

1. Identify:

(a) **Manuel Lisa**; Manuel de Lisa was a Spanish citizen and later, became an American citizen who, while living on the western frontier. She built the first post.

(b) **William Ashley**; was an American miner, land speculator, manufacturer, territorial militia officer, politician, frontiersman, trapper. Sells instruments. (86)

(c) **John Jacob Astor**; an American businessman, real estate builder, investor, inventor, writer, a lieutenant colonel in the Spanish

(d) **Alexander Culbertson**; Fur trader and diplomat, he has ties to the black feet.

(e) **Pierre-Jean de Smet**; a Belgian Catholic priest and member of the Society of Jesus. He is known for his widespread missionary work in the mid-19th century among the Native American peoples, in the midwestern and northwestern United States and western Canada. He was a Blackrobe (95)

2. Define:

(a) **monopoly**; exclusive control

(b) **rendezvous**; a French word that means a meeting arranged in advance, trading get together.

(c) **brucellosis**; an infectious animal disease

(d) **capitalism**; an economic system in which privately owned businesses carry on trade for profit

3. **What is the post-and-brigade system?**

When fur companies often sent brigades (teams) of Indian, Métis, and non-Indian trappers out of fur posts on long expeditions, this became known as the post-and-brigade system.

4. **What role did the Métis play in the fur trade?**

The metis played a more dominant role, and they bridge the gap in culture and language.

5. What is a free trapper?

Free trappers fanned out across the landscape individually or with a few companions. They traveled the Indians' trails, built cabins, set traplines, hunted for food, and stockpiled as many furs as they could.

6. What role did women play in the fur trade?

Native women who knew how to tan hides and furs and taught the mountain men about the country. They also helped language barriers and provided food.

7. Why did fur traders turn from beaver to bison?

Beaver prices dropped from \$6 a pelt to below \$3. As beaver declined, the fur trade turned to bison robes and hides. And the population of beavers declined.

8. How did the fur trade spread smallpox?

The fur carried infectious disease from one village to the next, Natives who visited the boats carried the disease to their villages.

CRITICAL THINKING

1. Why do you think Indians participated in the fur trade? How do you think the fur trade benefited the tribes? How do you think it harmed them? Do you think the benefits outweighed the harm?

I think the Indians participated to help the white, the fur trade did help the tribes, they got to learn about the other's culture and what they do and what they were there for. I think it harmed them because they became vulnerable to whites, they also joined them for the trade and to get their land back.

2. Although most Plains Indian tribes played roles in the fur trade, the Métis were especially important. What factors explain their importance?

The Métis were the mixed-blood descendants of early European fur traders who married native women, so they were born into the Metis culture, they probably never had a choice into their culture. They also helped bond the cultures.

3. Think about the kind of man who would want to be a free trapper. Describe his characteristics.

He could not be married, young fit tough mentally adapted to survival. How much of this is true, the mountain men relied on their wives.

4. John Jacob Astor strongly influenced the history of this region, but there is no evidence that he ever traveled here. Do you think that matters? Would history be different if he had spent time here?

History may have been different, it depends if they would have taken the religion. Then maybe history would be different.

5. Both smallpox and the destruction of the bison were devastating to Plains Indians. Which of these two tragedies do you think had a greater long-term effect?

Out of smallpox and bison, I think smallpox was worse. It wiped out a lot of the native Americans. In the long term effect I think the bison had more of an effect, they needed bison to survive and it destroyed their culture and life.

6. Why do you think the missionaries to Montana had limited success among Indians during the fur trade? What, if anything, do you think they could have done differently?

Something that they could have done different, religion cant be forced onto people. So if the missionaries were forcing religion that is not right. They should have agreed with their followings and respected that their following is a tradition.

PAST TO PRESENT

1. There is still controversy about the management of bison, particularly in the Yellowstone Park area. Investigate the issues and concerns today.

There used to be millions of bison roaming the flatland, Native Americans relied on buffalos for food, clothing. Then all the slaughtering in the 1800s almost wiped out all the buffalos. The spread of disease and access to land.

2. Research modern trapping on the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Web site and the Web sites of fur trapping organizations. Compare the trapping practices of today to the fur trade of the 1800s.

Today's trapping is regulated to rules, but the gear is still the same.

MAKE IT LOCAL

1. How, if at all, do you think the fur trade affected your area? Does any evidence of the fur trade remain? I think it had an effect, Jim bridge is the only reason why willow creek is a thing.