

- Nearly one hundred years after the establishment of the HBC, the fur trade had made numerous in roads into the west.
- As competition between the French and British grew, so too did their trade networks, in order to compete with one another.
- Things changed for the French in the mid-1700s.
- Begun in 1756 and lasting till 1763, the _____ is often considered the first global war as battles were fought in Europe, North America, India and at Sea.
- Once again England and France went to war in Europe, and once again that war touched the shores of _____.
- This time, the English defeated the French and in 1759, _____ was now a British controlled colony. Back in London, the heads of the HBC believed that they would be entering into a fur trade golden age, free of competition.
- The fall of Nouvelle-France and the subsequent signing of the _____ in 1763 did not end the Montreal based fur trade, but rather opened it up to greater and greater competition.
- With the defeat, French control of the Montreal based fur trade was now open and into that breach English, Scottish, French and _____ (from the thirteen colonies) traders all sought to take advantage of situation by carving out a piece of the profitable Montreal based fur trade for themselves.
- These new traders established numerous small companies that competed not only among themselves for profits, but with the HBC in whose territories they operated, ignoring the _____ and its rules.
- For the HBC this meant that instead of competing solely against the _____, they now found themselves in competition with several small newly formed companies, who competed not only against the HBC, but against each other as well.
- By 1773 the furs reaching _____ had dwindled to only 8000 beaver pelts down from 30 000 a decade earlier.
- To combat this decline in trade, the HBC established a trading post at _____ on the Saskatchewan River in 1774, seeking to take some of the trade away from Montreal based traders.
- The travel time from the new fort at Cumberland House to York Factory was about 40 days. By comparison, it would take French traders _____ to reach Montreal.
- It was hoped that the trappers and traders operating in the region would take the shorter route to York Factory and as such trade with HBC rather than back in _____.
- The establishment of Cumberland House on the _____ River took advantage of two existing trade routes known as the Upper and Middle Track routes.
- With the development of the _____ in York Factory in 1749, a new route was needed as the York Boats were too heavy to be portaged like the birch bark canoes that had traditionally been used.
- To avoid many of the longer portages present on the upper and middle tracks, a _____ route was established and with it the development of trading forts in places such as Oxford House, Cross Lake and in Norway House.
- The first Norway House was built in 1814 at _____ on Lake Winnipeg by Norwegian axeman hired to cut a winter road from the lake to York Factory. After 1821 the post became the Hudson's Bay Company's principal depot for the Athabasca brigade.
- Having been destroyed by fire it was rebuilt here in 1826 near the site of the earlier _____. Its location made it for many years a convenient meeting place for the Council of

the Northern Department, and even after the general decline in the fur trade at mid-century Norway House remained an important trading post.

- The heritage value of _____ lies primarily in its historical associations as the Hudson's Bay Company's principal inland depot for the fur trade.
- It is also the place where _____ was made between the Saulteaux (Ojibwa), the Swampy Cree First Nations people and the Crown in 1875.
- It was also the site where the Rev. James Evans invented the Cree _____ System.
- By the 1770s one of the busiest and most lucrative fur trade routes was the _____ route between Lake Athabasca (border of Saskatchewan and Alberta) and Montreal.
- Operating over such a long trade route proved to be very expensive to maintain, and so independent trade operators sought to save _____.
- As the fur trade expanded _____, several smaller Montreal based companies began working together to cut costs.
- In 1779, several of these smaller fur trading operators formed the _____ (NWC), as a means of sharing expenses and cutting costs. By 1787, founding partner Simon MacTavish controlled 11 of the companies 12 shares. Among the company's founders were three of Canada's best known explorers: Alexander Mackenzie, Simon Fraser and Peter Pond.
- In total the company had _____, as well as more than 2000 guides, interpreters and voyageurs.
- The fledgling NWC was bold and aggressive in its approach to business, contrasting it with the more conservative approach of their rival, the HBC. They followed the traditional French _____ model of going out to trade directly with Native peoples.
- In 1790 and 1791 one of the NWC founders, Simon McTavish, lobbied the British government to end the HBC's fur-trade monopoly in _____. The British government refused, intensifying the rivalry between the two companies.
- The NWC's success depended upon constantly moving ever further west in order to tap into new territories for fur and so continued the traditional French practice of venturing out to trade directly with _____ peoples.
- The success of the Nor'westers forced the HBC to adopt similar methods, and the race to gain an advantage in the _____ forced the two companies further and further west, each seeking to stay ahead of the other.
- With the NWC expanding ever further westward, the HBC followed suit, and soon there was a race to the _____.
- This _____ followed a distinct pattern: once the NWC would establish a new inland trading post, the HBC would follow, often building theirs just metres apart from their rivals.
- With the help of First Nations peoples, Peter Pond was able to map the Methye Portage that led to the Clearwater and _____ rivers in 1783.
- By 1788, the NWC had established a trading post at Fort _____ at the west end of Lake Athabasca.
- From here the NWC had access to some of the best _____ in the trade.
- Pond was convinced that a route to the _____ could be found from Lake Athabasca but was unable to raise funds for such a venture.
- One of Pond's travelling companions, Alexander _____, would continue, where Pond had left off.

- With the help of First Nations peoples, Mackenzie left Lake Athabasca, following the _____, reaching the Beaufort Sea to the north in 1789.
- Searching for a more southerly route, Mackenzie followed the _____ as well as a land route described for him by local indigenous peoples and was able to reach the Pacific on July 22, 1793.
- Despite his successfully reaching the _____, the route he followed was unsuitable as a fur trade route and so a search for a more southerly route was launched.
- In 1806 _____ navigated what is today called the Fraser river and reached the Pacific Ocean.
- However, like MacKenzie's earlier route, this too was unsuitable for the fur trade due to its wild rapids and steep cliffs, which made a gruelling and _____ route.
- David Thompson, the chief surveyor of the NWC would spend seven years mapping the west, travelling more than _____ during this time.
- In 1811, Thompson found a more practical route to the Pacific via the _____ River.
- None of this would have been possible without the assistance of both the local First Nations peoples and in many cases the _____ wives of the explorers.
- Many of these explorers would most likely have died during their journeys if not for the assistance of local First Nations peoples. The labour, translation skills, and geographical knowledge provided by the Indigenous peoples of the area were critical to the _____ of these explorers.
- Today the vast _____ of these people are lost to history, as they were never mentioned in the records of these explorations.
- The wife of David Thompson was the exception, whose Metis wife _____ was always named in his reports.
- By 1804, there were _____ established throughout the west. 108 of them were operated by the NWC, while the remaining 57 were operated by the HBC.
- As a result, the NWC dominated the western fur trade throughout the latter half of the 18th century and into the 19th century, controlling _____ of the trade.
- The NWC enjoyed several competitive advantages over their rival, HBC:
 - The owners of the NWC were active _____ in the trade, venturing out themselves to take part in the fur trade.
 - This made the decision makers acutely aware of the challenges involved and often had personal relationships with the various _____ partners they traded with.
 - This first-hand knowledge made them effective managers of the extensive _____ network involved and their large labour force.
 - A large number of skilled and experienced _____.
- Unlike their competitors (the NWC) the _____ owners had little to no knowledge of the trade that they profited from.
- The HBC was run by a group of financiers and businessmen that were for the most part located in _____, far removed from the day-to-day operation of their business.
- As a result, what knowledge they had concerning the fur trade, the people and the land involved was _____ at best.
- HBC employees had similar limitations as many simply stayed in the forts to which they had been assigned, rather than venturing out and as such had little to no knowledge of the _____ and customs of the First Nations peoples they traded with.

- The _____ were a distinct group of people formed through the unions of French voyageurs and First Nations women. The children of such marriages were of mixed heritage and the culture that they developed was a mixture of French and First Nations cultural practices.
- Predominantly located in the west, the Metis came to play an important role in the operation of the NWC. Acting in a similar fashion as the _____ did for the HBC, the Metis were vital participants in the NWC fur trade, as trappers, interpreters, and suppliers (pemmican, etc.).
- Over time, the Metis formed a growing settled community around the forks of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers, near the NWC Fort _____.

Formative Assessment 4

1. The fall of Nouvelle-France to the British had consequences for many people in the Northwest. What groups of people were affected and how?
2. Provide three examples of primary source evidence for the fur trade during this time.
3. What is the historical significance of the fur trade for west? For Norway House specifically?