



Furs, Forts, and Fervour:

The Impact and Legacy of Contact

School Program Outline

Program Length: 1.5 hours

Offered: In-Museum and Virtual

Designed for: Grades 4-9

Program Description:

The Hudson's Bay Company has had a profound impact on Indigenous Peoples, settlers, and the land. In this interactive program, students will explore how society, economy, and environment are inherently integrated. They will have the opportunity to examine real otter and beaver pelts, a Hudson's Bay blanket and other items important to the trade economy. Students will also consider the legacy that the HBC has on today's society.

Program Format:

- We'll start as a group in the middle of the room for a land acknowledgement, introduction to the program, and short presentation.
- Students will be divided into small groups of 3-5 and will work through 3 rounds of gameplay, working as hunters collecting beaver pelts and trading for necessary items.
- Adult participation is encouraged and may be assigned; 1 adult per station is great!
- We'll finish the program together for reflections and to say goodbye.



Learning Objectives:

- Learn the motivations behind the rise of the Fur Trade, and how the city of Victoria came to be.
- Recognize the historic ecosystems of coastal BC, and how they were affected by European contact.
- Understand the impacts of the Fur Trade on local Indigenous peoples and their culture.

BC Curricular Connections - Social Studies

- **Grade 4 Big Idea:** The pursuit of valuable natural resources has played a key role in changing the land, people, and communities of Canada.
- **Grade 4 Big Idea:** Interactions between First Peoples and Europeans lead to conflict and cooperation, which continues to shape Canada's identity.
- **Grade 5 Big Idea:** Natural resources continue to shape the economy and identity of different regions of Canada.
- **Grade 6 Big Idea:** Economic self-interest can be a significant cause of conflict among peoples and governments.
- **Grade 8 Big Idea:** Exploration, expansion, and colonization had varying consequences for different groups.
- **Grade 9 Big Idea:** The physical environment influences the nature of political, social, and economic change.

First People's Principles of Learning

- Learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential, and relational (focused on connectedness, on reciprocal relationships, and a sense of place).
- Learning recognizes the role of Indigenous knowledge.