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Fur Trade 10: Fur Trade Myths, Acknowledgements

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Fur Trade Myths

Acknowledgements



Fiction

Fact

French fur trappers

The French traded for furs, but seldom if ever did any harvesting themselves.

Steel traps

The steel trap came along in the 19th century. Native hunters clubbed or shot the animals.

Muskets were so long because the traders made the Natives offer a stack of beaver pelts as high as the musket was long.

Weapon barrels were made long in an attempt to improve accuracy.

Traders cheated the Natives

While many tried, Natives had been trading for centuries. They knew quality and price, and how to get a good deal.

Hudson Bay blankets came in "Points": 2-point, 3-point, 4-point blankets. The points referred to the number of beaver pelts required to obtain one.

In reality, points denoted the size of the blanket, not its price.



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