



Greetings everyone.

To continue the 4Directions group, we continue to share a weekly plan of resources to use on each unit.

You are all welcome to use it any day of the week as you see fit to ensure that all members of the group continue to feel the presence of their spiritual and cultural practices. Of course, in the spirit of reconciliation and community, neighbors and friends of the group members are also welcome to join to learn about Indigenous culture and life.

To preserve the intention of the 4Directions as a sharing circle, you can set up the people you support in small groups in the living room (maintaining the 6 feet/2 meter between people). Using the laptop, ipad or Smart TV along with reading the notes that follow, people can also be supported to explore the weekly program.

People can also work individually in their own room using their own devices if they choose that. When you begin, all you need to do is support people to read through the guide and pause to play the video links that are noted. Thank you.

Thank you for finding the courage to continue to share your gifts of caring and support with one another and your creativity to create meaningful experiences with people who you support.

Please touch base if you have any questions.

*Kind regards,
Andrew & Sheryll Ann*

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April 23, 2020 – The Trading Post

Today, let us start the gathering with a song using this link <https://bit.ly/2ypw5wd>

The fur trade was a vast commercial enterprise across the wild, forested expanse of what is now Canada. It was at its peak for nearly 250 years, from the early 17th to the mid-19th centuries. It was sustained primarily by the trapping of beavers to satisfy the European demand for felt hats. The intensely competitive trade opened the continent to exploration and settlement. It financed missionary work, established social, economic and colonial relationships between Europeans and Indigenous people, and played a formative role in the creation and development of Canada.

Click on the link to watch a playlist summarizing the [fur trade history](#).

<https://bit.ly/3cuzxEA>

To appreciate and understand how the trading system worked. Here is a [printable game](#) you can do with the people you support.

Beaver pelts were the most sought-after fur of all the animals, but other furs were traded too.

The game is essentially a scavenger hunt, with one person being the shopkeeper and the others trappers out on the hunt. First, you print out the animal cards and ledgers – if you have several person playing, you might consider making a double copy of the animals so they can hunt longer. Once they have all been cut out, the shopkeeper hides them all around the house before the game begins.

When the game starts, trappers head out hunting for animals. At first, all they can collect are deer and raccoons. 3 deer cards or 2 raccoon cards can be traded in to be equivalent to 1 beaver card. Trappers can choose to trade in 1 beaver pelt for a knife (allowing them to now collect beaver card), or 8 beaver pelts for a musket (that they can use to collect bears.) The goal of the game is to collect the most beaver pelt value.

The shopkeeper is in charge of using the ledgers to keep track of everyone's furs. After all the cards have been collected (or all the ones you find during the game, because it's likely you will find some stragglers after the game is over), the trading post totals up everyone's card values, subtracting the cost of the weapons they've bought, to see who was the most successful.

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One interesting side lesson from this was having a great visual example of how prolific wildlife was when settlers first arrived and how soon it became sparse, demonstrating exactly how the fur trade really caused havoc and endangered the beaver.

Closing Ritual: To close the program, acknowledge each person present and thank them for their time. Choose one or more people to lead in closing the circle; support them to thump the drum four times (or clap their hands four times) to close the circle. Share this [last song](#) as you close the circle.

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