**Socials 10: Evaluating Sources**

**Skills:**

In this assignment you will use the skills for evaluating sources that you have learned thus far, but you will be applying that to a website and the primary sources you will find there.

* reading
* evaluating
* analysing
* comparing/contrasting

**Definitions:**

**Primary source:** A primary source is a document or physical object which was written or created during the time under study. These sources were present during an experience or time period and offer an inside view of a particular event.

**Secondary source:** A secondary source is any source about an event, period, or issue in history that was produced after that event, period or issue has passed. Aside from a textbook, the most commonly assigned secondary source is a scholarly article- a volume on a specific subject in the past, written by an expert.

**Questions to ask:**

When looking at a source, you have to ask four questions:

1. Is this a primary or a secondary source?
2. When is this source from?

* This will help you determine whether it is a primary or secondary source

1. Is this source reliable?

* Does it have a date?
* Does it have an author?
* Is it from a reputable archive/museum/

1. Whose perspective is this from?

* Level of society/wealth
* Culture/race/ethnicity

**Assignment:**

You are to locate sources online, both secondary and primary, about the Canadian fur trade.

You will use the assignment sheet to complete your evaluation of these sources. You will then be required to answer some basic questions about the fur trade that you learned through your research.

Find sources:

* 1 primary resource about the fur trade
* 1 secondary resource about the fur trade (cannot be Wikipedia)

Primary sources options (places to start):

http://www.bcheritagefairs.ca/resources/on-line-primary-sources-for-students/#Fur Trade

http://www.furtradestories.ca/

https://web.archive.org/web/20150330005602/http://www.canadiana.ca/hbc/sources/sources\_e.html

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Primary Source Evaluation Name:** | |
| **Focus** | **Details** |
| Document title |  |
| Document date |  |
| Document type  (format and primary/secondary) |  |
| Author/creator |  |
| Audience:  (who is this intended for?) |  |
| Observation #1 |  |
| Observation #2 |  |
| Observation #3 |  |
| Why might this document have been created?  Is there a bias for/against a people group? |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Secondary Source Evaluation** | |
| **Focus** | **Details** |
| Document title |  |
| Document date |  |
| Document type  (format and primary/secondary) |  |
| Author/creator |  |
| Audience:  (who is this intended for?) |  |
| Observation #1 |  |
| Observation #2 |  |
| Observation #3 |  |
| Why might this document have been created?  Is there a bias for/against a people group? |  |

**Questions about the history:**

Please answer these in full sentences, using information from both of your resources.

1. What was life like for those involved in the fur trade?

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1. What were the primary uses for fur?

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1. Who were the people and companies involved in the fur trade?

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1. What were the central difficulties of the European/Canadian end of the fur trade?

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1. What were the central difficulties for the First Nations people groups involved?

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1. How did the fur trade affect Canadian society in general?

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Record the central things you learned through your research:

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