

This type of exercise could be done for almost anyone in the book, perhaps beginning with William Sturgis, Marie Dorion, Alexander Kashevaroff, Joseph O’Cain. The more important people from each region might be done first, but the observers and survivors are also meritorious.

SAMPLE.: WILLIAM STURGIS

Lesson summary

Students read William Sturgis biography, and discover how important he was to the fur trade on the fur coast. They then create a timeline of his life and major events.

This lesson is part of the “Fur War” series. In this unit, students will explore how exploration and the fur trade impacted the First Nations and the environment.

Time allotment

30 minutes

Learning objectives

Standards

Explore how key individuals and events influenced the early growth and changes on the fur coast.

Create and evaluate timelines that show relationships among people, events, environment and movements on the fur coast and between Great Britain (Canada) and the US.

Supplies

- ❖ Class set of William Sturgis handout
- ❖ Scissors
- ❖ Postit notes
- ❖ Large sheet of paper (or use class whiteboard)

Directions

1. Distribute the William Sturgis handout and PostitNotes to students.
2. Create groups of 4 or 5 students.
3. Have students take turns reading aloud the biography. As they read, have students underline key dates, places, and events found in the biography. If necessary, define tough terms or phrases for students.
4. Have each group make a postitnote for key events with the year they occurred at the top.
5. Have each group create a timeline of his life events by placing the items in order.
6. Review the correct order of events with the class.

OPTIONAL - DRAW A MAP the fur trade ships took from Boston to Hawaii, Hawaii to the British Columbia Coast, then to China and home to Boston. Use Google Earth to determine the distance travelled.

Sturgis timeline

1. 1782 - Born in Barnstable, Massachusetts
2. 1797 - Started working in the fur trade after his father, a ship's captain, was killed. He began as sailor and assistant trader on the *Eliza*.
3. 1799 - Acts as chief mate on the *Ulysses*
4. 1800 - Changes back to the *Eliza* in China and returns to Boston as a successful trader
5. 1801 - Becomes Captain of the *Caroline* after Captain Derby dies and continues his career as a successful trader with an unblemished record of good relations with the First Nations.
6. 1802 - Trades 5000 thousand ermine skins he bought in the East for 30 cents each for 1000 sea otters worth \$50 each.
7. 1809 fends off pirates in Macau
8. 1810-1850 - Retires from the sea to become a merchant owner of ships and trading company carrying as much as half of all merchandise to the fur coast.
9. 1822 - Argues the coast should be given back to the first nations.
10. 1834 William Sturgis provides the ship and guidance for sailor Richard Henry Davis - Two Years Before the Mast.
11. 1840s Helped set the boundary line between the US and Canada
12. 1863 - Died a wealthy man who lived modestly and left his home to become a library.