

## Cultural and Ecological Impacts of the Fur Trade 1765-1840

**Fur Coast First Nations** developed great skill and sophisticated tools to live in harsh and unforgiving environments. This lesson plan focuses on the Unangan (called Aleut by the Russians) who first encountered the Russian fur traders seeking sea otters.

### Learning Objectives

After this lesson, students will be able to:

- ❖ Identify the traditional locations Unangan lived on a map and who their neighbors were (<https://www.uaf.edu/anla/collections/map/anlmap.png>)
- ❖ Describe their traditional housing and the two major types of boats they used, called the baidarka and baydar by Russians. What did the natives call them?
- ❖ Explain how Russian fur traders exploited the Unangan
- ❖ Review how the Unangan defended themselves
- ❖ Discover how quickly their population collapsed

### Length

2-3 hours

### Materials

Unangan section from Fur War Book

Wooden stirring sticks or twigs and string to make a Unangan home, *ulaq*

Art supplies

### Population loss activity

At the start of class have students count off 1-10, and then meet their like number(s) in different parts of the room. Draw numbers from a hat and have the chosen number all return to their desk and sit down. When only one group is left they can see what a 90% reduction in population means.

*Handle with great care if Covid19 has been a problem in the area.*