

**FOR TEACHERS**

**The HBC flag is used as a starting point for activities designed to support understanding of HBC's role in the expansion of Canada into the north and west. The activities guide students in exploring the factors contributing to expansion, the ways in which early trade and commerce were conducted, and the impact of commercial opportunities on Canada's development.**

**Information about the Flag**

The HBC flag is essentially the Red Ensign of the British Royal Navy with some modification. The flag features a red field with the Union Jack in the upper left-hand corner. In the lower right hand of the central field are the letters HBC in white. The "H" and "B" are joined together as a single device. Prince Rupert, the first Governor of HBC, and an Admiral of the Royal Navy, arranged for HBC ships to fly the HBC flag when they were at sea. Eventually, the flag was flown on many of the smaller inland vessels as well. The flag was in evidence on the Company's forts and posts, during ceremonies, and on explorers' expeditions.

**HBC Web Resources**

**Moose Factory**

**Fort Albany**

**York Factory**

**Fort Garry**

**Fort Vancouver**

**Canoes**

**The S.S. Beaver**

**York boat**

**The Prince Albert**

**The Prince Rupert**

## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

### Big Idea

**The flag is a symbol of HBC's participation in Canada's history. It can be seen in many images of major events in HBC's story.**

### Critical Questions

- How did HBC's activities act as a major force in expanding the settlement of Canada's northern and western regions?
- How was HBC a major contributor in establishing economic relations between Europe and early Canada?

### Curriculum Connection *Intermediate Grades*

Factors contributing to the settlement and development of Canada

## Concept Expansion

**The HBC flag was prominently flown at the various establishments which were founded as the Company expanded its trading business.**

### Task

Students choose one of the prominent HBC trading establishments and find out details.

**Moose Factory**

**Fort Albany**

**York Factory**

**Fort Garry**

**Fort Vancouver**

### *Questions to Guide Students' Thinking*

- When was the establishment built?
- Why was it built?
- How important a role did it play in growing HBC's business and in contributing to the settlement of Canada? Explain your thinking.
- If you went to the location today, what would you see?
- What more do you want to find out?

Students decide how to communicate and share the information as it relates to business development and settlement in one of these locations. They could:

- write a factor's report describing daily life. The report could include visuals and digital elements.
- create a storyboard outlining what life was like at the peak of operation.
- plan an interview with a factor of one of HBC's establishments, preparing questions and anticipated responses about life in and around the establishment.

## **Concept** Movement of Goods

**The HBC flag was prominently flown on vessels carrying goods for the trading process.**

### **Task**

The HBC vessels that flew the flag ranged from canoes to ocean-going ships.

Students find information about the various kinds of vessels and how each vessel was used.

#### **Canoes**

**The S.S. Beaver**

**York boat**

**The Prince Albert**

**The Prince Rupert**

#### **Questions to Guide Students' Thinking**

- Why do you think the flag was flown on these various vessels?
- How was the design of the vessels appropriate for how and where they were used?
- How important were the vessels to Canada's economy? Explain your thinking.

Students decide how to communicate and share the merits of one of the vessels.

They could:

- design a brochure to advertise the sale of one of the vessels.
- compare the features of each vessel using a graphic organizer.
- create a 2-D or 3-D model of one of the vessels and label the features.