

did Champlain. In fact, Champlain tried to stop people from coming to farm at the habitation because he thought this would ruin the trade; worse still, it might create trade outside his monopoly. Some Native allies became annoyed with Champlain. Christian missionaries who had begun to accompany traders to Canada were trying to convert them to Roman Catholicism, and to force them to change their own culture and traditions. When Champlain's colony was attacked by the English Kirke brothers, the Algonkians (and Étienne Brulé) guided the English and refused to help the French. Champlain was captured and taken prisoner. The Algonkians and

Montagnais had turned on the French because they were uneasy about the prospect of Champlain forging links with the mighty Huron nation.

Champlain's colony, however, did not die. When he was in his sixties, a new company—The Company of a Hundred Associates—took over, with strong backing from the most powerful person in France, Cardinal Richelieu. Champlain returned to Quebec and began to rebuild the colony, which had been destroyed by the English. He set up new posts in the Company's name at different places along the river. A few years later, Champlain died on Christmas Day.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1627, only 107 French people resided in Canada.

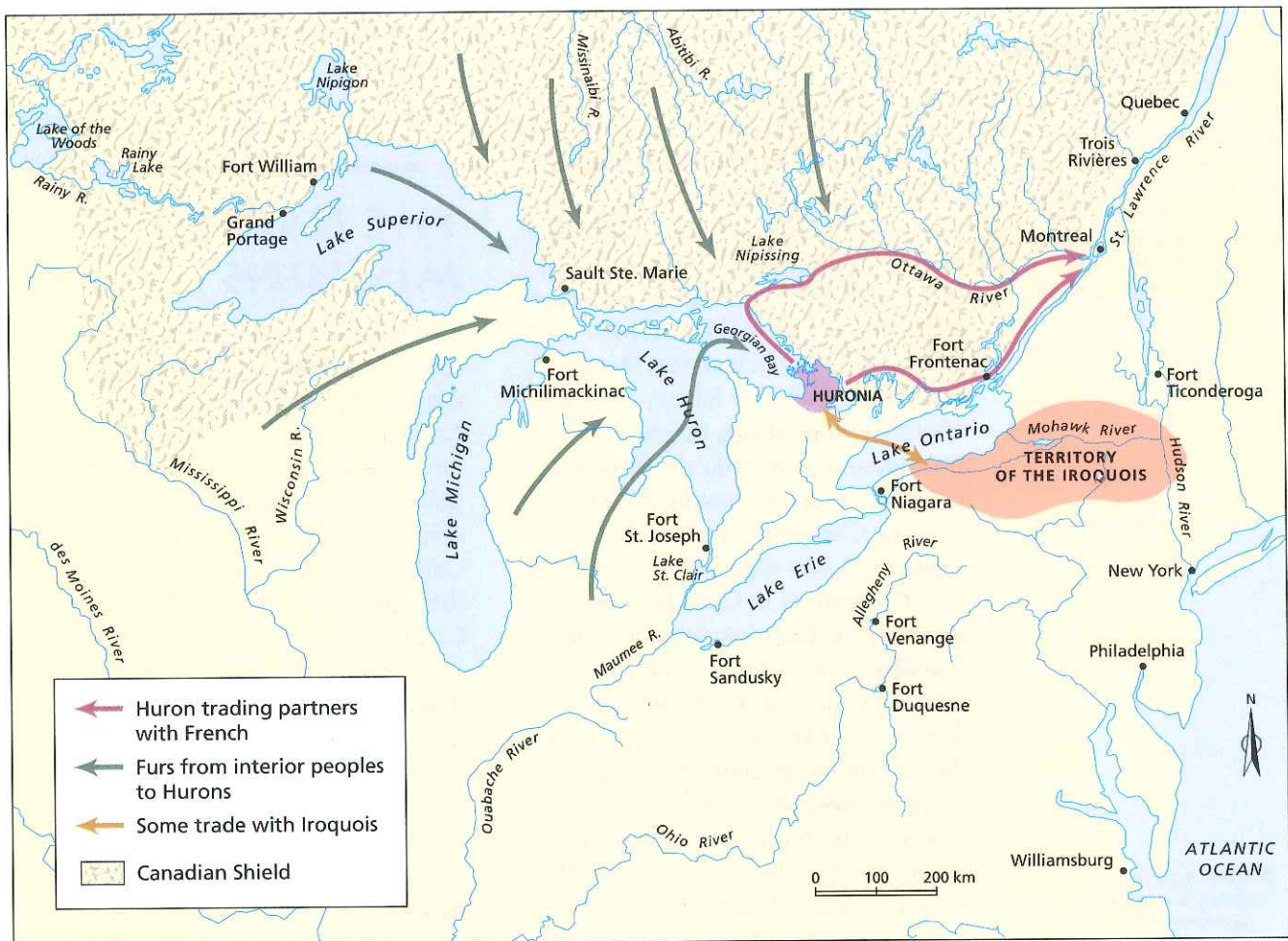


Figure 8-12 The Hurons had built a vast trading empire before the arrival of Champlain, and they expanded it when Champlain arrived. Their activities brought them into conflict with the Iroquois, who were also expanding their territories. From Huronia, canoes travelled between Georgian Bay and the Ottawa River, then down to the St. Lawrence. At which point would the Hurons most likely meet Iroquois war parties?

ACTIVITIES

1. Create a Time Line for the excursions of Giovanni Verrazano, Jacques Cartier, and the Sieur de Roberval. Add as many dates as you can. Even if you are not sure exactly when an event occurred, add it on your Time Line between two known dates.
2. What social values would have led Jacques Cartier to kidnap the sons of his Iroquois host at the Gaspé Peninsula and take them to Europe?
3. In point form, summarize Champlain's reasons for exploring Canada and his successes and failures in Canada. What were your criteria for determining whether something was a success or failure?
4. Create a drawing that reflects the many facets of Huron society. Use the text on page 229 as your information base.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Hurons found the Jesuits' robes and beards strange. They noticed that the robes restricted movement, dried slowly when wet, smelled bad, caught on the underbrush, and dragged dirt into the canoes. The priests' beards were considered by the Hurons to be "the greatest disfigurement that a face can have."

SETTLEMENT AND COLONIZATION

By the time Champlain died, European countries were working hard to extend their imperial interests around the world. On the Atlantic Coast of North America, the Dutch and the English had colonies. They also took possession of islands in the Caribbean, challenging France and Spain. By the late 1600s, Holland had lost its colony to the English, and the English colonies of Massachusetts, Maryland, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Delaware, Virginia, New Jersey, Maine, and Carolina—also called “the Thirteen Colonies”—were growing rapidly.

The Company of a Hundred Associates was required by its **charter** to bring settlers to Canada and to establish **seigneuries**, which were feudal-style manors. Overseeing posts along the St. Lawrence, including the town of Montreal, the Company viewed the settlement issue with some reluctance. They were, after all, in the fur business, not in the farming business. By mapping out seigneuries in Acadia and along the St. Lawrence, and appointing seigneurs to bring in the settlers, they believed they had solved the problem.

In the long run, the Company of a Hundred Associates was a business

failure. It lost its monopoly in the fur trade in 1660, and soon fell into **bankruptcy**.

THE JESUIT MISSIONS

The Jesuits, an order of Roman Catholic priests, were the partners of the Company of a Hundred Associates. Richelieu wanted the Native peoples to hear “the knowledge of the true God [and] ... be civilized and instructed in the Catholic faith.” He was encouraged in this view by the king of France, Louis XIII.

Other missionaries had tried and failed to convert the Hurons to Catholicism, but the Jesuits were different. They were prepared to go anywhere and make any sacrifice to spread the influence of the Church. The Jesuits were also prepared to adapt to Native traditions and customs. This accommodation allowed them to live and work with the Hurons, who were tolerant of the newcomers, but unwilling to abandon their own culture or religious beliefs.

charter: a document setting out terms of existence

seigneuries: feudal-like states

bankruptcy: a state of financial ruin

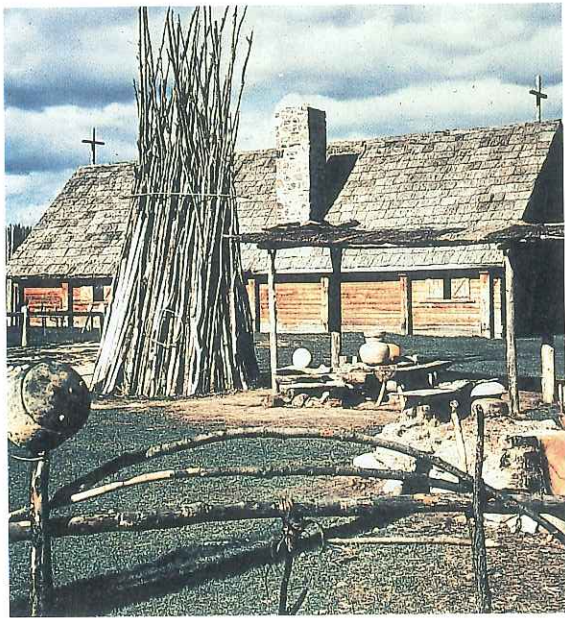
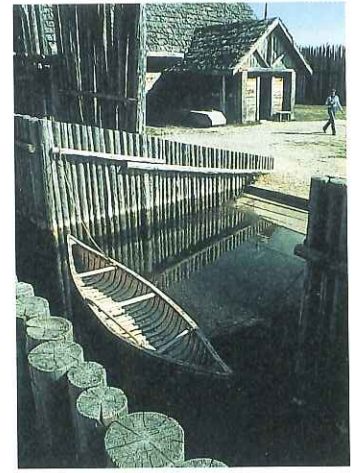


Figure 8-13 These photographs show the reconstruction of the Jesuit mission of Saint Marie Among the Hurons. It was built on the ruins of the original, which burned down in 1649. One of a chain of missions, Saint Marie had a stockade and a protected system of water locks that allowed canoes to come up into the fort. The mission also had a chapel, **smithy**, bakery, storehouses, gardens, stables, and living quarters.

The Jesuits found the task of mastering Native languages **daunting**, yet this was essential for communication. Native languages were very different from French or Latin (which every Jesuit had studied). They included many connected words and complicated verbs. The meaning of something could change according to where the speaker was located—on land or in the water. And one word could have several meanings, based on breathing,

tone, or **inflection**.

On the surface, the Jesuits tried to stay out of Huron politics. But because Hurons who converted to Christianity enjoyed privileges in the fur trade, many joined the Church and came to live near the Jesuit missions in Huronia. Still, many Hurons refused to join the Church. This disagreement eventually split the Huron nation, which made it more vulnerable to attack.

smithy: workshop

daunting: challenging

inflection: the emphasis placed on a particular syllable of a word

A Disappearing Act

Between 1649 and 1650, Huronia was attacked by a coalition of Seneca and Mohawk Indians. For the next ten years, the powerful Iroquois moved in and almost annihilated the Hurons and other Native bands in southern Ontario. They destroyed all the missions in Huronia. Many Hurons, Petuns, Tobacco, and others of the bands of southern Ontario, were taken captive and later adopted into the Iroquois **League of Five Nations**. Jesuit priests were captured and tortured to death.

Five Nations: the original Iroquois confederacy

similes: a figure of speech comparing two things

This was a fearful time for both the missionaries and the Hurons. The Iroquois were skilled aggressors—so skilled that even their enemies were in awe of them, as the Jesuit account below illustrates. As you are reading, pay attention to the **similes** used in this excerpt. What do they have in common? Are they effective? Why?

[The Iroquois] come like foxes through the woods, which afford them concealment and serve them as an impregnable fortress. They attack like lions and, as their surprises are made when they are least expected, they meet with no resistance. They take flight like birds, disappearing before they have really appeared.

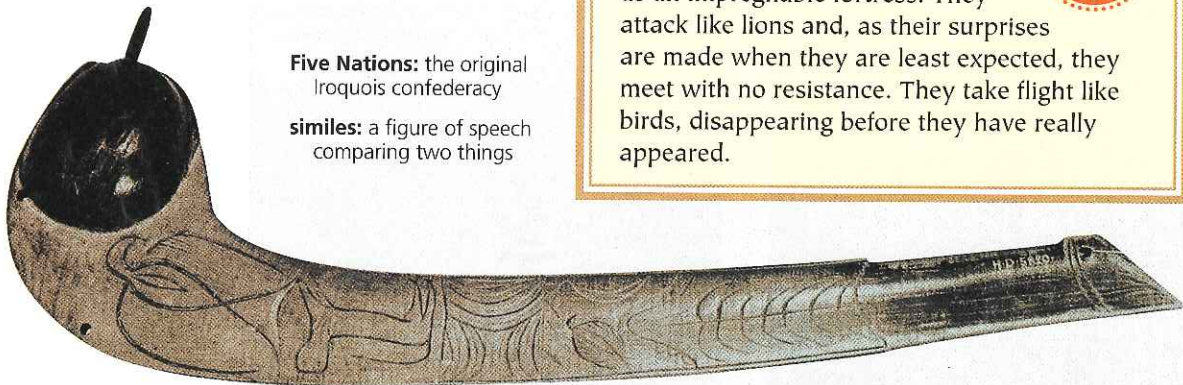


Figure 8-14 This weapon was carved from a single piece of wood and thrown by an Iroquois warrior in battle. It could fell an enemy 40 metres away.

DID YOU KNOW?

The names *du Lhut*, *Marquette*, and *Cadillac* survive in the twentieth century as the names of a city (Duluth, Minnesota) a Catholic university (Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin) and a luxury car (the Cadillac).

THE ROLE OF THE COUREURS DE BOIS

In keeping with their plan, the French tried to develop close trading relationships with Native peoples. Officially, they wanted Native traders to come to the St. Lawrence. But in practice, French explorers and coureurs de bois travelled far out into the continent, seeking both furs and the elusive Northwest Passage.

The coureurs de bois were the independent traders of the fur business. Furs were supposed to be controlled by monopolies, such as the Company of a Hundred Associates, but these rules were easy to bend. Since the Iroquois had more or less stopped the Algonkians and other Native bands from bringing furs to the St. Lawrence, the coureurs de bois had to go to the source. They paid officials fees and bribes to look the other way. The coureurs de bois travelled the waterways in birch-bark canoes, usually made by the

Algonkians. This was the beginning of the **fur brigades**, which eventually opened up the west to the fur trade. Once into the Great Lakes, they could travel great distances.

Brothers-in-law Pierre Radisson and Médart de Groseilliers are perhaps the most famous of the *coureurs de bois*. De Groseilliers brought many furs from the north country. Radisson, hearing of the great northern sea from the Algonkians and Ojibwa, was guided to Hudson Bay and the rich fur territories that surrounded it. When

Radisson and de Groseilliers failed to interest France in their find, they travelled to England, where King Charles II sponsored the creation of the Hudson's Bay Company—soon to be New France's Number One enemy.

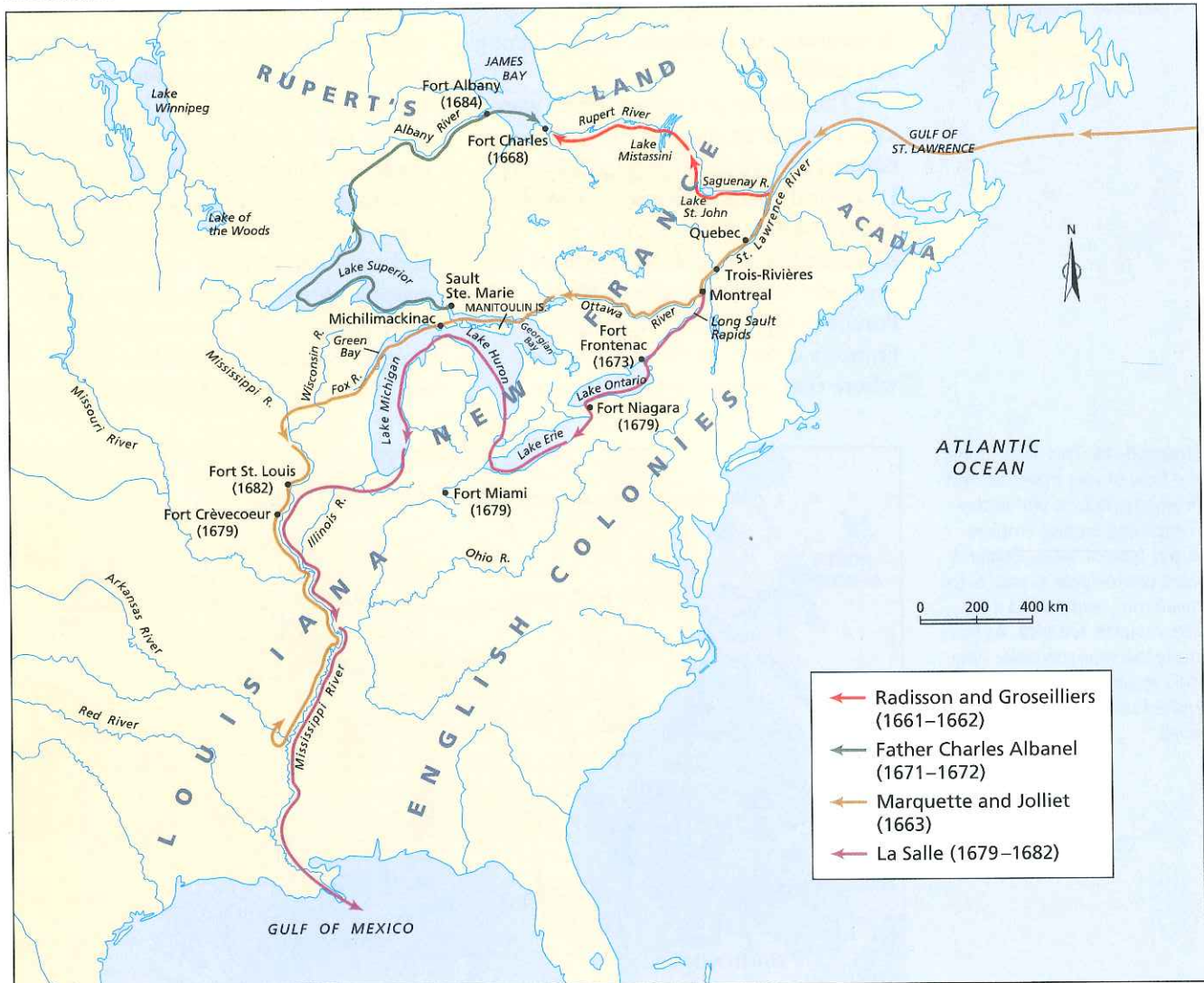
Other travellers, such as Daniel du Lhut, Jacques Marquette, and Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac, travelled the Great Lakes and the upper Mississippi. By 1740, the Verendrye family (a father and three sons) had crossed the prairies and had established trading forts. They probably saw the Rocky Mountains.

DID YOU KNOW?

One of the most famous of the independent trader-explorers was René Robert, Sieur de La Salle, a noble from Normandy in France. He built the first sailing ship on the Great Lakes, the Griffin. The ship sank and was rediscovered in deep water at Tobermory, Ontario, in this century.

fur brigades: groups of people who traded furs for a living

Figure 8-15 This map shows the routes of French *coureurs de bois* and adventurers into the interior of North America. They were always assisted by Native guides. Regions of the continent were named according to what the travellers saw, or recorded, with reference to the fur trade.



THE ROYAL PROVINCE OF NEW FRANCE

When Champlain died in 1635, only a few French lived in New France. The Company of a Hundred Associates had failed to bring settlers to Canada, and the Iroquois controlled much of the fur trade (after wresting it from the Hurons). They began to set higher prices and to cut French profits. For the next twenty-five years, little changed.

However, in 1661, an appeal to France for help from New France met with success. Louis XIV, now king of France, and his minister of the marine, Jean-Baptiste Colbert, were determined to make the colony strong and profitable.

The theory of mercantilism was very popular in the seventeenth century (see feature on page 237). To Louis and Colbert, Canada needed to become a part of the French mercantile empire. In addition to the fur trade, there was talk of New France shipping barrel staves to France's colony in the West Indies, where they were needed for sugar

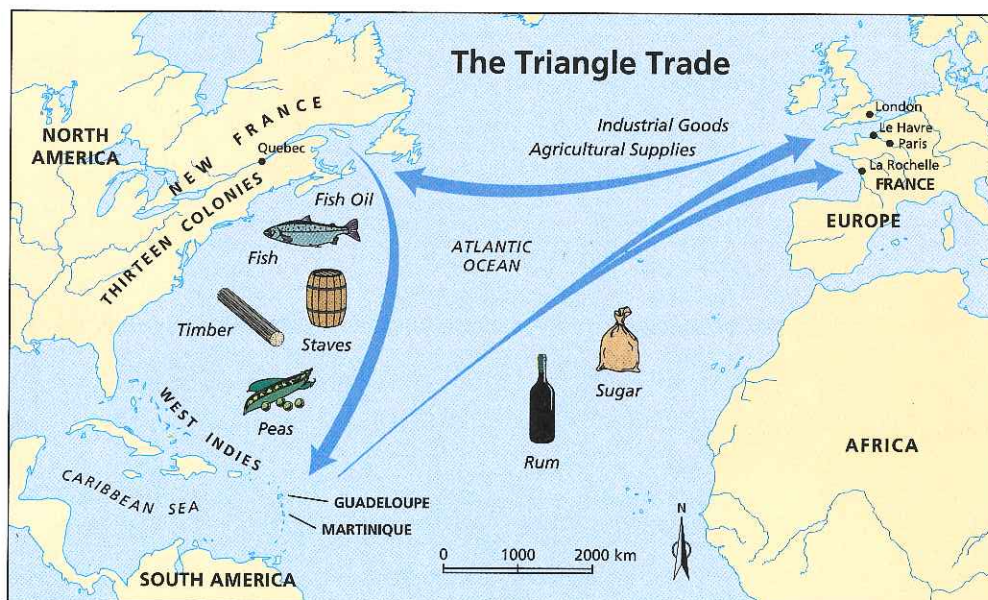
production. Wood was cheaper in Canada than anywhere else. Louis and Colbert knew they had to organize life in New France so that it could operate successfully as a commercial venture.

France responded to the colony's call for help by sending a regiment of professional soldiers. The 1100 soldiers almost doubled the population of Canada. Led by the Marquis de Tracy, they attacked and burned Iroquois villages until the Iroquois asked for peace. Both parties got what they wanted: the French would open up the fur trade to the west for themselves, and the Iroquois could devote their energies to expanding their territory elsewhere.

In 1663, the government of France made New France a royal colony. A governor was appointed to represent the king of France, supervise defence, and establish treaties with the Native peoples. A chief administrator, the *intendant*, would govern the local people. Professional soldiers were sent for protection. A Catholic bishop

staves: the narrow strips of wood in barrel

Figure 8-16 This map shows the flow of raw materials and finished products within the French and English empires. In this type of trade, England used waste-sugar products to make rum, and traded it for furs in North America. As you study this map, consider why the French government wished to keep New France small.



would be responsible for religious affairs, and Catholic priests and **nuns** would continue to convert the Native peoples to Christianity. Together, the governor, the intendant, and the bishop made up the Sovereign Council—the government of New France. A few settlers were also represented on the Council.

France wanted the colony to be a small copy of the home country. The

seigneurial system, similar to the feudal system, would ensure that the colony's aristocrats would have control of the land, with the same rights they enjoyed in France. Champlain had wanted the Native peoples and the French traders to intermarry and make one nation. But this idea was slowly replaced with a new plan—a strong colony populated by French peasants.

nun: a Catholic woman who takes vows and enters a religious community

The Role of Mercantilism in Colonialism

Mercantilism is an economic theory you read about last year in your study of global history. Mercantilism became popular in Europe in the 1500s and was the primary reason behind Europe's desire to colonize new lands.

The theory of mercantilism states that there is a certain amount of wealth in the world and that it is in a nation's best interest to accumulate it. Through wealth, a nation can achieve power. A country achieves wealth by producing and exporting more goods than it imports. These goods must be sold at a **profit** for wealth to accumulate.

Profits are large when a country spends a small amount of money on the **raw materials** needed to create a product and sells the **finished product** for a high price. It is easy to see how a new colony in North America would be the perfect place for Europeans to find a steady supply of new raw materials.

Mercantilism was meant to serve the interests of the empire, not the colony. Colonies existed for the benefit of the home country. Colonies could not sell their raw materials to anyone but the home country, and they were not allowed to manufacture anything for export.

As you continue reading this chapter, think about the political and social consequences of mercantilism and colonialism. Start by looking at Figure 8–17. As you learned in Chapter 4, the West Indies produced many goods that Europeans wanted, especially sugar. Who provided the labour in Europe's West Indian colonies? What does this say about European imperialism and the mercantilist system?

profit: an excess of money after spending

raw materials: natural sources, such as trees or furry animals

finished product: a product that has been manufactured

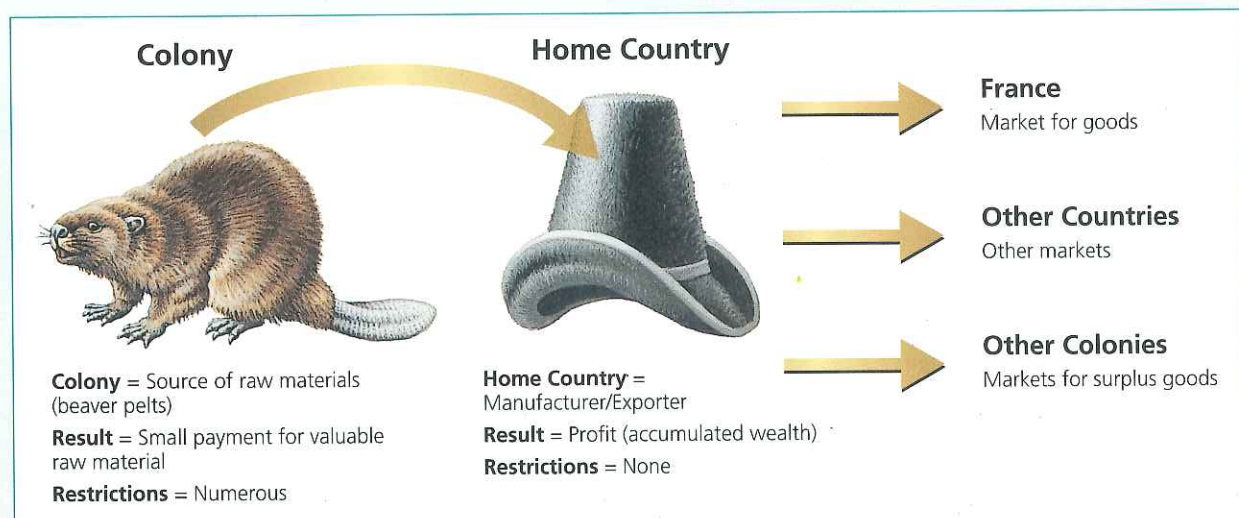


Figure 8–17 In this diagram of mercantilism, using beaver fur as an example, pelts were bought for a low price, made into hats, blankets, and other luxuries, and sold to home and foreign markets for profit. The surplus was often sold off to other colonies.

tannery: a place where hides are converted to leather

THE FIRST GOVERNMENT

Jean Talon was New France's first intendant. He knew that New France needed settlers, a good defence system, and basic industries. The arrival of so many French soldiers made New France safer and also increased its population, since many of the soldiers decided to settle in Canada. Talon recruited women by looking to those who had the least to gain by staying in France. These women, often orphans, became known as the *filles du roi*, or the "the

king's daughters." Over the next ten years, hundreds of young women came to start new lives in Canada.

Talon also understood the role of the colony in the mercantile system. He established lumber mills, a **tannery**, and a brewery in Canada. These did not compete with French industries, but made trade within the empire easier, and life in the colony more comfortable. He also allowed small ships to be built. These improvements made New France stronger, more self-sufficient, and more profitable to France.

Frontenac, became New France's first governor. He agreed to take the posting because he needed to escape people to whom he owed money in France! Almost from the beginning, Frontenac fought with the Church and the home government. Instead of keeping the colony small, as Louis XIV

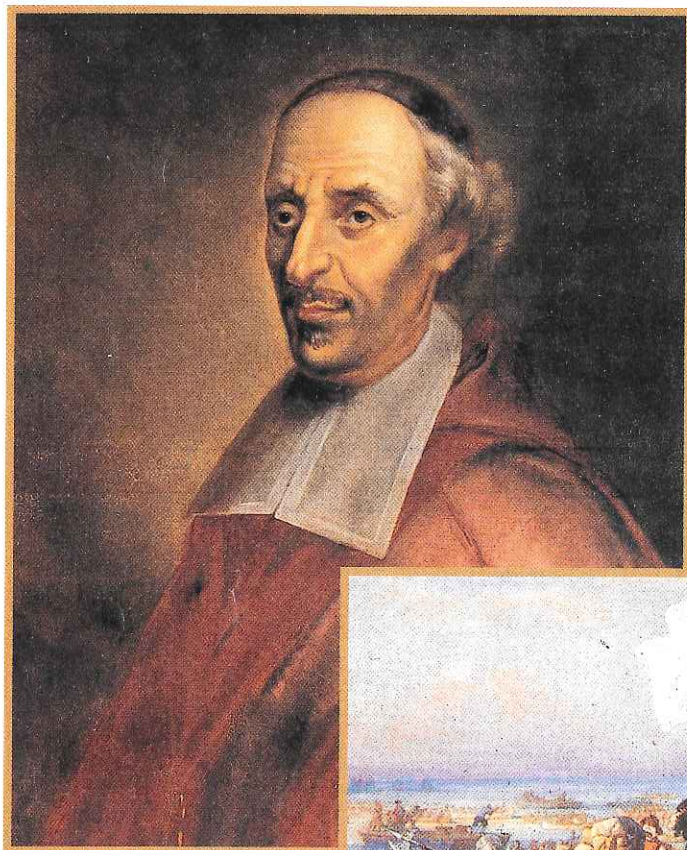


Figure 8-18 The colony's first bishop, Francois de Laval, was an aristocrat who founded a training school for priests in New France. It later became Laval University. Laval fought very hard against the emerging trade in alcohol. Both French and English traders exchanged alcohol for furs at a large profit, a development that had a devastating impact on Native communities. This portrait shows the first bishop as a severe aristocrat. What other personality traits can you glean from this portrait?



Figure 8-19 Frontenac cooperated with—and fought with—the Iroquois.

and Colbert wished, he ordered the *coureurs de bois* to look for more furs, thereby extending the boundaries of the empire. He also disliked the Jesuits, who were perceived to be harming the fur trade by trying to limit the use of alcohol.

At one point, Frontenac asked the Iroquois to meet with him and build a business alliance. Simultaneously, however, he was building forts to protect the French against their

attacks. The Iroquois said they would agree only if the French would not expand their territory. Frontenac's own policy of encouraging the *coureurs de bois* and other explorers to travel far beyond the borders of New France seemed highly suspicious to the Iroquois. Frontenac was recalled to France in 1682, but he was sent back several years later to lead his last campaign against the Iroquois.

ACTIVITIES

1. Create a dialogue between a Huron chief and a Jesuit missionary in which both present their best arguments for and against allowing the Jesuits to stay and work in Huronia.
2. Outline the reasons why young French Canadians became *coureurs de bois*. Summarize the explorations of the French in central North America.
3. Outline the results of the fur trade from the points of view of both the French traders and the Native peoples whom they encountered.
4. Explain the relationship between mercantilism and colonialism (page 237). Can there ever be profit without one party being short-changed? Explain.
5. Talon, Frontenac, and Laval are often considered important figures in the early history of New France. Do you agree? Make cases for and against this proposition and draw a conclusion.
6. Explain why some young women would agree to come to the colony of New France as *filles du roi*.

LIFE IN NEW FRANCE

Life in New France was firmly anchored in the seigneurial system. Seigneurs, or lords, were granted parcels of land, and the *habitants*, or peasant farmers, had the right to cultivate the land in exchange for providing fees and services to the seigneur. This system had much in common with the old feudal system of Europe, but it was also quite different. Both the seigneurs and the *habitants*, who lived on the land, were relatively

prosperous. Many worked part-time in the fur trade

These various enterprises gave the people of New France an attitude of independence, which sometimes irritated representatives of France. They began to think that the colonists had forgotten their place. Nevertheless, the people of New France were always loyal to France, and kept French traditions and customs.

arpent: a French land measure

midwife: a woman who helps deliver babies

militia: citizens who train as soldiers in their spare time

THE SEIGNEURY

You read earlier that the parcelling of land into seigneuries was begun by the Company of a Hundred Associates. By 1663, there were 104 seigneuries divided into more than 13 million square arpents and spread over 320 kilometres on both sides of the St. Lawrence.

The seigneur had to build and live in a manor house, hold court in the event of disputes, attract settlers, and build a mill. Usually, he was also responsible for defence. The habitants were required to pay rent, provide days of service to the seigneur, and serve in the **militia**. They had to keep their land productive and grind their grain into flour at the seigneur's mill.



Figure 8-20 If the seigneur was absent and could not defend the seigneurie, members of his family could be called up. In 1692, teen-aged Madeleine de Verchères led the defence of a seigneurie when it was attacked by Iroquois forces.

Figure 8-21 Rich merchants working in New France were able to import furniture and other articles from France. Judging from the contents of this room, what observations can you make about the people who used it?

THE HABITANTS

The lives of the habitants were built around the manor and the Church. Many of the younger people worked in the fur trade or, if they could be

spared, in some of the small industries of Quebec. Women worked on the farm, and they had many children, always delivered in the home by **midwives**. They lived simply, but reasonably well, once the danger of attack by the Iroquois had been removed.

Life was based on the cycle of the farm. In the spring, crops were planted, sugar was harvested from sugar maples, and the fishing season began (in the spring, many species

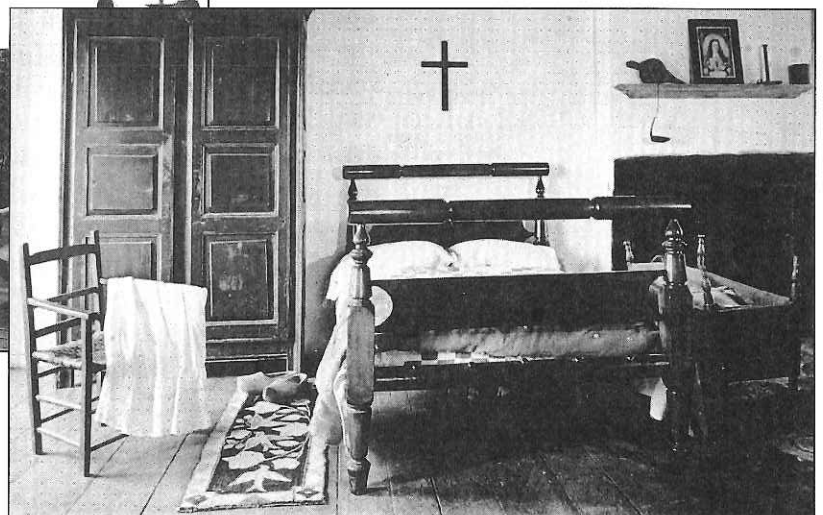
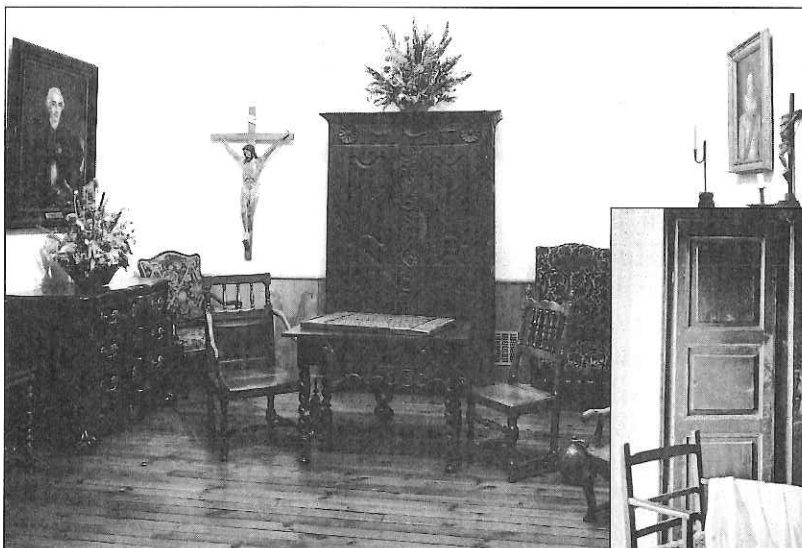


Figure 8-22 The homes of the habitants were well-built and often made of stone. Their furniture was made by local craftspeople, or by the habitants themselves. What signs of prosperity and lifestyle can you find in the picture?

Better Off in New France?

Although the habitants had many of the same duties as peasants in France, their lives were better in many ways. The average farm was 150 metres wide and 2500 metres long, of which only 25 percent needed to be farmed. The habitants paid the seigneur two bushels of wheat, a live chicken, and about \$5 a year in rent. They were **tithed** for one-twenty-sixth of

the wheat they harvested.

A French peasant, on the other hand, paid 600 times as much rent as the habitant, and many taxes, which the habitant did not have to pay at all (see page 59, Did You Know?). It is not surprising that the peasants of New France regarded themselves as superior to the peasants of the home country.

One intendant, apparently fed

up with the attitudes of the habitants, described them this way:

The men are all strong and vigorous but have no liking for work; the women love display and are excessively lazy, those of the country districts just as much as the towns' people.



Figure 8-23 This watercolour looks towards the Ile d'Orléans, which is shown in Figure 8-6. You can see the style of farmhouses, and even a few habitants. You can't see the manor house, probably because the painter is using it as a vantage point. What might be the purpose of the fenced areas on the river itself?

to tithe: to tax

came into the shallows to spawn). The habitants spent the summer cultivating and weeding their fields, cutting wood, and clearing wasteland. The fall marked the climax of the year's labours. This was harvest time, when the crops were gathered. In the fall, animals were slaughtered and foods preserved for the winter.

The habitants ate well, and shortages seem to have been rare. People raised pigs, chickens, ducks, geese, and some cows, so there was an abundance of milk, butter, and

cheese. Peas were an important crop, and pea soup a common dish. They ate lots of fish, particularly on Friday—the Catholic meatless day. Fruits and berries were abundant.

Habitants enjoyed music and story-telling, which occupied many a winter's evening. They were also regular church-goers. As was the custom of the medieval farmers of Europe, they often worked together on joint projects and helped each other with planting, clearing, or harvesting.

Using a Satellite Image and a Map to Observe Changes over Time

In Quebec, most settlement took place along the St. Lawrence and other rivers. This gave seigneuries a particular look, which is quite easy to see from the air.

Because river frontage was important to the habitants, and

because they were given land in strips, farms were very long and narrow. Moreover, many farms were subdivided lengthwise when children inherited them.

Examine this satellite photo and map for a few minutes.

Although the map and satellite photo show two different areas, you can still see the strip farms of the habitants. On the map, each strip is labelled with the farmer's name. The larger names are those of the seigneurs.

scale: the relationship between distance on a map and distance on the Earth's surface



Figure 8-24 A satellite image of the St. Lawrence farms. Vegetation is shown in red.

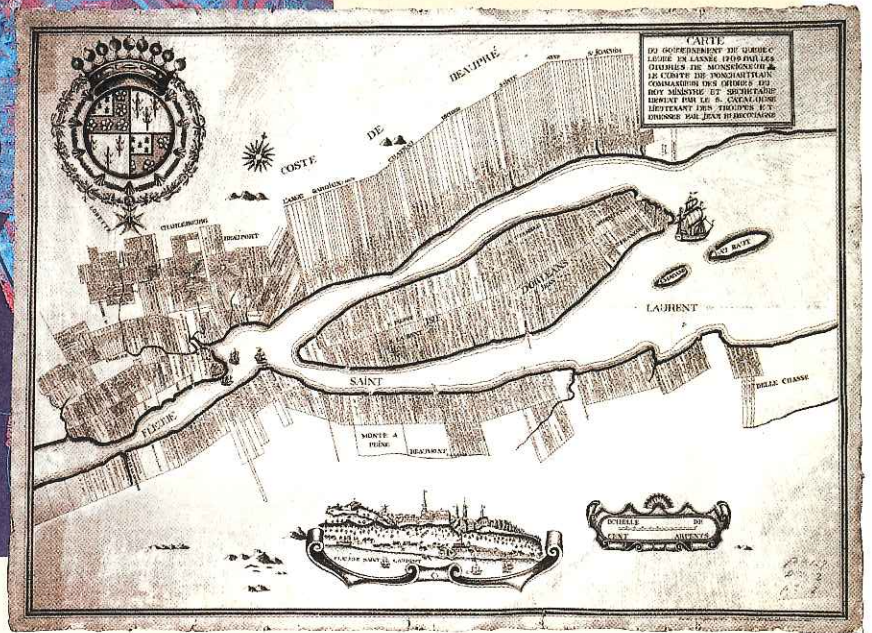


Figure 8-25 An old map showing the St. Lawrence farms

YOUR TURN

- Examine the satellite photo of the region near Montreal (Figure 8-24). (Downtown Montreal is the greyish area shown in the lower left quadrant of this photo.)
 - Due east of Montreal is the Ile Sainte-Hélène. Find the Ile Sainte-Hélène in Figure 8-25.
 - In Figure 8-24, an island is shown just southeast of Ile Sainte-Hélène. Why would it not appear in Figure 8-25? (Hint: The map-maker did not make an error.)
- Locate the highway in Figure 8-25. What can you say about the direction of the highway?
- Locate the evidence of strip farms in Figure 8-24. Where are most of them located in relationship to Montreal?
- What can you say about the **scale** of Figure 8-25 compared to that of Figure 8-24. (For information on map scales, see page 269.)

THE TOWNS

The largest towns in New France were Quebec and Montreal, followed by Trois Rivières and Tadoussac, all of which were on the St. Lawrence River. Quebec was the oldest and most important of the towns. With its fortifications, it was also the strongest.

None of these communities was large. In the early seventeenth century, only about 18 000 Europeans lived in the whole of Canada. Towns, with their small industries, schools, hospitals, and other **amenities**, were rather more interesting places to live than the scattered seigneuries. At the far end of the St. Lawrence, bordering the territory of the Iroquois (a border the Iroquois did not accept), Montreal was becoming a lively place. Fur brigades arrived via the Ottawa River, the Church was very active, and Native visitors and **emissaries** came and went regularly.

WOMEN IN NEW FRANCE

In the early days, Canada had attracted some women from France, but they were relatively few in number. If they could avoid it, the fur-trading monopolies did not want to build up communities of farmers. Some of the first female immigrants to New France were nuns, sent out by religious orders to help convert and educate Native peoples. Marie L'Incarnation, who came to Quebec in 1668, founded the Ursuline Order of Nuns for just such a purpose. The Ursulines established a long tradition of Catholic service in New France.



Figure 8–26 Quebec, with its upper city high on the bluffs and its lower city teeming with port activities, was the largest European town in Canada. Did the Church have much influence in New France? How can you tell?



amenities: things and services which improve life

emissaries: people sent out on missions

Figure 8–27 This woman, in her long, fur-trimmed cape and hood, is dressed for winter. She also carries a fur hand-warmer. What can you conclude about her financial and social status?

As in old France, women in Quebec and Acadia had few legal rights. A married woman could not easily carry on business, sue or be sued, or dispose of her own property, without her husband's consent. Even so, women often worked like partners in the family business, learning the skills of buying and selling, investing, and bookkeeping. Because many men had to travel to trade furs, women were often more knowledgeable about the day-to-day running of the business than the men.

As widows, women could and did actively take part in the business life of the colony. After her husband's death in 1745, for example, Madame Marie-Ann Fornel invested in land and other ventures with great success. Similarly, Louise de Ramezay ran lumber mills, a tannery, and a flour mill. Other women also operated successful businesses in New France. Of course, on the farms, women worked alongside the men, much as they did in Europe.

Immigration to New France, 1608–1759

This graph shows immigration to New France from the beginning to the virtual end of the colony in 1760. Examine the chart carefully and make a statement about the male-to-female ratio of immigrants. During what two periods does immigration peak? Read the text for reasons to account for these peaks.

Table 8-1 Immigration to New France, 1608–1759

Period	Men	Women	Total
Before 1630	15	6	21
1630–1639	88	51	139
1640–1649	141	86	227
1650–1659	403	239	642
1660–1669	1075	623	1698
1670–1679	429	369	798
1680–1689	486	56	542
1690–1699	490	32	522
1700–1709	283	24	307
1710–1719	293	18	311
1720–1729	420	14	434
1730–1739	483	16	499
1740–1749	576	16	592
1750–1759	1699	52	1751
unknown	27	17	44
Total	6908	1619	8527

ACTIVITIES

- Describe life on a seigneurie on the St. Lawrence River, perhaps during the Iroquois wars.
- Reread the feature on page 241 and decide whether you would have preferred to stay in France and live in a feudal-style farm or move to Canada and live as a habitant. Make a list of pros and cons for each option. Consider criteria such as familiarity of surroundings, physical labour, and taxes.
- Like the Jesuits, the women of the Ursuline Order of Nuns were some of the first Europeans to come to Canada. Why are people who are attached to religious orders ideally suited to leave their home country and take up residence in a new land?

RIVALRY AND CONFLICT

The history of New France was marked by struggles for power. The French fought not only the Iroquois and other Native communities, but also the British and their American colonies. Fights occurred because one group or nation had infringed on the territories of the other. Native bands were often forced to side with the European power that would help them achieve the goals of their own people.

There were four major wars between the French and English in North America. Each conflict was a European war that had been carried over to the colonies.

King William's War, also called "the War of the Grand Alliance," began in 1689 and ended in 1697. It was fought to block Louis XVI's ambitions to expand his overseas territory. In North America, the leader of the French forces was the famous Frontenac. Although he was 70 years old, he personally led the French, accompanied by Native allies, on raids against Britain's Thirteen Colonies.

In the same war, a New Englander, William Phips, captured Acadia, but failed to take Quebec. Fighting on the French side, Pierre le Moyne d'Iberville attacked forts on the New England coast, captured St. John's, Newfoundland, and disrupted the Hudson's Bay Company by attacking its forts and ships. In one naval battle, d'Iberville captured two

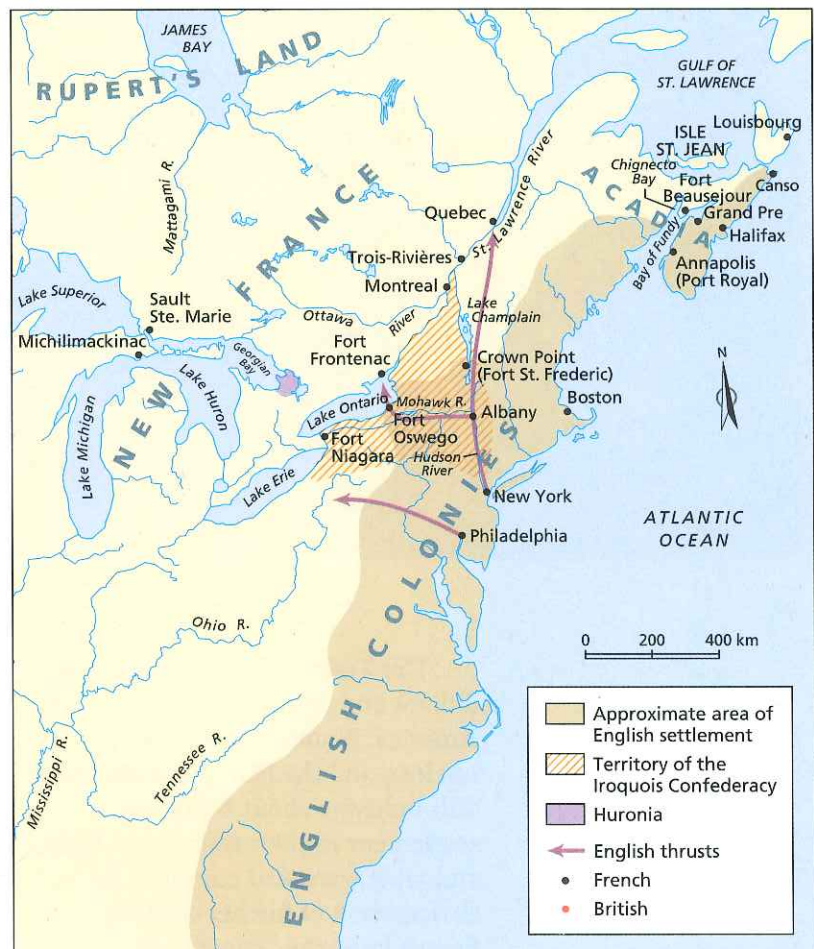
British ships and sank another with his single ship. King William's War ended in 1697, when the Treaty of Ryswick was signed, returning all captured territories, including Acadia, to their original owners,

Queen Anne's War, or "the War of the Spanish Succession," began in 1704 and ended in 1713. This time, Acadia was captured once again by the English, but another attack on Quebec failed. In other parts of the world, the British were also successful, defeating French armies in major battles in Europe. The Treaty of Utrecht, which ended the war, gave Britain territories in Canada and India, as well as Gibraltar, one of the most important strategic locations in the world.

confederacy: an alliance; a joining of independent states

to ally: to take sides with

Figure 8-28 This map shows threats faced by New France to the east, south, and west. After the defeat of the Hurons in 1649, most of New France's Native allies came from the woodlands of the north. Britain allied with the powerful Iroquois **Confederacy**. As new England grew, and the Iroquois grew stronger, the population of New France remained low. Why would the Iroquois need to **ally** themselves with anyone?



The Fortress of Louisbourg

In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, when France and England were at war in North America, strategic sites were critically important. These sites were often fortified.

A strategic site is one that overlooks, or is close to, an important communication route. Because the St. Lawrence River was the highway of New France, France had to prevent the English from taking control of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. In order to protect its valuable river-route, France built the great fortress of Louisbourg in Cape Breton. Her other great fortress was Quebec, built high on a cliff-guarded hill overlooking the St. Lawrence.

Louisbourg was supposed to be impregnable. Roughly designed in the shape of a star, its walls were 2.4 metres thick and more than 9 metres high. The walls were angled to deflect cannon-balls.

Sappers could not easily undermine the wall because soldiers could shoot down at them from many vantage points.

Unfortunately, Louisbourg had some disadvantages. It could be attacked by cannon-fire from a number of surrounding hills, and it was easily approached by boat

through nearby coves. In addition, its walls were made of materials that were slow to set and that crumbled easily. Louisbourg's soldiers were often uncomfortable, and morale was always low.

Louisbourg fell to an assault by New Englanders in 1745. The fortress was returned to France in return for the Madras Islands by a treaty in 1748.

Sapper: a military specialist in the field of fortification

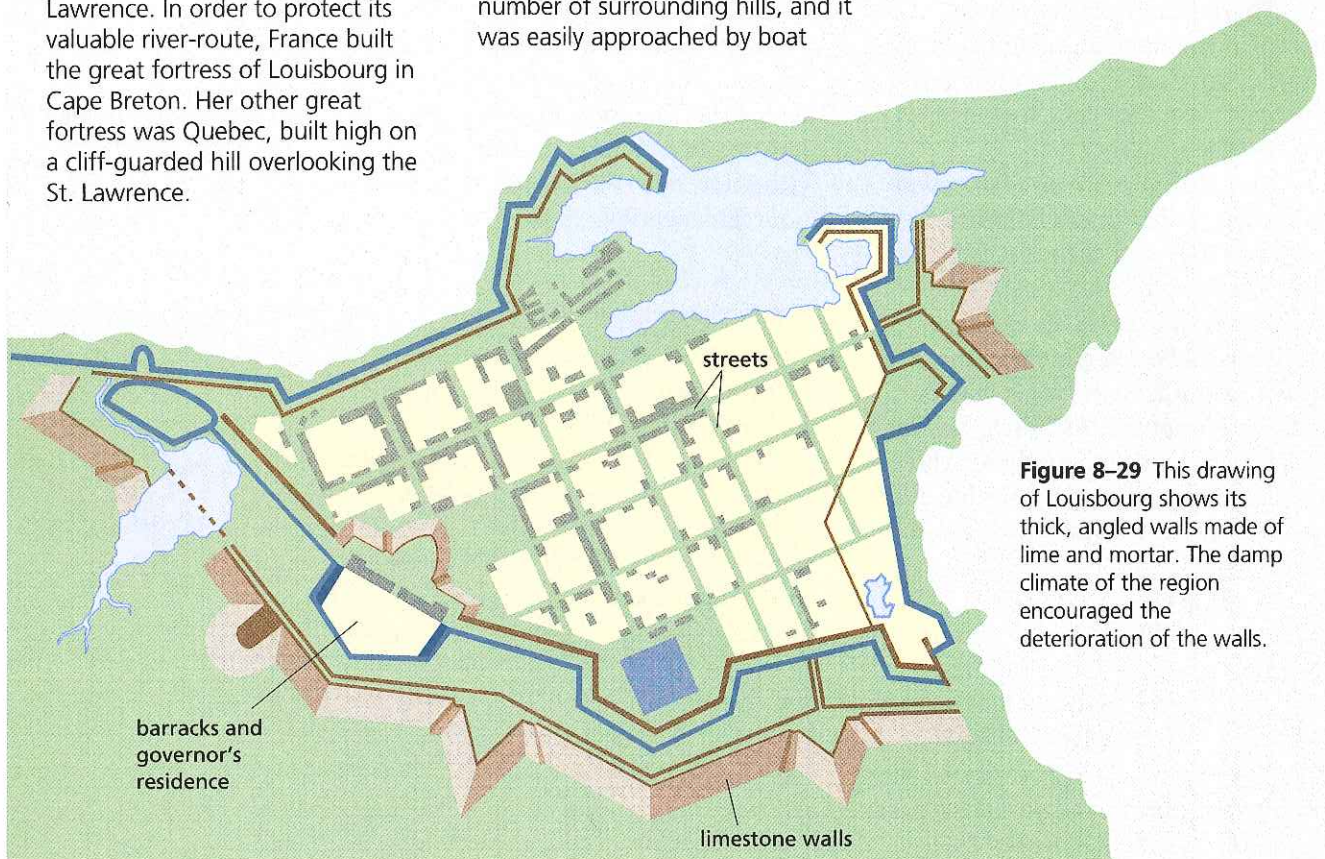


Figure 8-29 This drawing of Louisbourg shows its thick, angled walls made of lime and mortar. The damp climate of the region encouraged the deterioration of the walls.

The Treaty of Utrecht, however, did not end fighting in North America. Boundaries remained unclear, and the Native peoples were still unhappy about European settlement in their territories. Fights and raids were still common. In anticipation of further conflict, France built the "super fortress" of

Louisbourg to protect the St. Lawrence, the lifeline of New France.

All sides prepared for another war, and one broke out in 1744. The final act in the conflict began when the Seven Years' War broke out in 1755. When it ended, New France had become a British possession, and Canada a British colony.

THE SEVEN YEARS' WAR AND THE FALL OF NEW FRANCE

Your letters on the negotiations terrify me. The betrayal with which they threaten the colony, at once so useful and so loyal, is incredible ... These letters bind my arms.

—GOVERNOR LA GALISSONNIÈRE [1600]

Unlike the previous wars, the Seven Years' War had its origins in North America. The growing colonies of New England resented the fact that, by treaty, they were not allowed to cross the Allegheny Mountains and settle in the rich farm lands of the Ohio Valley and neighbouring areas. In fact, before the war broke out, fighting occurred along the border areas even though France and Britain were officially at peace. Since both the French and English claimed the valuable Ohio Valley, and were sending troops into the area, war was inevitable.

In one of the first battles, a fight between British soldiers led by George Washington (who later became president of the United States) and French troops resulted in a British defeat in Ohio. In other areas, British and Mohawks fought the French and their Native allies in the north.

The British government, realizing that a battle for the continent was underway, sent more troops and took other measures. In 1755, the government ordered the Acadians (see the Window on the Past) to be forcibly removed from their homes. The Acadians had refused to swear loyalty to Britain, even though their land had become part of British territory in 1713.

The removal of the Acadian people made it possible for New England settlers to move into their abandoned

farm lands. Although many Acadians managed to return home after a long exile, others moved to French Louisiana. The **expulsion** of thousands of Acadians is one of the most tragic events in Canadian history.

In 1758, British troops under General James Wolfe captured the fortress of Louisbourg, the doorway to the St. Lawrence. Wolfe's victory at Louisbourg was made possible because the British prime minister had made the capture of Canada a top priority in the war with France. Besides, Wolfe, although young and dying of **tuberculosis**, was a brilliant commander.

New France, on the other hand, had some chain-of-command problems. The military commander, the Marquis de Montcalm, was a good general, but he did not get along with the Marquis de Vaudreuil, the governor. Vaudreuil, born in Canada, thought Montcalm lacked knowledge about fighting in North America. Montcalm had little respect for the Canadian methods of Vaudreuil. The two sometimes cancelled one another's orders. This confusion would help bring about the fall of Quebec.

For a time, the war went well for the French, who won victories in many places. The loss of Louisbourg, however, was a major defeat. Moreover, because French Canadian farmers were away fighting, not harvesting crops, food and other supplies became short.

In 1759, British ships sailed down the St. Lawrence and anchored within sight of Quebec's citadel. Seizing the Ile d'Orléans and the south shore of the river, Wolfe then ordered his cannons to fire into the city and fortress. However, because it was late in the year, Montcalm and Vaudreuil hoped that they could hold on until the British had to leave the river before winter set in. Wolfe understood this problem and looked for a solution. To force the militia to desert, he published orders that any farm missing

to expel: to force departure

tuberculosis: an infectious disease that affects the lungs



Figure 8-30 The death of General Wolfe

Fearing that even more British troops might arrive with heavier cannons, he gave the order to march out of the fortress, and led the attack in person. Charging the British, the militia began to fire before the British were in range. The British, however, held fire until the French were only 40 metres away. Then, on Wolfe's orders, they fired at the French forces. As one commentator put it, "With one deafening crash, the most perfect volley ever fired on battlefield burst forth as if fired from a single,

men would be burned—orders that helped to weaken the French forces.

monstrous weapon, from end to end of the British line."

Wolfe then discovered a small cove, now called "Anse au Foulon." (Wolfe's Cove). From here a trail led to the top of the cliffs. Under cover of darkness, and fooling sentries by pretending they were piloting French supply boats, longboats brought troops to the cove. Highlanders of the British army scaled the cliffs and overpowered the sentries. The rest of Wolfe's soldiers followed. In the morning, Montcalm saw the "thin, red line" of 4500 soldiers stretched across the Plains of Abraham, ready to challenge the might of Quebec.

As French soldiers fell dead and wounded by the hundreds, the British reloaded and fired again and again. Defeated, the French retreated to Quebec. Wolfe was killed, and Montcalm was mortally wounded. He died later in the citadel. Soon after, Quebec surrendered. Although French soldiers counter-attacked, they could not displace the British once fresh troops arrived the next spring. That year, in 1760, Montreal was taken. When the Treaty of Paris was signed in 1763, New France was declared a British possession.

ACTIVITIES

1. Outline the causes of war between Britain and France in North America.
2. Explain why the Mohawks and other First Nations would choose to become allied with Europeans, even though they knew that all Europeans were a threat to their territory and way of life.
3. Work with a partner or small team to create a strategic plan for victory in the Seven Years' War, using outline maps that you have drawn and other materials. You may represent the British, French, or one of the nations of the Iroquois Confederacy. Present your strategic plan to the class.

CONCLUSION

The long history of New France—as a possession of France—ended on the Plains of Abraham in 1759. But the culture and society that had been established in Acadia, in the interior of North America, and along the St. Lawrence, did not die. It had deep roots, and, for many reasons, the British were content to leave the French to live in their own way.

Today, French culture is central to the identity of Canada. It is particularly strong in New Brunswick, where most Acadians live, and in the province of Quebec. The dreams of Champlain and the other founders of French Canada have not died. French-Canadian society, originally built on the fur trade and strengthened through the seigneurial system, has grown far beyond its founders' visions.

SUMMARY ACTIVITIES

1. In a group, create a large map of North America as you think Cartier, Champlain, or La Salle might have imagined it. Research the Native cultures that they would encounter to the west, south, and north. Draw their territories on the map, and include notes about important cultural traits of which the French should be aware.
2. With partners, create a play, from a Huron point of view, about the destruction of Huronia.
3. Build a model of an Iroquois town, with stockade, houses, and surrounding fields.
4. In comic-book format, describe the growth of New France to 1700.
5. Create a portion of a ship's log to describe the triangle of trade between Canada, the West Indies, and France. A ship's log usually includes daily entries that describe the ship's progress, the weather, and other events.
6. Some historians argue that the expulsion of the Acadians was cruel but necessary, since the Acadians were potential enemies and more French were coming to Acadia all the time. How would you respond to this proposal? With a partner, construct a pro or con argument about the expulsion.

ON YOUR OWN

1. By the eighteenth century, many European nations had built vast empires around the world. You have had the opportunity to learn about the British and French imperial ambitions in *Crossroads*. Find out more information about the empires of the Spanish, the Portuguese, and the Dutch. What regions of the world were controlled by these countries? When did these colonies gain their independence?
2. Find out more about the revival of Acadian culture in New Brunswick through literature, music, theatre, and cuisine. Collect as many pictures depicting Acadian culture as you can and display them on the class bulletin board.