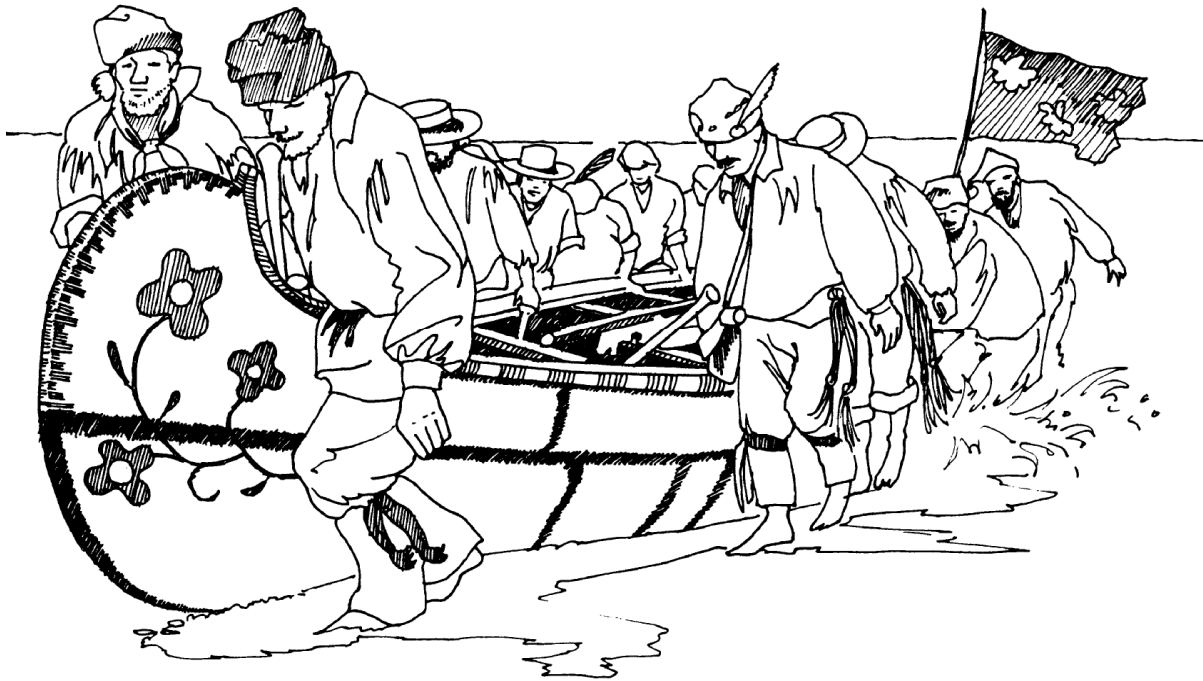


The Adventures of Jacques and Pierre



Michilimackinac was the center of the fur trade in the Great Lakes. It was located at the Straits of Mackinac, where lakes Michigan and Huron meet. Since the interior of Michigan was heavily forested and land travel was not too fast, travel by water was the quickest and easiest way to get places.

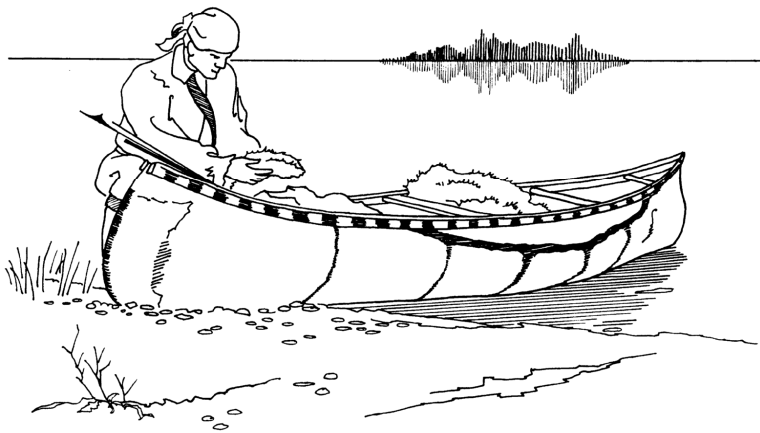
Many of the men who ran the fur trade lived in Montreal, Canada. But the people that did the hardest work for the fur trade were the voyageurs. They carried the furs and trade goods in large birchbark canoes to and from Michilimackinac. They traveled to Michilimackinac from many small outposts and villages in Wisconsin, Canada and other places

west. And from Michilimackinac to supply areas east, like Montreal. Let's follow two of the voyageurs on their trips to the Straits of Mackinac:

It is springtime in La Chine, near Montreal. Pierre is loading up his canoe. He puts blankets, clothing, rum, shot, knives and other bundles of trade goods into his canoe.

Pierre can load up to sixty 90-pound bales in his canoe. The canoe is very big. It is forty feet long and six feet wide. It takes many people to paddle that canoe. Seven other voyageurs will help Pierre. They each get to take a 40-pound bag of their own things with them for the trip.

Jean Baptiste, a stocky voyageur with a big black beard, will steer the canoe. He is the best paddler of the crew. He will get paid about fifty dollars when the trip is over. The bowman will also get paid about fifty dollars. The rest of the voyageurs, including Pierre, will get paid about half that amount.



While Pierre is loading up his canoe at La Chine, Jacques is piling furs in his canoe a thousand miles west along the St. Peter's River in what is now known as Minnesota. He has been living with the American Indians and trading for furs all winter long. He is called a "hivernaut" or winterer.

Finally, the canoes are loaded and everyone is ready to go. The voyageurs paddle very quickly, about one stroke of the paddle per second. They sing songs to entertain themselves and to keep paddling in rhythm.

Every hour, the voyageurs stop paddling and take a break. They light their pipes and rest. Soon it is time to paddle again. They would be paddling about 15-18 hours a day.

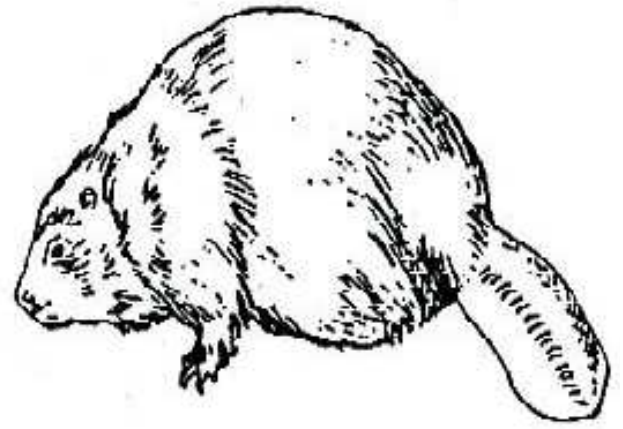
Pierre and Jacques use the rivers and lakes as their highways. Pierre starts from La Chine and follows the Ottawa, Mattawa and French Rivers into Georgian Bay and Lake Huron.

Jacques starts from where the St. Peter's and Mississippi Rivers join in what will be the central part of the state of Minnesota. He follows the Mississippi, Ouisconsin and Fox Rivers to Green Bay and Lake Michigan.

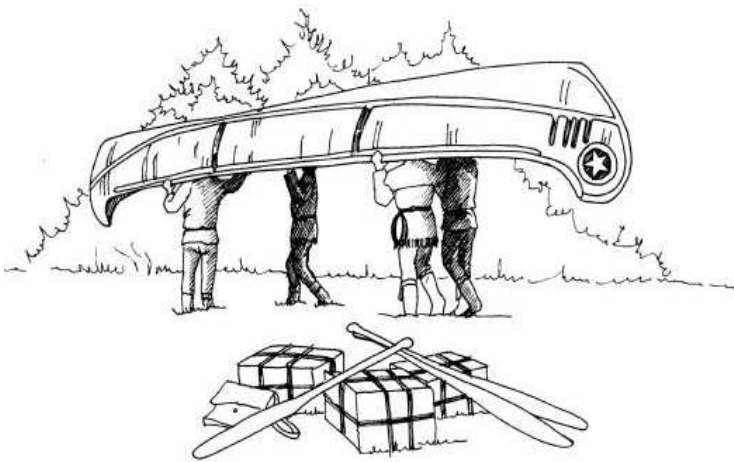
It takes Jacques and Pierre a long time to get to Michilimackinac. Their highways on the water sometimes have a rapids or waterfall in the way. Other times the rivers don't flow right into each other.



When there is something in the way or the rivers don't connect, Pierre and Jacques have to portage their load. This means they have to take everything out of the canoe and carry it on land for a short distance. They have to carry the canoe, too. With all those bales, the canoe and their own packs, it takes a very long time! There were 36 portages to Michili-



Pierre and Jacques exchange their loads. Jacques has brought Pierre many beaver furs. Beaver furs are the most valuable, so Pierre is happy. The beaver fur will be sent to Europe and made into hats. Almost everyone has a beaver felt hat. Many beaver furs are needed to make so many hats. Jacques also brought other furs. He has fox, bear, deer, ermine, otter and muskrat.



mackinac.

At night the voyageurs stop and camp. They have dinner and sleep under tents made with their canoes. Soon it is morning and time to paddle again.

After paddling, portaging and camping for a month, Pierre and Jacques finally meet at Michilimackinac. The commandant greets the canoes and checks their licenses. Everyone has to have permission from the government to trade for furs.

Pierre gives Jacques the goods he brought from Montreal. He has cloth, muskets and gun powder, copper and iron kettles, knives, blankets, thimbles, needles and jewelry. Jacques will take these back to the American Indians he lives near and trade for more furs next winter.

At the end of the summer, Jacques and Pierre load up their canoes and start back to their winter homes. Pierre heads back to Montreal and Jacques starts for the St. Peter's River. They will meet again next year to make another exchange.

Lesson 2

Using **The Adventures of Jacques and Pierre**

Read the “The Adventures of Jacques and Pierre.”

Discuss the following questions with students during or after reading.

1. What does a hibernaut do?
Trades furs with American Indians and trappers during the winter.
2. Why do voyageurs sing songs when they traveled?
To entertain themselves, to keep rhythm and pace while canoeing.
3. What happens when voyageurs portage?
The rivers or waterways are not connected. They have to take their canoes and supplies and move them over land.
4. What is the purpose of Michilimackinac?
To have a place to exchange furs. It’s a halfway point to meet to do this exchanging. The commandant can overlook the exchange and make sure people follow the rules of exchange.
5. How are things shipped for stores today?
Semi trucks, airplanes, along highway systems, maybe even freighters. This is a good area to explore the difference between highways and airways today and the “highways” then, lakes and rivers.

Discuss Trade.

Using the story as an example, discuss the terms of producers, distributors, importers and exporters. The American Indians and trappers are the producers of the furs they trap during the winter. The people like Jacques distributes the goods at Michilimackinac to people like Pierre. Pierre imports the goods through international trade and exports the furs to Europe to make into hats.

Use Activities 6, 7, 8, 9 (also see 17) to further support the ideas in the “The Adventures of Jacques and Pierre.”

GLCEs that may be reached in Lesson 2:

3-H3.0.5 Use informational text and visual data to compare how American Indians and settlers in the early history of Michigan adapted to, used, and modified their environment.

3-G4.0.2 Describe diverse groups that have come into a region of Michigan and reasons why they came.

3-G5.0.1 Locate natural resources in Michigan and explain the consequences of their use.

3-E1.0.3 Analyze how Michigan’s location and natural resources influenced its economic development.

Vocabulary Words:	Montreal	birchbark canoes	bales
	voyageur	hibernaut	portage
	commandant	beaver	



Jacques and Pierre had difficult trips to Michilimackinac, where they traded. Trace the tracks of both of their trips. Use two different colored pencils or crayons to mark their journeys. Use the story of their adventures to help you out.



Great Lakes Region

Straits of Mackinac

There are other ways to reach Michilmackinac that Jacques and Pierre couldn't use because it was another country's land. Try to find different routes that you could use to get to Michilimackinac.



Great Lakes Region

Straits of Mackinac

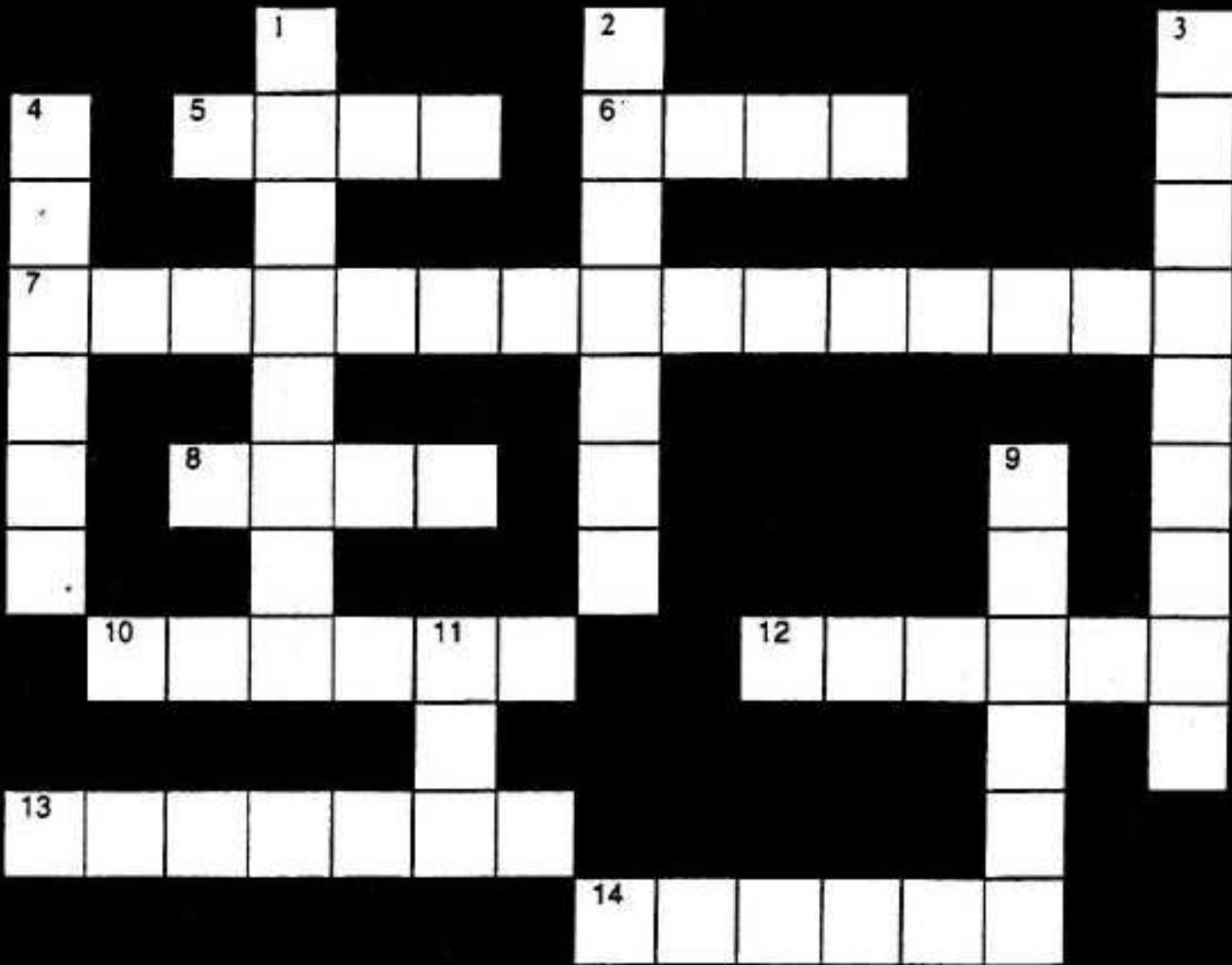
DRAW IT!

Now that you've worked with maps of the Great Lakes region, try to remember where things are. On the back of the page or on a separate page try to recreate the map with Michigan, the major lakes and the major rivers. The lower peninsula of Michigan is easy; draw a mitten shape! Once you've gotten that down, try to name the states, lakes and rivers.

WHERE DO I GO NOW?

How we get to the Straits of Mackinac have changed since Jacques and Pierre's time. Instead of canoeing on the water, we usually take cars on the highway. Find a Michigan map with the major highways on it. Trace how you would travel to Mackinac now. Remember to find your town to start your journey with.





ACROSS

5. Voyageurs did this to paddle at the same time as each other.
6. Beaver fur was sent east to be made into these.
7. Center of the fur trade in the Great Lakes.
8. Ninety pounds of fur was carried as these.
10. A weapon that was also a trade good.
12. The most valuable fur.
13. Where lakes Huron and Michigan meet.
14. In a river, this may cause a portage.

DOWN

1. What voyageurs used rivers and lakes as.
2. A trade good used in sewing.
3. Material canoes were made from.
4. Another fur that is very soft.
9. Voyageurs traveled in their canoes on these.
11. At night, voyageurs would stop to _____ and sleep.

Jacques and Pierre’s travels were long and difficult compared to travel today. What were some of those differences? How did they travel? What did they travel on? How do we travel today? What do they trade for? What do we buy in a store today? Fill in the boxes comparing their travels to what happens today. Use examples from the story and what you’ve seen in your life.

	<u>In the 1700s</u>	<u>Today</u>
<p>Travel What did they use to get from one place to another? What do we use? What did they travel on? What do we use today?</p>		
<p>Shelter during travel Where did they stay at night when they were traveling? What was it like? Where do you stay when you travel? What is it like?</p>		
<p>Items traded for or bought What did they barter and trade for? What do we need that we buy today? Where do we buy it?</p>		

WHAT’S NEW? WHAT’S OLD?

What are the differences in Jacques and Pierre’s time to the time you are living in now? Write a paper on how things are the same and how they are different. Use the information above to help you out. Then compare it to what others found out in your classroom.



O T T E R H F H W I R W P A J
H C J F M B G R H T O B S M M
L N A G F A C B E A R T X L R
A B N N K U V R I N P L B J U
C L E U O I B I L O C S N O F
H A C P C E A A R A V H U O O
I N X B O S E T T O H I Z E U
N K K U Z R A H Y I S J T K M
E E B P T G U A V C T G E F P
S T H N E D G E O W W Q F E M
E S O B Q E R N D J V V R L I
M M M K U N S W A S L J T R D
B M P R A I R A P I D S B M C
N H I U N W M A D A G O O D S
U G T E E S N E C I L J R U F

Find these words used in Jacques and Pierre's story backwards and forwards, up and down:

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| FUR | MONTREAL |
| LA CHINE | VOYAGEUR |
| HIVERNAUT | CANOE |
| RAPIDS | PORTAGE |
| BLANKETS | OTTER |
| EUROPE | OUISSONSIN |
| BEAR | LICENSE |
| GOODS | FRENCH |

Try It!

Answer the questions using the information you found in the story and the activities you have done. Remember, maps can help, too.

1. Why did Jacques and Pierre pick Michilimackinac for their place to trade? Look at its location on the map, too.

2. What happens to the furs Jacques has brought to Pierre?

3. Why do Jacques and Pierre travel to Michilimackinac by water? Why don't they travel to places not along rivers and lakes?

