

**“Canada A People’s History: The Pathfinders”**

The Pathfinders

- In the 1650`s New France relies on the fur trade with Natives. Fortunes are made feeding Europe`s craving for beaver felt \_\_\_\_\_.
- After repeated rejections in Quebec and in France, Radisson and Des Groseilliers broach treason. They take their plan to the court of France`s rival, England. The coureur de bois tell King Charles II that Britain can control the richest fur grounds in North America if it sets up a series of trading posts where the rivers flow into \_\_\_\_\_ Bay.
- On May 2, \_\_\_\_\_ with the stamp of the royal seal, King Charles II creates a monopoly over three million square miles of land. The Hudson`s Bay Company – the honourable company of adventurers – is born.

The River Route

- He (Pierre La Vérendrye) sets up eight western trading posts. The French traders will still have to endure the long trip back to Montreal. But, they can intercept the best \_\_\_\_\_ before the Native trappers go to Hudson Bay.
- La Vérendrye has found the achilles heel of the Hudson`s Bay Company, a back door route leading to the heart of fur country. And that launches a battle for mastery of the west that will last a \_\_\_\_\_ years.

Life At The Bay

- But with the arrival of spring, the trading posts come alive as flotillas of \_\_\_\_\_ arrive with the winter supplies of furs. In the best years, the Native trappers and hunters unload more than 100,000 animal pelts.

- Clerks like David Thompson keep meticulous accounts of the goods the company trades with the Natives. No money changes hands; the \_\_\_\_\_ is the standard of currency. One blanket costs seven pelts and a gun fourteen.

#### The Nor`Westers

- The competing systems are entrenched, the Hudson`s Bay Company remains in posts along the bay`s coastline and the Natives bring their furs to them. While French traders travel from \_\_\_\_\_ into the interior to trade directly with the Natives. The English system and the French. But, it all changes in 1759.
- With the conquest of New France, a new group of Americans, English, and Highland Scots take over the French trade routes. At first, the Hudson`s Bay Company dismisses them as mere peddlers until a group of the Montreal merchants pool resources and form the \_\_\_\_\_ West Company.
- Within fifteen years of incorporation, the Nor`Westers control almost \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the fur trade and are reporting huge earnings.

#### In The Shadow Of The Rockies

- In the 1700`s \_\_\_\_\_ epidemics brought by unsuspecting European traders killed half the Native peoples across the west.

#### The Voyageurs

- Strong, young French-Canadians – the \_\_\_\_\_ – should be no taller than five feet, six inches to leave room for cargo.

- More than six weeks after leaving Montreal, the canoes approach Grand Portage. The voyageurs have paddled and portaged one thousand miles. In two weeks they will do the same trip again – back to Montreal – loaded with \_\_\_\_\_.

#### The Winterer

- Most winterers find companionship with Native women, "country marriages" as they are called, cement \_\_\_\_\_ alliances.
- Lasette travels to Montreal with her husband and they are legally married. Their children of European and Native blood become part of a new Canadian people, the \_\_\_\_\_.