor bottles were found there, indicating that it was the custom in those days for people to enjoy a drink while they used the facility. In addition, the team unearthed a pair of dice perhaps lost by an unlucky gambler, and pieces of broken glass and ceramics. It is believed that the latter were placed in the privy to discourage scavenging vermin such as rats from gathering there.

Piecing Together the Past

From scraps of food also found in the latrine, Auger is able to piece together some clues about the diets of people living in the colony. And by studying the surrounding soil with a microscope, his team could also discover traces of parasites that people of the time carried within their bodies. Because of serious outbreaks of cholera and other infectious diseases that ravaged Quebec City during the early 19th century, city officials built a sewage system to prevent run-off from the latrines from contaminating the St. Lawrence River, the city's main water source. As a result, latrines such as the one located behind the palace were filled with garbage and layers of ash to prevent odours and the spread of bacteria.

Another site Auger has explored with his team is the Auberge Saint-Antoine, now a luxury period-style hotel located in the Vieux Port (Old Port) part of

the city. In 1990, Tony Price, a fifth-generation Quebec City native, assumed ownership of a group of crumbling warehouses and apartment buildings in the neighbourhood and built a hotel on the site. While construction was underway, builders uncovered a rich treasure trove of archaeological artifacts from the city's past, including soles of shoes, an old lantern, and even musket balls believed to have been fired by invading English forces during the siege of Quebec in 1759. Price began to collaborate with Auger's archaeological team from Laval, city authorities, and the provincial Ministry of Culture to preserve and later display any artifacts found on the site. In 1991, Auger assumed personal direction of the excavations to ensure that the artifacts found on site were handled appropriately.

His investigations revealed that the land where the hotel stood had once been a cannon battery in wartime and had also been a thriving centre for trade and commerce in more peaceful periods. The artifacts found there indicated a continuous record of military, commercial, and residential occupation for over three centuries. As the hotel took shape, Price contracted the expert services of William Moss, Quebec City's chief archaeologist, who helped in arranging for the incorporation of archaeological and historical features into the hotel's design and the most effective preservation and display of the articles found on site.

Closer to another Quebec City

landmark—the renowned Château Frontenac hotel—archaeologists stripped away a portion of the boardwalk known as the Dufferin Terrace to reveal parts of Champlain's wooden fort built in the 1620s. On this site, archaeologist Manon Goyette—who heads a team of 40 archaeologists and construction workers—found many artifacts including glasses, dishes, ceramics, silverware, jewels, and Dutch smoking pipes believed to have been discarded by the colony's settlers. As she explains, “in those days there was no garbage collection so people would throw away objects that were broken or no longer wanted.” The team also found the remains of a blacksmith's forge and six axes. This excavation was sponsored by an \$11-million grant from Parks Canada and coincided with the 400th anniversary of Quebec City's founding in 2008. The site was open to the public during the celebrations, but in 2009 it was buried in sand to protect it, and the sections of the boardwalk removed during the excavations were replaced.

Sources: “One man's garbage is ... the true treasures of the Palais de l'Intendant lies outside its walls,” *The Beaver*, June-July 2006; “Reginald Auger, archaeologist in action,” *Kayak*, May-June 2007; “Blending past and present at the Auberge Saint-Antoine, archaeological gleanings are only a touch away,” *The Beaver*, June-July 2006; Auberge Saint-Antoine Web site, www.saint-antoine.com; “Where Canada began,” *The Beaver*, July-August 2006.

Activities

1. To what extent is the work of archaeologists like Reginald Auger and Manon Goyette important to an understanding of the early history of Quebec City?
2. Do you believe that archaeological excavations such as the one that took place near the Château Frontenac should have been continued after the end of the 400th anniversary observations of Quebec City's founding?
3. Do you support the idea that government bodies should fund the work of archaeologists in Canada with tax revenues? Why or why not?

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Historical Significance and Primary Sources

Further Research

Learn more about historical thinking and the Benchmarks Project at www.historybenchmarks.ca.

What makes an event from the past historically significant? An important part of the historian's task is determining which of the infinite number of things that have occurred over millennia of human history are worth recording, studying, and reflecting on. We are surrounded by the traces of the past that survive in our present-day lives, but it is sometimes difficult to make sense of them and understand how they have shaped our current reality as Canadians living in the early 21st century.

Historical Significance

Professor Peter Seixas is a historian with the Centre for the Study of Historical Consciousness at the University of British Columbia. Along with other academics and high-school history teachers, he has developed a set of benchmarks to help students develop their critical thinking skills through the study of history. In his view, for an event from the past to be considered historically significant, it requires two characteristics.

First, it must result in change, meaning that it must have caused important changes in the way many people lived for a considerable period of time. Thus, events such as the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 or the Second World War in 1939 would be considered as historically significant, since they resulted in tremendous change for millions of people all over the world—changes whose effects we are still feeling today. More recently, the terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C., on September 11, 2001, would also be viewed as historically significant, since they unleashed a series of international conflicts—the wars in Afghanistan

and Iraq, for example—that are still impacting on the world almost 10 years after the attacks took place.

The second criterion Seixas uses for judging the historical significance of an event is that it must be revealing. This means that through the study of the event, we can come to a better understanding of important aspects of how people lived at various times in the past. By studying the history of the fur trade in Canada, for instance, we can learn about how this enterprise impacted the lives of many individuals—*coureurs de bois* and voyageurs, employees of the Hudson's Bay and Northwest Companies, Aboriginal peoples, and settlers—whose names might not otherwise find their way into the history books. That the fur trade caused important changes in Canadian society and reveals so much about how the people involved in it lived during its heyday indicates to Seixas and others that it fulfills the two criteria that are required for an event to be considered historically significant.

Primary-source Evidence

For historians, primary sources represent important pieces of evidence in helping to construct their knowledge about the past. Primary sources are anything from the past that has survived to the present, and may include things like official records, diaries, works of art, or archaeological artifacts. The task of the archaeologist or historian is to “read” these primary sources as evidence, seeking to determine what they can tell us about the period from which they date.

According to Seixas, reading for evidence is different from reading for information. We may read a history

text book, or secondary source, to learn more about people and events from the past. But reading a primary source for evidence requires the historian to use different skills. Seixas illustrates the difference between reading for information and reading for evidence by comparing a telephone book with a boot print in the snow outside a crime scene. When we read a phone book, we are not concerned with who wrote it or why it is organized the way it is. We are only interested in obtaining a piece of information contained in it—i.e., the phone number.

But when we study a boot print, a trace of an event taking place in the past, we want to determine what clues it can offer about the person who was wearing the boot, when the print was made, and what events may have been taking place at that time. This process, which is crucial in our investigation of primary sources, is known as contextualization, or locating the source within a particular time in the past. From this, we may be able to make inferences, or educated guesses, about what the source can tell us about the historical period from which it comes down to us in the present.

The artifacts the *National* and *Outpost* team were searching for on the site of

the abandoned Hudson's Bay Company post and at the bottom of the Missinaibi River are primary sources in that they are objects from the past that have managed to survive to the present. The approach that the members of the team took to examining these artifacts is a good example of what Seixas means by the processes of contextualization and inference making. An expert marine archaeologist like Kimberley Monk knows how to "read" the artifacts she found while participating in the trip for what they can tell us about the people who made them, what they were used for, and most importantly how they can help to shed more light on what life was like for people involved in the fur trade in a remote part of Canada's North hundreds of years ago. Even though the team did not succeed in finding as many artifacts as it hoped, from the ones it did locate it was able to construct an argument or narrative about the fur trade that helps to increase our understanding and appreciation of this fascinating and important era in Canadian history.

Source: "Benchmarks of historical thinking: A Framework for assessment in Canada," Peter Seixas, Centre for the Study of Historical Consciousness, UBC, August 18, 2006

Activities


1. Based on the criteria for determining historical significance outlined in the passage above, give some examples of what you would consider to be historically significant events that have occurred during your lifetime.
2. Do you consider the fur trade to be a historically significant event in Canada's history? Why or why not?
3. Some people might dismiss the artifacts the team found on the Missinaibi River trip as nothing more than a broken mug handle, a glass liquor bottle, or an old axe head—that is, unimportant objects from the past. But why do marine archaeologists like Kimberley Monk argue to the contrary that they are important primary sources in constructing the history of the fur trade in Canada? Do you agree? Why or why not?

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Activity: You Be the Historian

Among the most important skills a historian or archaeologist must acquire are the ability to determine historical significance and how to read a primary source as evidence for clues about the past. Here are some activities that may assist you in honing these skills by examining some of the information and evidence about the fur trade and its importance in Canadian history presented in this *CBC News in Review* story.

How to Determine Historical Significance

1. Read the section titled, "Fur Trade History" (page 46) and from it select five events that occurred during the history of the fur trade in Canada. Explain why you consider these events to be historically significant, based on the criteria Peter Seixas has outlined.
2. Log on to the Web site "Fur Trade Stories from 1867 to the Present" at www.furtradestories.ca/sub_category.cfm?cat_id=3&sub_cat_id=6 and read some of the stories presented. Choose two or three that you consider to be the most historically significant, and give reasons for your choices. You may also wish to select one that you do not consider to be historically significant and state why.
-  3. Complete the Historical Significance worksheet that can be found at <http://newsinreview.cbclearning.ca> based on the information in the section entitled "Fur Trade History" in this guide.

How to Read Primary Sources as Evidence

1. Read the section titled "Unearthing History" (page 50) and present a narrative or argument about life in Quebec City based on the evidence uncovered by archaeologists while excavating sites in the old part of the city.
2. Return to the *CBC News in Review* video or read the article "The great Missinaibi adventure" in *Outpost* magazine (November-December 2009) by Evan Solomon. Prepare a list of the artifacts the team found while exploring this region and assess their value as primary sources or evidence about the history of the fur trade in that part of Canada in the past. You may also wish to consult "Search for lost artifacts of the fur trade," on the CBC Web site at www.cbc.ca/thenational/indepthanalysis/story/2009/11/20/national-furtrade.html.
-  3. Complete the Primary Source Evidence worksheet from the *CBC News in Review* Web site using as your example of primary source evidence one or more of the artifacts the team involved in the Missinaibi River expedition discovered.