

4

The Fur Trade Era: Exploration and Exchange in Wisconsin

This chapter deals with almost 200 years of Wisconsin history, from about 1634 to about 1832. This period witnessed the first arrival of non-Indians to the area as well as dramatic changes to Indian life that resulted. Students' work with this material will help reinforce their understanding of how tribal people's lifeways were influenced by the land on which they lived. It will also help students use an awareness of Ojibwe and Ho-Chunk calendars and food to understand the similarities and differences between these two native peoples.

Activity 4.1 *Eating Off the Land*

Overview

In this activity students use trade books, tribal calendars, and food to look at the differences and similarities between two Indian groups.

Management

Materials

- Student Activity 4.1 (Teacher Pages 1–3; Student Pages 1–2)
- *The Sacred Harvest* by Gordon Regguinti (optional)
- *Four Seasons of Corn* by Sally M. Hunter (optional)
- “Recipes: Wild Rice Soup, Corn Casserole” (Student Page 3; optional)

Grouping

- Group students as follows: Whole class, then small groups of 3–4, then whole class

Activity 4.2 *Making a Birchbark Canoe*

Overview

In this activity, students make a model of a birchbark canoe, giving them a tactile sense of the shape and structure of Wisconsin's predominant form of water transportation during the first half of the nineteenth century. This will also help students understand the many uses to which canoes were put during this period.

Note: This activity was adapted from Robert Livesy and A. G. Smith, *The Fur Traders*, Discovering Canada Series (Toronto: Stoddart Kids, 1989).

Management

Materials

- Student Activity 4.2 (Teacher Pages 1–2; Student Pages 1–2)
- Colored pencils or crayons
- Scissors
- Paste

- Vegetable oil (optional)
- Tubs of water (optional)

Grouping

- Group students as follows: Small groups, then individual students, then student pairs, and finally whole-group discussion

Activity 4.3 Wisconsin Travel: Then and Now**Overview**

Throughout history, people have sought the most efficient and inexpensive means to transport themselves and their goods from place to place. Although water transportation still remains important for both shipping and recreation, most everyday transportation today is land based. To highlight changes in transportation that have taken place in Wisconsin, this activity compares historic river travel with contemporary highway travel. This will help students recognize the importance that river travel had in the past at the same time that it gives them practice with important map skills.

Management*Materials*

- Student Activity 4.3 (Teacher Pages 1–3; Student Pages 1–3)
- Standard Wisconsin highway map (optional)
- String (optional)
- Student Pages 4–5 (optional)

Grouping

- Pairs