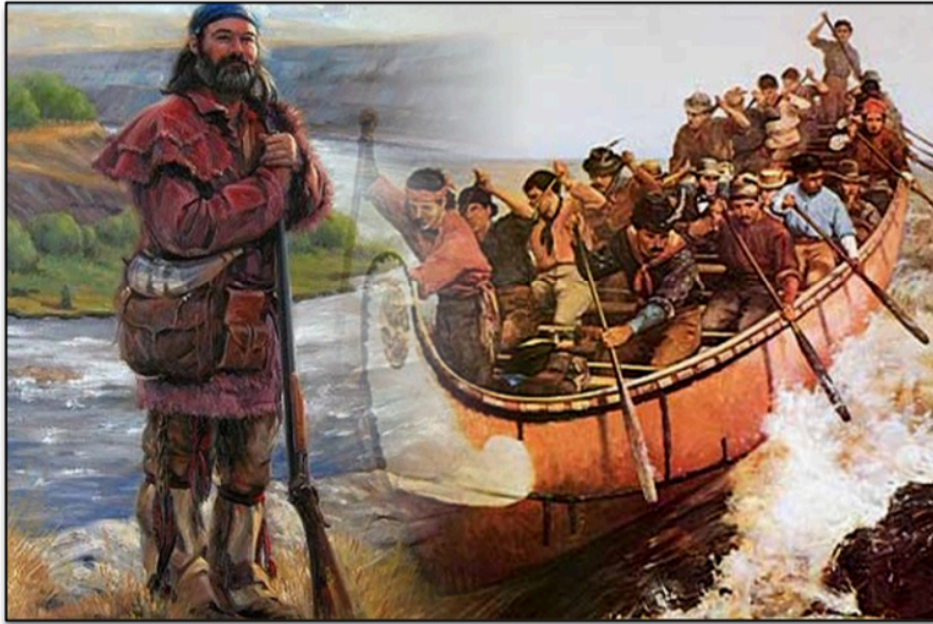


# The Fur Trade



A long time ago, it was very popular for people in Europe to wear hats made from beaver skins. In the 1600s men in Europe liked wearing hats made from the soft felt of beavers, but they had a hard time finding and hunting the beaver in Europe, as the beavers were almost extinct. The quest for beaver skins caused European exploration in North America. (Europe is a group of countries where most non-First Nation Peoples lived during the 1600s).

---

# THE FUR TRADE

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS IN COMPLETE SENTENCES

1. What fur was mostly used in the fur trade?

---

---

---

2. What item of clothing was made from the furs?

---

---

---

3. Why did Europeans hunt furs in North America?

---

---

---

## Who was Jacques Cartier?

Jacques Cartier was a French Explorer. In his three voyages into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, New France in the 1530s and 1540s he started some of the FIRST Fur Trades between Europeans and First Nations peoples. When Jacques Cartier first landed in the New World he hoped to find precious gold! Instead, the riches which Europeans found here were fish and furs. Early contact with the Indigenous peoples helped establish trading patterns.



## The French Explorer Jacques Cartier



**What was Cartier looking for?** As early as 1534, French explorer Jacques Cartier was commissioned by King François of France to search for a passage to Cathay (the Orient), and look for gold in the New World. Instead, Cartier discovered a land abundant with natural resources that included the beaver. Jacques Cartier's three voyages into the Gulf of St. Lawrence in the 1530s and 1540s was the beginning of the fur trade between the Europeans and Aborigines.

Beaver hats were considered status symbols and were sometimes passed down from one generation to the next. Wearing a beaver hat expressed wealth and prestige in society. "Beaver Hats". Hudson's Bay Company (HBC), [www.hbcheritage.ca/things/fashion-pop/beaver-hats](http://www.hbcheritage.ca/things/fashion-pop/beaver-hats).

# THE FUR TRADE

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS IN COMPLETE SENTENCES

4. Who was Jacques Cartier?

---

---

---

5. What did the King of France want him to find?

---

---

---

6. What did Jacques Cartier find instead?

---

---

---

# THE FUR TRADE

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS IN COMPLETE SENTENCES

7. When did the Fur Trade begin?

---

---

---

8. Why were fur hats status symbols?

---

---

---

Can you draw a beaver hat? What style do you like?