

# Sc. Hum Heritage Fair script

## Slide #1-Title

Livia: La traite des fourrures

Fiona: The Fur Trade, presented by

Livia: Livia

Fiona: Fiona

## Slide #2-Table of Contents

Livia: Today, we will discuss the Fur Trade in Canada. The main topics include its timeline, trade goods and currencies, primary animals and their furs, geographical locations, the roles of women, and a few interesting facts. To begin with, let us define what the fur trade is.

Fiona: The fur trade originated in the 1500s when the Europeans demanded for animal pelts for fashion and clothing, while indigenous peoples desired improved survival tools such as guns. Consequently, they engaged in various trades which we will discuss further in detail in our presentation. The fur trade brought mutual benefits for the Europeans and the indigenous peoples, which satisfied their needs of animal pelts and improved survival tools respectively.

Livia: Excellent, let's get started!

## Slide #3-French Intro

Fiona: Aujourd'hui, nous allons parler du commerce des fourrures au Canada. Nous aborderons notamment son histoire, les marchandises échangées et les devises utilisées, les principaux animaux et leurs fourrures,

les zones géographiques concernées, le rôle des femmes et quelques faits intéressants. Pour commencer, définissons ce qu'est le commerce des fourrures.

Livia : La traite des fourrures a débuté au 15<sup>e</sup> siècle, lorsque les Européens recherchaient des peaux d'animaux pour la mode et l'habillement, tandis que les peuples autochtones souhaitaient des outils de survie plus performants, comme des armes à feu. Ils se sont donc lancés dans divers échanges commerciaux que nous détaillerons dans notre présentation. Le commerce des fourrures a été mutuellement bénéfique, répondant aux besoins respectifs des Européens en peaux d'animaux et des peuples autochtones en outils de survie plus performants.

Fiona : Parfait, commençons !

## Slide #4-When it happened

Livia: The Fur Trade started in the 1500s and concluded in 1870. As illustrated, we have categorized the timelines into 'early trade', 'main phase', and the 'end'. The early trade refers to the period when Europeans began traveling to North America to acquire beaver pelt hats. The main phase is when there was expansion inland, and an intense competition between the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company. Finally, the end signifies the conclusion of the Fur Trade.

## Slide #5-Les animaux primaires et ses fourrures

Fiona: Nous allons vous montrer une vidéo à propos des fourrures des animaux et les animaux spécifiques qui donnent leurs fourrures.

## Slide #6-Trade goods and currencies

Livia: On this slide, we have labeled the low-value, medium-value, and high-value. A is low, B medium, and C high. For low-value, it was barely worth anything during that time, the items include hardware, fishhooks, knives, glass beads, and tokens. Medium-value items are daily useful things, such as blankets, guns, and brass kettles. High-value elements are animal pelts, axes and large knives. Mostly the good and useful essentials were worth \$1-\$3, which was quite expensive back in the day. But as you probably already know, they traded instead of money. Now, onto the next slide!

## Slide #7-Les Éplacements

Fiona: Maintenant, dans ce diapos je vais vous dire ou la traite des fourrures on déplacer pendant tout la période des traites des fourrures. La plupart des déplacements sont dans la baie d'Hudson, et les grands champs. Mais aussi à l'ouest et au nord-ouest.

## Slide #8-Roles of Women

Livia: In this slide, we will introduce what women did in the fur trade. We know that men trapped and traded items, and they became voyageurs or explorers, but what did women do? Well, women did a lot! They provided critical survival skills which included fire-making, winter mobility, flint and steel mastery, and of course, basic first aid. Also, they did labour such as taking raw materials and transforming those resources into essential goods. Women prepared animal hides to increase its market value, preserve the pelt, and to enhance its softness and flexibility. They also

made clothes for their group or brigade. Women secured food supply and became nurturers for their brigade.

## Slide #9- 3 fun facts

Fiona: Did you know that the most common animals for the fur trade were beaver, minx, fox, bears, and otters? Also, indigenous peoples started the fur trade because they wanted improved survival tools! Finally, did you know that voyageurs had to row for about 16 hours everyday?!

## Slide #10- References

Livia: For this project, we used 3 websites. One, The Canadian Encyclopedia, which is a secondary source. Two, the Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada is also a secondary source. And finally, 3, Curriculum Services Canada, which is a primary source.

## Slide #11- Conclusion

Fiona: To recap our presentation, today we discussed: The Fur Trade in Canada, when it happened, primary animals and their fur, trade goods and currency, locations, roles of women, and a couple fun facts. Thank you for your attention and time!

Livia: Pour conclure, aujourd'hui, nous avons a propos les sujets suivants :  
Le commerce des fourrures au Canada, quand a-t-il eu lieu ?, les principaux animaux et leurs fourrures, les marchandises et la monnaie utilisées pour le commerce, les lieux de commerce, le rôle des femmes, et les faits intéressants. Merci pour votre attention et votre temps!