

Glossary

Words used in the readings from Mackinac State Historic Parks' Education Packet.

A

Adjunct - the commander's secretary at a fort.

Anishanbeg - The native tribe who first lived in northeast North America. The Odawa, Ojibwa and Potawatomi are part of this tribe.

archaeologist - a scientist who studies the clues that are given in the ground to learn about the past.

archaeology - the scientific study of the ground to learn more about the past.

artifact - an object found showing something about human life and culture.

B

bales - load of something packed tightly together for easier carrying.

beaver - the most valuable fur in the fur trade of the Great Lakes.

birchbark canoes - the transportation American Indians and voyageurs used on lakes and rivers of the Great Lakes region.

blockhouse - a small building used to protect the fort; a "fort within a fort".

C

Campbell, Robert - Scotsman who built the sawmill at Mill Creek

canteen - a store where food, drinks and small supplies are sold.

Cheboygan - A town on Lake Huron about 14 miles from Mackinaw City.

commandant - Commander of a fort.

D

Dakota - a tribe of American Indians in the western United States.

drill - practiced marching at the fort.

F

fatigue - physical work performed by people in the military.

Fort Mackinac - (1780-1895) A stone and wood fort built on Mackinac Island during the Revolutionary War.



Fort Michilimackinac - (1715-1781) A wooden fort built in present day Mackinaw City. It was burned down in 1781 when Fort Mackinac was built.

fur trade - the main business of the Great Lakes and Mackinac area for almost 300 years. It consisted of trading furs for supplies and other trade goods.

G

grist mill - mill used to crush different grains to make flour and meal.

H

hivernaut - A French canoeman or trader who spent winters in American Indian villages to trade.

I

in situ - as they lay.

L

ledger - a book containing accounts of what people bought and sold.

M

metis - people who are part French or French Canadian and part American Indian in heritage.

Michilimackinac - The area in present day Mackinaw City. It consisted of a fort, with a village inside, and people living outside the walled fort.

Mill Creek - a creek near Mackinaw City that flows into Lake Huron. Robert Campbell built a water powered sawmill at this creek.

mokuks - birchbark containers.

monotonous - always the same; boring.

Montreal - a city in Quebec, Canada where furs were shipped to and supplies were shipped from.

N

nasaogan - a triangular shaped home, usually made with a bark covering; “pointed lodge”.

Nicolet, Jean - the first European to travel through the Straits area.

P

peninsula - land surrounded by water on three sides.

pitman - the person who operated the saw from below the sawhorses and pulled the saw through the wood.

pit saw - how people would saw logs into boards before a sawmill. It uses two people and longer than a sawmill.



portage - the carrying of boats and goods from one area of a passable waterway to another.

Q

quads - squares that divide the ground an archaeologist is working in.

Quartermaster - position in the army to take care of buildings, equipment and uniforms.

R

rendevous - to come together; a meeting place.

Revolutionary War - the war between England and the colonists for independence in America.

S

sagamity - a common meal for traders and voyageurs of dried cornmeal cooked into mush with other meats or fish added if available.

salt pork - pork that is heavily salted and has a salty bacon. Salting it would preserve it without refrigeration.

sawyer - the person who runs and operates a sawmill.

sentry - guard.

state park - an area of land preserved by the state government.

straits - narrow waterways that connect two bodies of water.

stub shot - the end of a log that kept cut boards together to float or transport more easily.

T

tillerman - the person on top of the sawhorses steering the saw to cut straight boards with a pit saw.

tipi - triangular shaped home of the Plains Indians, usually covered with animal skins.

trader - a person who buys and sells.

trowel - a small hand tool used to scrape and dig away dirt.

V

voyageur - a boatman and trader who works in the fur trade.

W

waginogan - a dome shaped home, usually covered in bark; “round lodge”.

wigwam - an Anishnabeg home; examples include nasaogans and waginogans; “house”.

