

First Encounters and First Impressions

Early Contact Between Europeans and Indigenous Peoples

who is he?

— — — Does anyone recognize this monument from Saint Henri Square?

Clues: Born in France, 1494

Cartographer, explorer
(colonizer in general)

Claimed ALL of Canada for
France



What do we know about Cartier?
How do we know what we know?

Today's Lesson

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Agenda:

- Cartier's first voyages to North America (1534)
 - Primary source analysis: Cartier and Chief Donnacona's first meeting
 - Primary source analysis: Impressions of Iroquoian people
- Cartier's second voyage (1535 - 1536)
- Cartier's third voyage (1541 - 1542)
- Examining Cartier's legacy
 - Heritage Minute activity: What do we choose to remember?
 - What is our idea of the past?

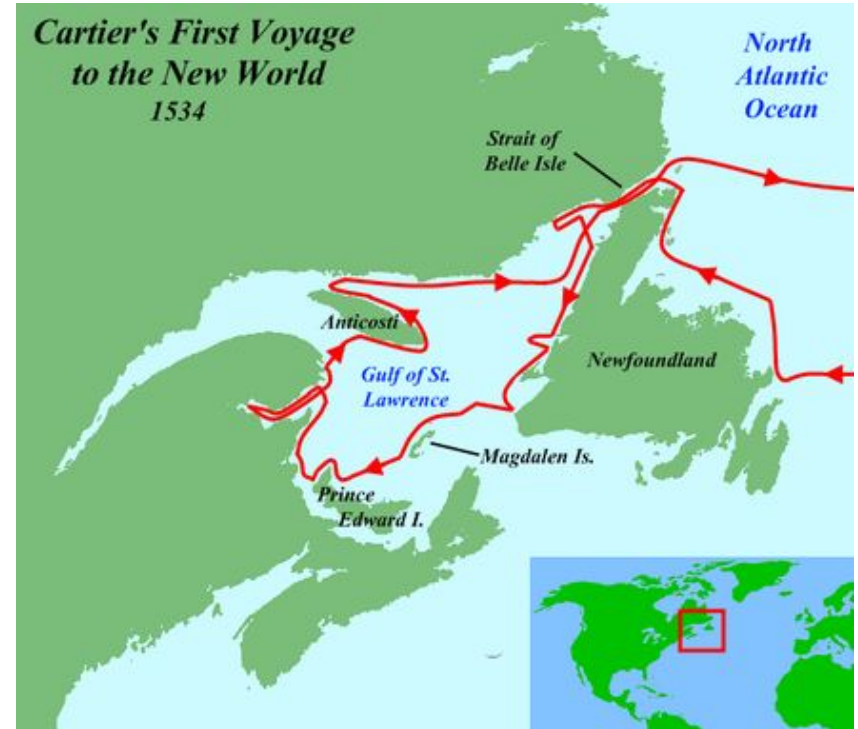
Objectives:

- Create our own interpretation of Cartier's voyages
- Analyze and challenge Cartier's legacy
- Question what can we know about the past
 - Is there things we will never be able to know?
 - What are the limitations of evidence and primary sources?

First Voyage in 1534

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- April 20
 - 2 ships, 61 men
- Commissioned from the king of France to discover western passage
- During one stop at Îles aux Oiseaux (now the Rochers-aux-Oiseaux federal bird sanctuary, in the Magdalen Islands), his crew slaughtered around 1000 birds, most of them great auks (now extinct).
- Some trading with Mi'kmaq, met Iroquois chief Donnacona
- Returned in September



Primary Source Analysis Activity

- Groups of 5 MAX
- Read primary source provided
 - Answer following questions
- (if time allows class discussion)

- 1) What kind of document is it?
- 2) When was it written?
- 3) Who wrote it?
- 4) How does Cartier view the Iroquois people?
- 5) How does that limit the source?
- 6) What kind of sources would we need to give us a better understanding of first contact?

First Encounter with Chief Donnacona

July 24th, 1534
Penouille Point (Gaspé)

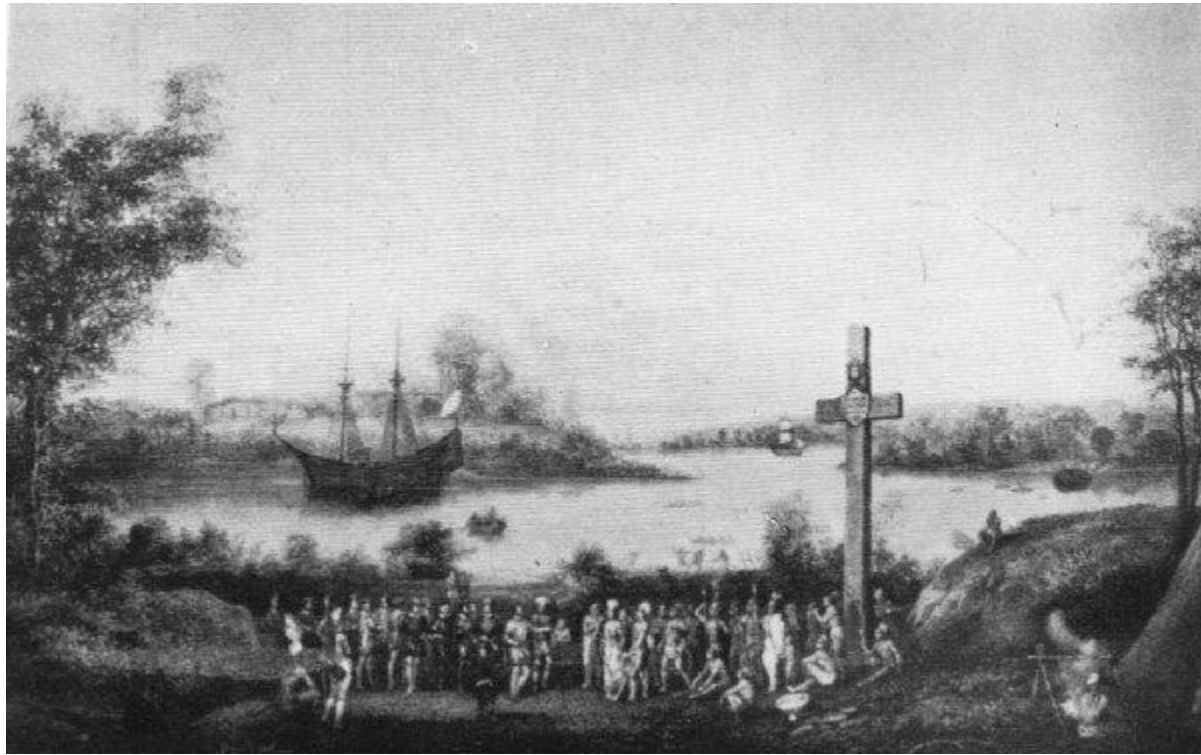


**Remember the views Cartier had
about indigenous people when
reading this!**

Excerpts from Cartier's Diary

“On [Friday] the 24th of [July], we had a cross made thirty feet high, which was put together in the presence of a number of Indians on the point at the entrance to this harbour, under the cross-bar of which we fixed a shield with three *fleurs-de-lys* in relief, and above it a wooden board, engraved in large Gothic characters, where was written, LONG LIVE THE KING OF FRANCE. And we it raised in the air, we all knelt down with our hands joint, worshipping it before them; and made signs to them, looking up and pointing towards heaven, that by means of this we had our redemption, at which they showed many marks of admiration, at the same time turning and looking at the cross.

When we had returned to our ships, the chief, dressed in an old black bear-skin arrived in a canoe with three of his sons and his brother; but they did not come so close to the ships as they had usually done. And pointing to the cross, he [the chief] made us a long [angry rant] making the sign of the cross with two of his fingers; and then he pointed to the land all around about, as if he wished to say that all this region belonged to him, and that we ought not to have set up this cross without his permission.”



Erecting the cross at Gaspé, claiming the land

Cont'd

And when he had finished his [angry rant], we help up an axe to him, pretending we would barter in for his fur-skin. To this he nodded assent and little by little drew near the side of our vessel, thinking he would have the axe. But one of our men, who was in dinghy (small boat) caught hold of his canoe, and at once two or three more stepped down into it and made the Indians come on board our vessel, at which they were greatly astonished.

When they had come on board, they were assured by the captain [Cartier] that no harm would befall them, while at the same time every sign of affection was shown to them; and they were made to and to drink and to be of good cheer. And then we explained to them by signs that the cross had been set up to serve as a land-mark and guide-post on coming into the harbour, and that we would soon come back and would bring them iron wares and other goods; and that we wished to take two of his sons [Taignoagny and Dom Agaya] away with us and afterwards would bring them back... [They] made signs to us that they would not pull down the cross, delivering at the same time several [angry rants] which we did not understand.

Questioning the Limits

Given our analysis earlier, how reliable do
you think this document is?

Second Voyage 1535 - 1536

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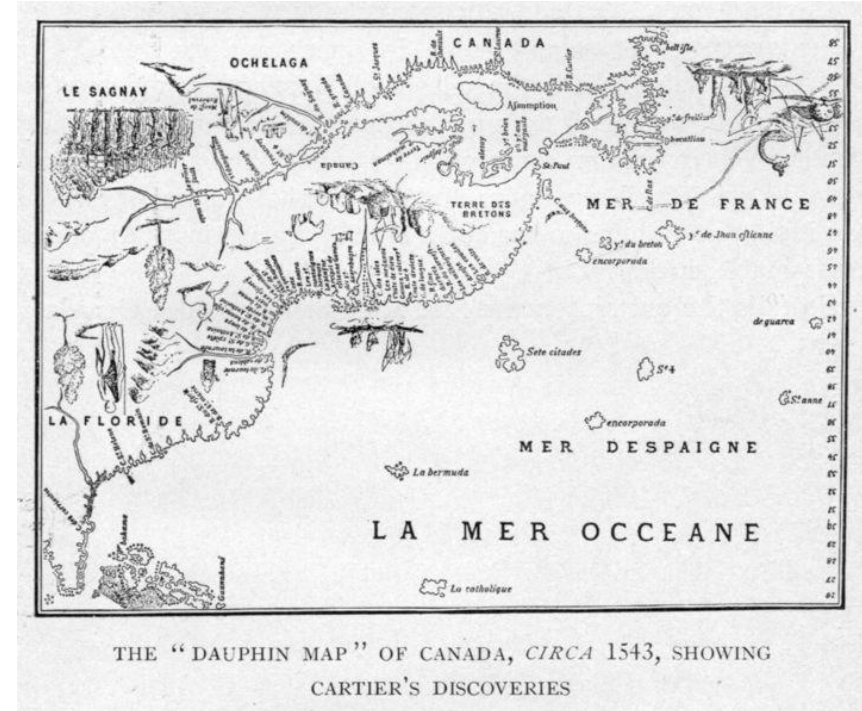
- Set sail May 19
 - Had 3 ships, 110 men, and Donnacona's 2 sons
- Went to Stadacona (Quebec City), and Hochelaga (Montreal)
 - Lachine, La Chine rapids
- Trapped in Stadacona for the winter
 - Scurvy broke out, but Domagaya saved the day
 - Cartier said it was a miracle....
- Returned in May 1536, richest trip yet



Cartier's Last Voyage 1541 - 1542

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- Bit of a delay from last voyage, set sail May 23
 - 5 ships, 800 men
- Goal: help colonization effort
 - Jean-François de La Rocque set to head the colonization effort
 - War left Cartier to lead first half of voyage
- Est. Fort Charlesbourg Royal
 - 400 people, present day Cap-Rouge (N of QC)
- Iroquois become increasingly hostile in response to colonization
 - Begin attacking their men and fort



- [illegible]

THE "DAUPHIN MAP" OF CANADA, *CIRCA* 1543, SHOWING
CARTIER'S DISCOVERIES

Closing Activity: Heritage Minute



Individually, answer the three following questions about the Heritage Minute video in writing.

- 1) Provide one historical inaccuracy presented in the video
- 2) Based off your answer to question one: do you think the producer of this knew was wrong? If no, why did they not know? If yes, why do you think they left it in?
- 3) If you could, what would you change in the video? Why?

This will be collected at the end of class.

Responses will be assessed based on the strength of the argument. Strong arguments will be based on evidence provided in class. Feel free to reference the primary source you analyzed earlier.

Recap and Review

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- Cartier's three voyages:
1534, 1535 - 36, 1541 - 42
- Meeting with Donnacona & views of indigenous people
- **How much can we know?**