



French Explorations

Like Jacques Cartier, some French explorers still hoped to find a waterway to the Pacific Ocean. In 1673, the trade explorer Louis Joliet set out to find "the great river that call de Mississippi" and travel along it until he reached the Pacific. Guided by Aboriginal people, he and his small group did find the Mississippi,

but turned back when they realized it was taking them south, not west.

Nine years later, the busy fur-trader Robert Cavalier de La Salle set out to find where the Mississippi went. After following it to its mouth in the Gulf of Mexico, he claimed the whole region for France. He named it Louisiana, after the king.

Much of the west became French territory because of the explorations of Pierre Gaultier de La Vérendrye (left) and his team. In the 1730s and 1740s, they built a string of trading posts from Lake Superior all the way to the Saskatchewan River.

English Explorations

The English didn't first go inland. Instead, they asked hunters to bring furs to the French trading forts on Hudson Bay. Hoping to get down-hunter income to the fur, the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) sent Henry Kelsey on a long journey northwest in 1693 to meet with the Aboriginal people there. He

Price of Trade Goods

The beaver on the right is a reminder that beaver pelts were once used to make blankets, felt boots and all other trade goods were priced in pelts. In 1720, four beaver cost one beaver pelt. A gun cost 14 pelts.

was the first European to see the Canadian prairie and the first to see buffalo and grizzly bears.

In 1734, another HBC explorer, Anthony Henday (below), went as far as present-day Alberta, where he tried to persuade the Blackfoot people to bring their furs to Hudson Bay. But the Blackfoot weren't interested. They were already getting goods from Aboriginal "middlemen," who traded with the French as well as the English.

The rivalry between French and English traders often led to fighting. They captured each other's forts and took each other's ships. They were especially aggressive whenever France and England were at war. Because war in Europe meant war in North America, too.



England and France were almost constantly at war, and by the early 1700s they were locked in a struggle for North America. Both nations claimed Rupert's Land, Newfoundland and Acadia (today's Maritime). Farther south, down the Atlantic coast, were English 13 American colonies. Behind them was New France, which stretched from

WAR!

the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico.

The big battles were fought mostly by British and French troops, but the settlers played an important part. The *Canadiens* (or French settlers who now called) had learned to fight the European way, and they attacked the English in the forests. But the English won many of the larger battles.



Two Powerful Rivals

The French and English fought at sea as well as on land. French ships took Newfoundland settlements, and British ships attacked Acadia. In 1690, a fleet from Boston sailed up the St. Lawrence and destroyed the settlement of Quebec. But Governor Frontenac, naval hero, threatened to fire on the fleet.

Fort Royal changed hands.

"MY ONLY BETTER WILL COME FROM THE MOUTH OF MY CANNON (1691-1692)."

FRONTENAC, 1692

instead, and in 1713 the French lost it permanently. By the Treaty of Utrecht, which ended an

11-year war, the British gained Fort Royal along with much of Acadia — which they called Nova Scotia.

Quick Facts

Treaty of Utrecht, 1713

- Britain kept Nova Scotia (which included part of today's New Brunswick).
- France kept the rest of Acadia (including today's Prince Edward Island and Cape Breton Island).
- France gave up its claims to Rupert's Land and Newfoundland.
- French fishermen could still land and dry their fish on Newfoundland's French Shore (a part of the northeast coast coast).