

- Metis culture is the result of the fur trade. Originally emerging along the banks of the St. Lawrence river and the Great Lakes, as the fur trade expanded, Metis communities expanded as well, reaching as far north as the _____ River (NWT).
- It was the community that developed around the Red River, where a new _____ began to emerge.
- Centered on the confluence of the Red and _____ Rivers, the Metis of Red River worked as guides and voyageurs in fur trade, both for the Northwest Company and the HBC.
- While originally a mix of French and First Nations, the Metis would come to include anyone who was of mixed European and First Nations ancestry and from the _____.
- The Red River Metis settlement became a blend of French and English-speaking people. A mix of Roman Catholic and Protestant, a mix of those who relied on the fur trade and buffalo hunt and those who relied more on _____.
- This inherent mixture of peoples and ways of living led to the Metis culture being a mixture of European and First Nations ways of life and _____.
- The language of the Metis, _____, is a mixture of predominantly French and Ininiw (Cree), but includes influences of English and Anishinaabe.
- A dominant feature of Metis life was the _____ hunt. Adapting methods taken from their First Nations ancestors, Metis buffalo hunts would involve hundreds of men, women and children.
- They would travel _____ of kilometers from the Red River to the buffalo herds further west. The men would hunt buffalo on horseback using rifles, riding among the stampeding buffalo, and targeting specific animals.
- When the hunt was finished, the _____ of bison meat and hides that were processed by the women and children had to be transported back to the settlement.
- There the _____ of the community would use the collected meat, fat and marrow to make pemmican, a food staple and trade good. They would clean and tan the hides, which they would use to make moccasins and other clothing items.
- The buffalo hunts would happen twice a year and were run with military-like precision. The Metis would form a government to oversee each hunt, led by an elected _____ who led the hunt and was supported by an elected council of lieutenants who represented the hunters. It was the council who would decide when and where the hunts would take place, along with how many animals would be harvested.
- When the Metis first settled in the area of what would become known as the Red River Colony is hard to say. What is sure, is that First Nations peoples had populated the area for millennia and that by 1810 a _____ Metis community was present in the region of the Red River.
- Prior to the establishment of the Red River Colony in 1812, the Metis had worked alongside and traded with _____ Company trappers and traders. Over time

Country-born families with ties to the HBC resided in the area as well. The rivalry between the two companies would draw in the Metis over time.

- The establishment of the Red River Colony by Lord _____ (governed by Miles Macdonnell) in 1812 brought these tensions to a head. The Pemmican Proclamation of 1814, most affected the NWC traders and the Metis who supplied them. Agents for the HBC used the Proclamation as justification for attacking NWC trading posts and agents, who retaliated by attacking the Red River Colony.
- With tensions in the Red River region between the HBC and NWC having come to a head, lines were drawn with the Colonists siding with the HBC, and the Metis siding with the NWC. Over time hostilities escalated, when in the spring of 1816 the HBC captured and burnt the NWC Fort Gibraltar, the Metis and NWC retaliated in June by attacking the HBC Fort Douglas, at what has become known as the Battle of _____.
- Despite the desire of the Metis and NWC to destroy the _____ Colony, the Colony survived and slowly grew.
- The Red River region was changing, but the _____ made up the vast majority of the population at Red River and would play an important role in its future.
- The merger of the HBC and NWC in 1821, coincided with several other factors causing a shift in the lives of the Metis. Beaver populations had been severely depleted due to over hunting and the demand for beaver pelts in Europe declined due to a shift in fashion away from the _____ felt hats to top hats made of silk.
- These factors, decline in competition, stocks and demand for the fur trade, saw the Metis shift their focus towards another product – the _____ robe.
- Given the importance of buffalo hunting to Metis _____ and livelihood during the fur trade, shifting towards trading and selling goods made from buffalo was a natural transition.
- The increase demand for buffalo hides, the construction of the transcontinental railway in the US, and sport hunting drove the species to near _____.

Formative Assessment

1. In your opinion, did the Metis have aboriginal title to the land of the Red River colony? Explain why, or why not.
2. Taking a historical perspective, what challenges faced the Metis people of Red River during this time period?
3. If you were in their situation, what direction might you take going forward?