

Canadian Shield

Muskeg, Moose, and Minerals

September 12, 2005

Day 140: North Bay, Ontario

...The next morning, we set out into Georgian Bay with hopes of making it to the mouth of the French River. The wind proved too difficult on this day and after paddling about 30 km we were forced to pull onto shore. The next morning we paddled up the Voyageur Channel of the river, only to find it full of high reeds and very little water. We pushed on and after a few unmarked portages we were finally on the French River. As we emerged from the French River into Lake Nipissing, we were again hit with rough winds and steep waves and had to take refuge in the protection of a small bay...

Can you imagine spending five months in a canoe? That is just what Drew Osborne and Clare Cayley did when they followed the traditional fur trade route through the Canadian Shield. They travelled on rivers and lakes, from Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, to Montréal, Québec. They woke with the sun, paddled all day, and camped in the wilderness at night. They saw moose and bears, and the insects were so fierce that they had to wear bug jackets for protection.

Luckily, Drew and Clare met many helpful people along the way. There were cities and towns where they could find food and shelter when they needed it. Read Drew and Clare's journal entry again. What do you think the fur traders might have done hundreds of years ago, when faced with the same conditions in the Canadian Shield?

Canada: Our Stories Continue

In the last chapter, you read about how the St. Lawrence River is like a highway. People have built communities along the river and use ships to transport goods within the region and around the world. Drew and Clare also used lakes and rivers as they crossed almost half the country. Much of their trip was through one region, the Canadian Shield. The Shield is the largest region in Canada, covering parts of five provinces and two territories. There are countless lakes and rivers, animals, abundant rocks, and vast forests.

? Critical Inquiry TIP

Retrieving

Good researchers keep track of where they find information. Use a section in your notebook to record book titles, authors, page numbers, and any Internet sites you use.

? Inquiring Minds

Here are some questions to guide your inquiry for this chapter:

- What would Drew and Clare have to know about the geography and climate of this region in order to have a successful journey?
- List the factors that drew Europeans to explore this region.



Let's Explore the Canadian



Hi! My name is Gordie McGillivray. I live in the Opaskwayak [o-PASS-kwee-ak] First Nation community. It's across from The Pas in northern Manitoba.



Algonquin Park is one of many wilderness areas in the Shield region. Visitors can camp, canoe, and hike. It's also a great place to see a moose!



The forestry industry provides many jobs for people in the Shield.



Thinking It Through

- Where are the largest cities in this region located?
- What types of jobs do you think the people of the Shield might have?

Shield!



Chicoutimi, Québec, was originally settled in 1676 when a fur trading post was built there by the French.



Moose Factory, Ontario, is the home of the Moose Cree First Nation. The Hudson's Bay Company set up a trading post here in 1673.



Skill Smart

- On the map, locate Gordie's community, Algonquin Provincial Park, and Moose Factory. Give the absolute and relative location for each place.

The Canadian Shield

words matter!

Muskeg is a swamp or bog formed from the buildup of moss, leaves, and other plants.

Waterways are rivers and lakes that can be used by people in canoes as highways for travel.



Kakabeka Falls is near the city of Thunder Bay.

Millions of years ago, this region had many mountains. Geologists say that over a very long time the movement of thick ice wore the mountains down, leaving behind thin, rocky soil. The region is home to many bogs called **muskeg**. There are also rich mineral deposits of nickel, gold, silver, and copper. Many cities and towns have developed throughout this region.

Roots of the Region

The Woodland Cree, the Anishinabé, and the Innu were the first people to live in this region. They depended on the animals, plants, and rivers. French and English fur traders came into the Canadian Shield region to trade with the First Nations. They set up trading posts, and many of these trading posts became larger communities.

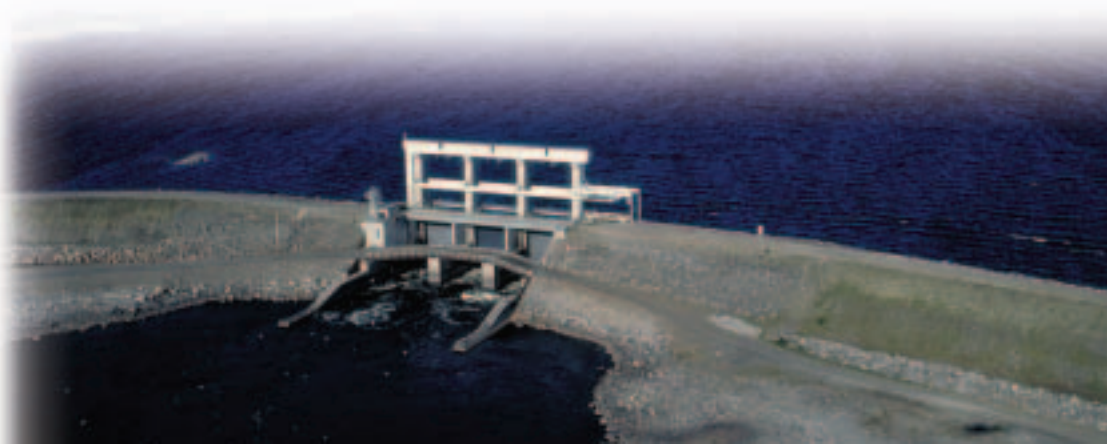
The **waterways** made travelling possible for First Nations people, Métis, explorers, and traders. French and English explorers came to the region and mapped the many rivers, lakes, and bays.

Why People Live Here Today

First Nations people continue to live in the region. Some live in First Nations communities, and some live in towns and cities. Descendants of the French, English, Métis, and other people also live in the region.

The region has many valuable natural resources, such as lumber, water, and minerals. Many people work in the forestry, mining, and hydroelectric industries, too.

The Churchill Falls hydroelectric plant, in Labrador, is one of the largest of its kind in North America. Find Churchill Falls on the map on pages 96–97. What do you notice about its location?



What Affects Quality of Life?

Here is how the land, water, and climate affect quality of life for some people in the Canadian Shield. Recreation is one aspect of quality of life.



In Churchill, the snow is so high that sometimes people have to dig out the snow before they can open their door. The snow is also high enough to make great snow forts.



To build this highway in Algonquin Park, workers had to cut through the rock of the Canadian Shield. It was dangerous work, but the roads provided transportation routes. They allow visitors to see the beauty of the park.



Tourists come to the region to enjoy fishing and boating on beautiful lakes, such as Rock Lake. They can catch walleye, bass, and lake trout.

Thinking It Through

- How does the land, water, and other natural resources contribute to recreational activities in this region?

Georgian Bay is part of Lake Huron. The area is popular with hikers and cottagers.

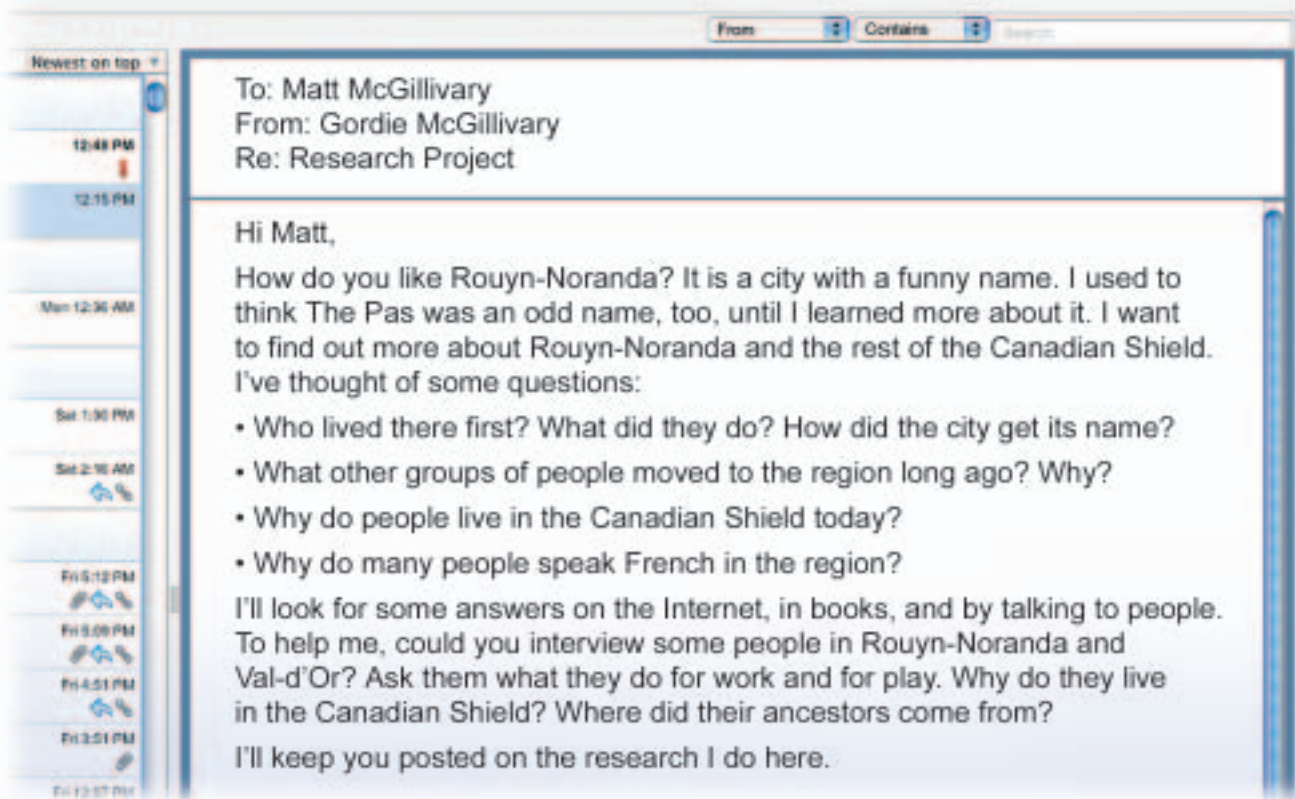




Gordie's Inquiry



My brother, Matt, played hockey for the OCN (Opaskwayak Cree Nation) Blizzard last year. This year he is a defenceman for the Rouyn-Noranda Huskies, in Québec. Matt had to move away from home to play on his new hockey team. I wonder what Rouyn-Noranda is like? I think I'll send Matt an e-mail to find out more. Maybe he can even help me with my school research project.



Skill Smart

- Make a list of three questions you want answers to about this region. Look for answers in this chapter and in other sources.

Using Information on a Chart

In an inquiry, you sometimes need to analyze information on a chart. Gordie knew that Rouyn-Noranda and Val-d’Or are in the Canadian Shield and that some of the other hockey communities Matt would be visiting are in the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence Lowlands. Gordie wanted to know how each community compared with The Pas. He did some research and organized his findings in the chart below.

Town	Total Population (2001)	Population Increasing (+) or Decreasing (-)	% of jobs with Natural Resources	% of Jobs in Factories
The Pas	6000	-	4	16
Rouyn-Noranda	27 000	-	10.5	12
Val-d’Or	28 000	-	13	13
Gatineau	103 000	+	1	12
Drummondville	46 600	+	2	33
Shawinigan	17 535	-	3	28
Québec City	683 000	+	1	11

- Shield communities
- Lowlands communities

Practise the Skill

Use the chart above to answer these questions:

- How does the population of The Pas compare with that of Rouyn-Noranda? With that of Val-d’Or? Québec City?
- Look at the middle column. Which towns are increasing in population? Are they in the Lowlands or the Shield? What factors might affect population in these communities?
- For each of the towns in the Shield, add the numbers in the last two columns. This will tell you how much of the industry in these towns is related to resources and factories. Next, do the same for the towns in the Lowlands. What does this information tell you about how ways of life in the Shield compare with the Lowlands?

Who First Lived in the Canadian Shield?



Voices of Canada

What do these two quotes tell about the traditional ways of life of the Innu and Anishinabé people in this region?

Respect for Animals

Respect for the animals is very important in our culture. When a caribou is killed, the antlers should be well taken care of. Always respect the bones of the animal you kill.

Pien Penashue, Innu Elder

[We] never wasted even a bit of [a porcupine]. We'd use the quills and hair in our crafts, and when we'd eaten we'd put the bones into the fire as an offering of thanks to the **Creator**.

*Freda McDonald,
Anishinabé Elder*

words matter!

Creator is a word used by some First Nations to refer to Great Spirit.

The Woodland Cree, the Anishinabé, and the Innu have always lived in the Canadian Shield. Traditionally, the Anishinabé lived in the southern part of the Shield, around Lake Superior. The Woodland Cree lived in more northern areas, closer to Hudson Bay. The Innu lived in what is now Québec and Labrador. There were also Inuit living on the northern coast of Labrador and Québec.



These Cree children in northern Québec are learning how to make snowshoes. How were snowshoes traditionally made? How are they made today?

Connection to the Land

The First Nations of the Shield region used all the resources of the land and followed the cycle of the seasons. In the spring and summer, the Woodland Cree and Anishinabé fished and hunted ducks and geese using bows and arrows. They gathered berries and other plants. In the fall, they harvested wild rice. They also hunted animals such as deer, moose, caribou, and rabbits using snares, traps, and pens.

The Innu travelled throughout their lands, camping in the best hunting lands, often journeying farther in search of caribou. They developed technology to travel in this northern environment. Birchbark canoes were used in summer, and snowshoes were used in winter. They also invented the toboggan, a long sled that carried their belongings.

Why Did Other People Come?

In the last chapter, you read that French explorers and traders started settlements in the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence Lowlands. New settlers were interested in things that were unique to Canada. They were especially interested in animal furs. It is not surprising that French and English explorers such as Pierre de La Vérendrye and David Thompson started coming to the Shield in the 1600s and 1700s.

Merchants in England looked at maps and compared the latitudes of London and Hudson Bay. They assumed that the climate would be the same as England's climate: gentle and mild. So when the merchants sent men from England to the Shield region, they ordered the men to provide their own food by raising pigs and growing gardens. From what you know about the Shield, how easy do you think this was to do?

Eager to expand the fur trade, explorers and traders soon started making their way west, across the Canadian Shield. They travelled for hundreds of kilometres into what was for them an unknown wilderness. They encountered muskeg, dense forests, rivers with dangerous rapids and waterfalls, and many lakes. Insects were ferocious in summer, and in winter the cold and snow might stop travel entirely. It was only with the help of the First Nations that the French and English traders could survive their journeys across the land.

More About . . .

Henry Hudson

Henry Hudson was an English explorer who hoped to find a way for ships to sail from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. He thought such a passage might be found in the north. During 1610–1611, he found Hudson Bay and James Bay. Hudson Bay, and the Hudson Strait, were both named after him. What other contributions did explorers like Hudson make to Canadian history?

Hudson Bay is frozen for at least six months of the year. It is colder than the Arctic Ocean! How many months of the year are lakes and rivers frozen in your community?



What Were the First Jobs in the Shield?



Many people in Europe wore hats made from beaver fur. Why do you think this made the fur trade so valuable?

words matter!

Coueurs des bois is a French term meaning “runners of the woods.”



When the coureurs des bois began working in the Shield region, they adapted to the environment. They learned how to survive on the land and changed their clothing to suit their new way of life.

As Europeans explored the region, they found it ideal for obtaining furs. Explorers like Samuel de Champlain had already traded for furs with First Nations people in the Atlantic region. In the Shield, the fur trade would become an important industry for the next 200 years, until the late 1800s.

The fur trade flourished in the Shield because

- abundant forests, rivers, and lakes were home to many fur-bearing animals
- cold winters meant animals grew thick fur coats
- beavers built dams and lived in one place, making them easy to catch
- waterways provided ways for trappers and traders to travel

Étienne Brûlé

Étienne Brûlé, a French explorer, came to New France with Champlain. In 1610, Champlain sent Brûlé to live with the Ouendat. He hoped that Brûlé would create a friendly relationship with them. Brûlé learned their language and became a translator.

By 1618, he was trading independently with First Nations people and had become the first **coureur des bois**. From the Ouendat, he learned how to survive on the land and use the waterways for travel.



This map shows the main routes of the coureurs des bois in the Shield region. Compare the routes to the map on pages 96–97. Are there any present-day communities where the routes used to be? How does this map compare to the route Drew and Clare took?

Coueurs des Bois

Soon more men came to New France to work in the fur trade and they made their living as coureurs des bois. They became friends with the First Nations and explored on their own. They would load their canoes with goods from France, then travel north and west on the waterways. There, they met First Nations trappers and traded the items for furs. Once they returned to New France, they sold the furs and set out again.



Voices of Canada

Life as a Canoeman

A coureur des bois remembers his life.

No portage was too long for me... Fifty songs a day were nothing to me. I could carry, paddle, walk and sing with any man I ever saw. There is no life so happy... none so independent.

Told to Alexander Ross, a Scottish fur trader, in 1855



Voices of Canada

Becoming Coureurs des Bois

Young people adopt a new way of life.

...our entire French youth is planning to go trading with the [First] Nations, and they hope to come back with beaver pelts from many hunting seasons.

Father François le Mercier

What Was Life Like for Coureurs des Bois?

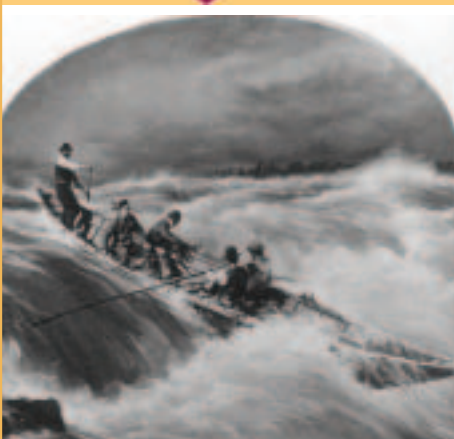
Coureurs des bois faced many challenges:

- sore muscles and severe muscle injuries from carrying heavy packs during portages
- bites from mosquitoes, black flies, and other insects
- intense heat and bitter cold, dangerous rapids
- no maps or compasses
- travelling through First Nations lands, sometimes without a guide and without permission

Skill Smart

- State whether or not you would have liked the life of a coureur des bois and explain why. Share your ideas with others. Listen to their ideas. How do they influence your thoughts?

THEN AND NOW



Coureurs des bois paddled through rapids or portaged around them. Today, people can experience the same excitement. Whitewater rafting is a popular sport in the Canadian Shield.

The Hudson's Bay Company



Part of the Trans Canada Trail in Ontario is called the Voyageur Trail. It follows the northern shore of Lake Superior. Hikers enjoy the rugged beauty of the rocky shores.

In the mid-1600s, two *coureurs des bois*, Pierre Radisson and Médard Chouart des Groseilliers, went into the country north of Lake Superior. When they returned, they approached the governor of New France with their idea to explore the lands close to Hudson Bay. In response, the governor seized their furs and briefly jailed them. They had traded without permission, and the government wanted to keep control of the fur trade.

Angry at this treatment, Radisson and des Groseilliers approached the British. They proposed that British ships could carry fur traders into Hudson Bay, avoiding Montréal and going around the government of New France. The

British agreed. In 1668, des Groseilliers sailed alone into Hudson Bay, after Radisson's ship was damaged in a storm. The British built Fort Rupert and claimed a vast territory they called Rupert's Land. In 1670, the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) was created.

What geographic advantage did the HBC have over fur traders from Montréal?

Rupert's Land



The North West Company

In the 1780s, a group of Scottish and Montréal businessmen created the North West Company (NWC). They wanted to compete with the HBC. They hired men called **voyageurs** to work for them. The voyageurs loaded supplies and trade goods into huge canoes and paddled from Montréal to Lake Superior. From there, traders in smaller canoes went out and traded with First Nations people. The goal was to get to these people before they took their furs to an HBC trading post. Soon there was an intense rivalry between the two companies.

words matter!

Voyageur is a French word meaning "traveller." Voyageurs travelled by canoe, working for fur-trading companies.

The Voyageurs

The voyageurs were usually Canadien or **Métis**. Many First Nations people liked doing business with the Canadiens because they were willing to learn First Nations languages. They also respected the First Nations way of life.

Like the coureurs des bois, the voyageurs had a hard life. They portaged past waterfalls and rapids, camped outdoors, and paddled for hours. Unlike the coureurs des bois, these men worked in groups and were employees of the North West Company. They supported the traders who worked farther inland by delivering supplies. They also had special permits from the government of New France.



This painting shows voyageurs travelling in the Canadian Shield. It was painted in 1869 by Frances Anne Hopkins, who came to the region with her husband and sketched what she saw. Find her in the painting. What other personal sources can be used to give us information about the past?



Voices of Canada

Voyageur Paddle Songs

To pass the time and to keep rhythm as they paddled, the voyageurs sang songs. Many of the songs were adapted from French songs they already knew. "V'là l'bon vent!," for example, has different versions in Acadia and France. Here is part of the song in English. How do you think the rhythm of the song would help the voyageurs paddle all day?

Here comes the wind, here comes the pretty wind,
Here comes the wind, my friend is calling,
Here comes the wind, here comes the pretty wind,
Here comes the wind, she waits for me.

words matter!

During this time, **Métis** were people who had one parent who was First Nations and one who was Canadien. Later, Métis also had Scottish and British ancestry.



The coureurs des bois and the voyageurs had the same job, but they were very different. For example, the voyageurs worked in groups, and the coureurs des bois worked alone. I think I'll use a diagram to help sort out what I'm learning about them.

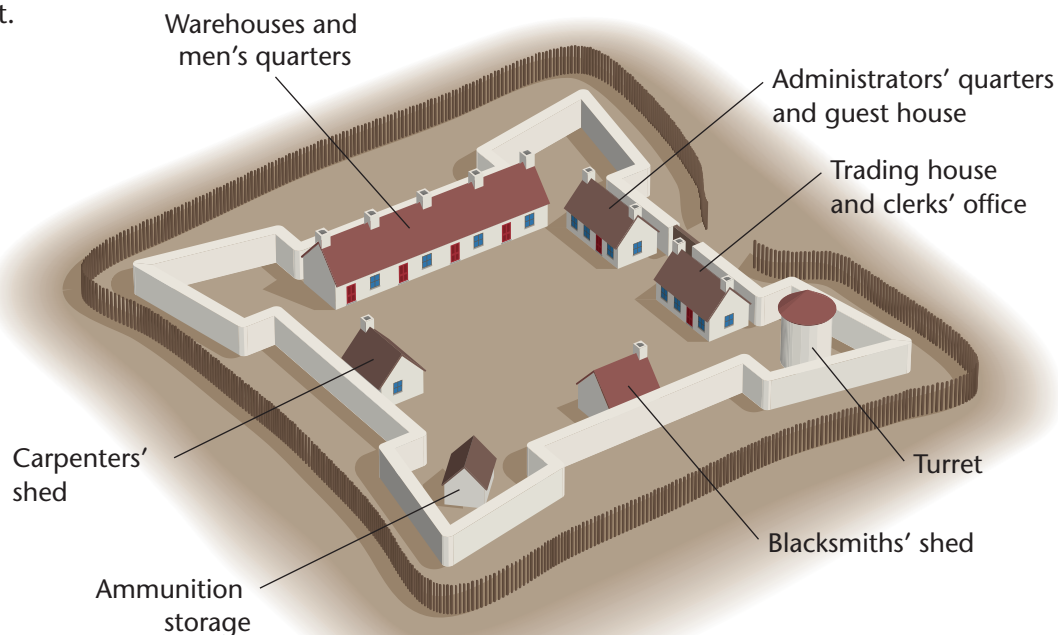
Life in the Forts

? Critical Inquiry TIP

Processing

A Venn diagram is another way to organize your information. It will help you compare things that are similar and different.

Both the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company built trading posts across the Canadian Shield. Many were built as forts. A fort was a group of buildings that was surrounded by high wooden walls. Some forts were also called "factories."



Thinking It Through

- Have you ever visited a fort in Alberta? How do you think a fort in Alberta might compare to the one described here? Do some research to find out more.

What can you learn about life in the forts by looking at this diagram? What do you think was important to the people who lived there? What languages did people speak in the forts?

More About . . .

Jobs in the Hudson's Bay Company

In the HBC, labourers did work such as loading and unloading ships, portaging boats around rough water, cutting firewood, and shovelling snow. There were also craftsmen. These carpenters and blacksmiths built the forts and boats. Usually they were Francophones, or young men from Scotland. Why do you think so?

In charge were the administrators, chief traders, and the **factors**. These "gentlemen officers" were paid more. They had better places to live and more food. The highest official at a fort was the factor. He was usually an Englishman or a Scot.

words matter!

The **factor** was the HBC employee in charge of the trading post.

Life Outside the Forts

Groups of Cree often camped outside company forts. The Cree would hunt and fish for the fort employees. In exchange, they received food and other goods. When the voyageurs arrived at the North West Company forts, they camped outside, too.



Voices of Canada

Working for the HBC

Louis Bird tells of the First Nations people who worked for the HBC at York Factory.

[There were] local people, who were hired to do all the labour. To get the wood... and the food, to be able to feed the people who worked there in the summer.

Louis Bird, Cree First Nation, James Bay

Skill Smart

- With a partner, research a community, such as Moose Factory, that began as a trading fort. Discuss how life in this community might have shaped life in other communities in the Shield.

Making a Difference

A Role Model from Moose Factory

Jonathan Cheechoo is a member of the Moose Cree First Nation, and he is also the first person from Moose Factory to play in the NHL. When Cheechoo's team plays in Canada, he makes sure to meet with any young Aboriginal people who want to talk with him. Cheechoo understands that he can be a good role model for them. "I set aside some time after our morning skates to talk with them. They're pretty excited when they meet me, and I take that as an honour. I must be doing something right if the kids are looking up to [me]."

In 2006, he met with more than 100 Cree young people from northern Québec who came to see him play in Ottawa. He told them, "Stay true to yourself and remember, if you work hard enough, you can do anything you put your mind to."



How Did the Fur Trade Affect the First Nations?

First Nations people relied on the land and their ingenuity for food, clothing, utensils, and weapons. Nothing was wasted. When French, English, and Scottish fur traders arrived at HBC forts, they brought copper kettles, knives, rifles, wool blankets, flour, and salted meat to trade with the Woodland Cree and Anishinabé for furs.



Voices of Canada

Trading with Europeans

When the fur trade began, the Hudson's Bay Company set up its headquarters at a place that became known as York Factory. It is in Manitoba. Abel Chapman, a Cree storyteller, grew up there. He heard this story from his grandparents.

This was a long time ago. There were [First Nations people] living here but there was no store... food came from the land... One day [the people] saw something way out in the bay... there was a boat coming closer to shore. A lot of the people ran and hid! The men pulled to shore and they had someone to interpret for them. The interpreter said that the [men were] looking for [First Nations people] to trade with. These men took all the fur... and unloaded a lot of trade items. That's when trading began in York Factory.

Abel Chapman

Thinking It Through

- Why do you think Abel's grandparents wanted him to know this story? Why did some of the people run and hide?



Check the map on page 106 and find York Factory. Why do you think it was a good location for the HBC's headquarters?

Changing Ways of Life

The Cree and Anishinabé had been trading for generations before the European fur trade began. They knew what they needed and what they valued. They were used to working with others to get a fair trade. During the fur trade, the First Nations people knew that the French and English were competing for their furs. They often took their furs to different trading posts to see who would give them the most in return.

Look at the chart on this page. What does it tell you about the value of these items?

Item	Number of beaver pelts
1 kettle	1
1 pair of breeches	3
1 gun	12
12 fish hooks	1

Some of the favourite items from the trading posts were buttons, beads, and mirrors. Why do you think these items may have been so popular?



Voices of Canada

Value of the Beaver

This Innu chief talks about the value of the beaver to a Jesuit missionary.

The Beaver does everything perfectly well, it makes kettles, hatchets, swords, knives, bread... The English have no sense: they give us twenty knives... for one beaver skin.

Innu chief, recorded in the Jesuit Relations, 1610-1791



These are kettles from 1610 to 1620. Objects like these are found today in museums.

The Cree and Anishinabé also traded for guns. These made hunting easier, but they forced the hunters to rely on the trading posts for bullets. Another problem was that once the hunters started spending most of their time getting furs, they had less time to look for food for their families. As a result, the Cree and Anishinabé became dependent on the trading posts for much of their food. Many of them moved near the posts for this reason.



The HBC also traded wool blankets for furs. The black lines, called points, showed how large the blanket was. Is the HBC blanket still part of the Canadian identity today?

Who Are the Métis?

words matter!

Pemmican is dried meat, pounded to a paste and mixed with melted fat and berries.

Relationships between the First Nations and the French, English, Scottish, and Canadian fur traders often resulted in unions between the traders and First Nations women. Their children were the first Métis.

The Métis played an important role in the fur trade. They often worked as administrators or translators. Many were guides and voyageurs. Métis women played a key part in the fur trade, too. They removed the fur from the animals and made snowshoes and moccasins. They also made **pemmican**, an important source of food for the traders. These women helped their European husbands understand First Nations languages.

Métis culture started as a mix of First Nations and French cultures. Soon it became unique. The Métis have their own music and stories. They have a language called Michif, which combines French and Cree. When Métis children grew up, they often married other Métis. This was the beginning of the Métis Nation. You will learn more about the important role played by Métis in the exploration and development of Canada.

Métis Youth Paddle West



Thunder Bay—In 2006, six Métis youth will take part in the Métis Canoe Expedition. They will paddle an eight metre (26 foot) voyageur canoe from Thunder Bay, Ontario to Batoche, Saskatchewan. It will take eight weeks to paddle the same route that their ancestors took during the fur trade. Tony Belcourt, president of the Métis Nation of Ontario, said, “This expedition will provide our Métis youth with a unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to follow in the shadow of our ancestors.”

The Métis Canoe Expedition celebrates the role that the Métis had as voyageurs during the fur trade. How do you think it felt for these young Métis people to participate in this voyage?

How Did the Fur Trade Help Canada Develop?

Young children often play “leapfrog.” It is a game in which you move forward by jumping over people crouching on the ground. The development of Canada during the time of the fur trade was kind of like a game of leapfrog.

In order to reach First Nations people before they brought furs to HBC trading posts, the NWC traders travelled farther west and north, to areas past the HBC posts. They built their own posts and forts in these new areas. The HBC soon realized that it had competition, so *their* employees began to build posts in areas past the NWC ones!

English, French, and Métis traders and voyageurs explored the country as they went farther west and north through the Shield. Their reports and maps helped settlers establish communities as far away as British Columbia and the Northwest Territories. These places might have become part of the United States if it were not for British and Canadian explorers like David Thompson and Pierre de La Vérendrye.

David Thompson

David Thompson came from England as a young man. First, he worked for the HBC, and then for the NWC. During his life, he and his Métis wife, Charlotte, explored and mapped almost 4 million square kilometres of North America!

Thompson drew a map of western Canada in 1814. It was so accurate that it was still used 100 years later by the government and the railways. Today, some people call him “the greatest land geographer who ever lived.”



I'm going to use maps to see how the two companies moved across the country.



Voices of Canada

Skilled Guides

David Thompson thought the First Nations person was very skilled in being able to guide himself through the darkest pine forests to exactly the place he intended to go, his keen, constant attention on everything; the removal of the smallest stone, the bent or broken twig... all spoke plain language to him.

Olive Dickason, Métis historian

This stamp was issued in honour of David Thompson in 1957.

Pierre de La Vérendrye



This painting shows La Vérendrye at Lake of the Woods. Why might the artist have chosen to show La Vérendrye this way?

La Vérendrye was born in New France in 1685. He was the first Canadian to travel far into the West. Why did La Vérendrye and his sons journey from Québec as far as the Assiniboine River and beyond? While he was commanding a fur-trading post on Lake Nipigon, La Vérendrye heard about a huge western sea from First Nations people. La Vérendrye made many journeys to try to find a route to this sea (the Pacific Ocean).

On his journeys in the West, he set up six fur-trading posts for the French. As commander of the western posts, La Vérendrye opened this vast area to French trade. His sons, François and Louis-Joseph, were the first Europeans to reach the Rocky Mountains.

? Critical Inquiry TIP

Sharing

A map is one way to present information. Different maps share different information.



Skill Smart

- Look closely at the map above and note the forts La Vérendrye built. In what ways do you think his journey westward influenced the development of Canada?
- Did you match any forts with cities of today?

What Jobs Do People Have in the Shield Today?

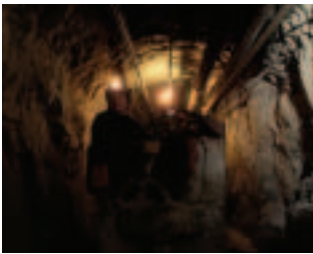
In the past, many jobs in the Canadian Shield were related to the fur trade. However, by the late 1800s, the fur trade was coming to an end. What did people do for work then?

There are many jobs in the Shield in medicine, tourism, government, and other industries. Still, many of the industries in the Shield depend on natural resources such as water, minerals, and forests.



Many people in my community have jobs that depend on natural resources. I wonder if it's the same in other communities in my region?

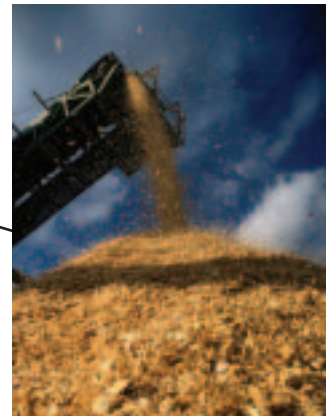
Mining



Tourism



Forestry



How do natural resources provide jobs?

Thinking It Through

- When the availability of natural resources changes, what impact does it have on the community?

Where Do People Live in the Shield?



My Community: Opaskwayak First Nation

Thousands of years ago, Cree people from all around this area met here because two rivers come together. Today, about 4500 Cree people live in my community. Sometimes tourists come through Opaskwayak First Nation and hire people like my dad. He works as a hunting and fishing guide.

You already know that some communities are built near a source of water. First Nations communities in the Shield were no exception. Many were built on rivers or lakes. Others, such as Opaskwayak First Nation, were built where two rivers came together.

When the European fur traders started building trading posts, they built along rivers, too. Some of the trading posts and forts in the Shield grew into towns. Other communities in the Shield region were founded near natural resources. Some were settled by Francophone missionaries. Every community has different people living there and depends on many different resources. Read about some different communities in the Shield.

Trading Posts Built During the Fur Trade



This map shows only some of the trading posts that were built in the Canadian Shield during the fur trade. Which ones are still communities today?

Chisasibi, Québec

Some First Nations communities in the Canadian Shield are in isolated areas. Like Chisasibi in Québec, many began as trading posts. In Chisasibi, the trading post became a permanent settlement for Cree people who stayed to trade with the English at Fort George. Many people still fish and hunt, while others work for Hydro-Québec, since the James Bay Hydroelectric Project is located nearby.



This is a view of Chisasibi from the air. About 4000 people live here. Look at the map on pages 96–97 and find Chisasibi, which is on the shore of James Bay.

Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

Most of the early explorers, settlers, and missionaries in the Canadian Shield were Francophone. They started many communities in the region, and several other towns are named after them. Étienne Brûlé originally named a town in northern Ontario “Sault du Gaston,” in honour of the brother of the King of France. It was renamed “Sault Ste. Marie” in 1669 by French Jesuit missionaries. Radisson, Québec, is named after Pierre Radisson, whom you read about on page 106.

Today, many communities in the Shield, such as Timmins, Sudbury, and North Bay in Ontario, have large Francophone populations and a strong Francophone presence. Collège Boréal is a Francophone college in Sudbury. Find other Francophone communities in the Canadian Shield region. Research the origin of the name of one of the communities you find.

More About . . .

The James Bay Project

The James Bay Project began in 1971. The government of Québec wanted to use the natural resources of the province to generate electricity. The Cree, Inuit, and Innu people who lived in the area were opposed to the project. The construction affected their traditional hunting areas, and the Québec government had acted without their approval. They sued the government and stopped construction of the dams. The government later agreed to set aside a protected area in northern Québec. They also relocated the James Bay Cree to new living areas.

Thinking It Through

- What were the main concerns of each group in the James Bay Project?

Communities and Natural Resources

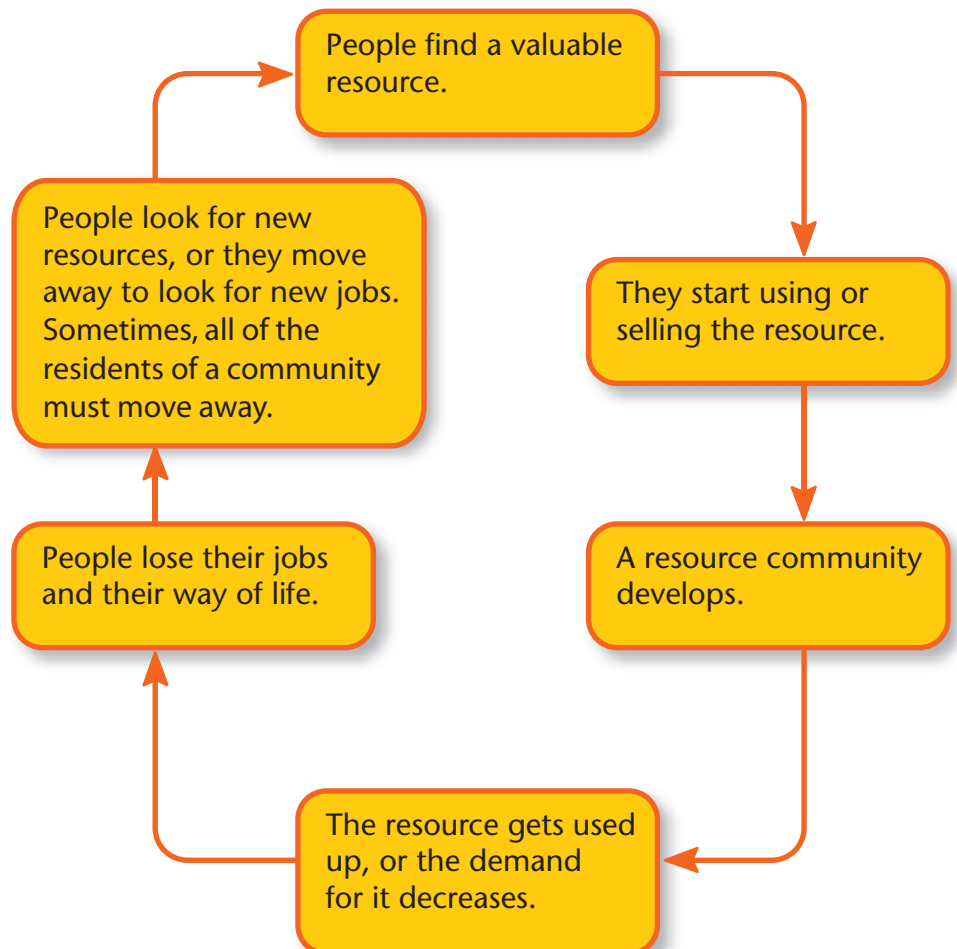


The city of Sudbury, in Ontario, grew very quickly when nickel was discovered in the area. Nickel is used to make coins and stainless steel. What can you discover about Sudbury today?

Mines and mills are built to take advantage of the minerals and forests of the Canadian Shield. At first, workers live in tents, trailers, and shacks in the wilderness. Soon families come to join the workers. Houses, schools, places of worship, and stores are built. Soon, a whole community has developed. These are called “resource communities” because the residents depend on the processing of a resource for their way of life.

Today, thousands of Canadians live and work in resource communities. Jobs in mills and mines are hard and dangerous, but workers and their families form close communities. What would happen to such a community if too many trees were cut down or a mineral started to run out? Look at the cycle below to find out.

The Natural Resources Cycle



Elliot Lake: Living the Cycle

Elliot Lake is a great example of a resource community. It has gone through the natural resources cycle many times. Its location near Lake Huron in Ontario has made it popular for many different reasons over the years.

For centuries, the Anishinabé gathered in this area to hunt and fish. They started a village where Elliot Lake is today. In the late 1800s, European loggers and trappers moved there because of the forests and the animals. Then, in 1948, **uranium** was discovered in the area. By 1960, there were 11 mines near the town.

Over the next 35 years, the mines closed and reopened. As a result, the population dwindled and then rose. In 1996, the mines closed again and the population dropped. Residents decided that they needed a new, more dependable resource. The people of Elliot Lake looked around their town and realized it would make a great tourist destination.



This is Westview Park in Elliot Lake. How can a community work together to find new resources in their area?

Thinking It Through

- Why do you think the residents of Elliot Lake thought that their community was a good destination for tourists? What makes your own community good for tourism?



Look at the photos and read the Voices of Canada on this page. What is life in Elliot Lake like today? Where would you place the town in the Natural Resources Cycle on page 118?

words matter!

Uranium is an element used to create both nuclear energy and X-rays.



Voices of Canada

Elliot Lake

My husband and I moved here two years ago, and we couldn't be happier. When we're not out hiking or fishing, we love sitting and watching the wildlife around the lake.

Sheila Jordan, retiree

What a wonderful vacation we had at Elliot Lake last summer! We enjoyed the exhibits at the arts college and all the water sports in the lake. And the town's people were so friendly!

Edward McLeod, tourist

Is It Good to Discover Natural Resources Near Your Home?

Today Elliot Lake, Ontario, is a city of about 12 000 people. When uranium was discovered, many people were excited about the opportunities it would provide. Not everyone felt the same way. Many people wonder if the search for natural resources beneath Earth's surface is worth the damage caused by mining and processing these resources. Cree Elder, John Petagumskum said, "The earth was created the way it was by the Creator, and changing it is unnatural and wrong. The land and the rivers where the Cree people hunt and fish are a garden, a gift from the Creator ... it has to be treated with love and respect to ensure that its spirit lives forever." Look at some of the other viewpoints on these pages.



Near Elliot Lake, a mining company built a plant at Serpent River First Nation. Bonnie Devine is an artist and a member of the Serpent River First Nation. This piece is about the damage caused by uranium mining and refining there.

Mining provided jobs for thousands of people like me. The town grew a lot. Many businesses came. This provided even more jobs. When the mine closed, I could not find work. I have remained unemployed ever since.

The waste at the mine sites will be poisonous for thousands of years. It has caused many health problems for people in the area. The mine has destroyed our community.

The world wanted uranium as a fuel, for X-rays, and to make nuclear weapons. Canadian mines helped supply the world with this important resource. I am proud to be a leader in this area.

Canada has so many forests, rivers, and lakes that it can spare some of these areas for developing mines. I think it is important to maintain the mining industry here.

Over to You

- Discuss the points of view on these pages, and the painting by Bonnie Devine. How do you think each opinion was formed?
- What natural resources have been developed in Alberta? Is there a community in Alberta like Elliot Lake?

Build Your Skills!

Use Information from a Chart

Shield Community	Distance to Edmonton	Main Resource	Annual Snowfall
Moose Factory	2225 km	Tourism	226 cm
Sudbury	2426 km	Mining	268 cm
Thunder Bay	1781 km	Forestry	196 cm
Churchill	1323 km	Tourism	200 cm

- What information is being compared?
- Based on the chart, write down two ways the Shield communities are the same, and two ways they are different. For example, both Moose Factory and Sudbury are more than 2000 km away from Edmonton.

Research a Park

Find out more about a provincial or national park in the Canadian Shield.

- Why was the park established?
- How did it get its name?
- What does the park protect or conserve?

Create a report outline. Use headings and jot notes to share what you learn about the park. Include some interesting facts about the park.

Look at an Article

Find an article in the opinion section of a newspaper or magazine about the use of natural resources.

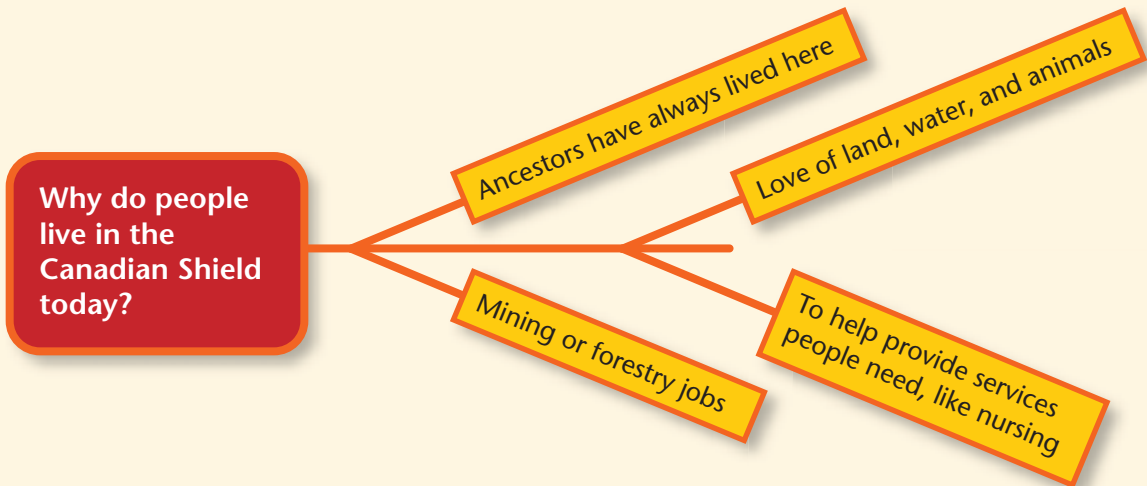
- What is the main argument in the article?
- What evidence does it give to support its argument?
- Do you agree with the writer? Why or why not?



Putting It All Together



I organized some of the information that my brother and I got from interviews on a fishbone chart.



Review the inquiry questions for this chapter:

- What would Drew and Clare have to know about the geography and climate of this region in order to have a successful journey?
- List the factors that drew Europeans to explore this region.

Take Time to Reflect



Before you go on to the next chapter, think about what you learned in this one. During their journey across the Canadian Shield, Drew and Clare met with many people who helped them. Write a short description of what might have happened had Drew and Clare not received any help. You can use the journal entry on page 94 as the start of your story. Save your work for your Canada Collection.