

Economy Review

Agenda and review

Today we're going to review everything we talked about in the economy section of this class. *This will prepare you for the economy part of the exam.*

Objectives:

- Review the three main chapters of economic history

Big picture

You'll remember we've discussed the history of Cree economy in 3 distinct chunks.

Pre-contact with Europeans	European incursions and colonization	James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement and decolonization
Time immemorial - 1600s	1600s - 1970s	1970s - now

First period: pre-contact

This period is from time immemorial to 1600s.

In this time, Cree people lived by **surviving** off the land, following migrating **animals** and the **seasons**.



Economy

Cree people mostly only took what the **needed** for survival or cultural needs.

We call this **selective** harvesting, which means selecting what you need.



Economy

Compare this with the European method of getting as much **as you can**.

This method is called **intensive harvesting** - take more than you need.



Trade

As we know, **trade** was happening all over North America pre-contact.

In particular, **Mistissini Quartzite** artifacts were found all over the East showing how this material was traded all over.



What tools do you see?



Period 2: Europeans

The second period in this history is contact with **Europeans**, 1600 - 1970s.

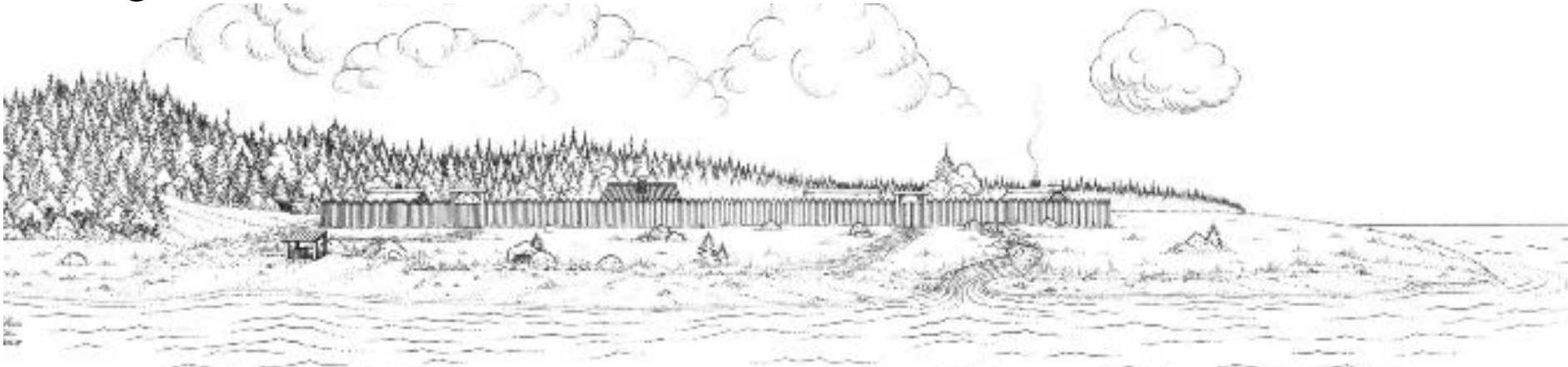
I think this is its own period because so much **changed** for Cree people when Europeans showed up.



First trading posts

English came to the Eeyou Istchee land in the 1600s looking to set up **trade posts** in the north.

The first fort here, **Fort Rupert** was set up in 1668 by the English.

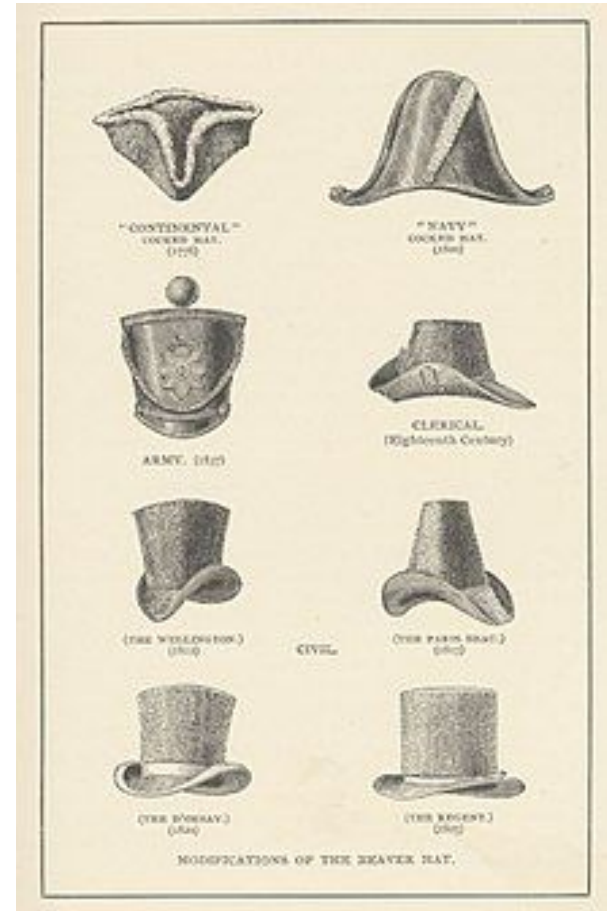




Aerial view

Fur hats

The English came to the North to intensively harvest **furs**. They wanted as much as they could get for their hats.



Hudson's Bay Company (HBC)

The English then decided, **without** talking to anyone living here, that they were going to give all the land up North to the **HBC** for them to make money.

This marks the start of a long, complicated, and abusive **relationship** between the Cree and English.



Period 3: JBNQA and decolonization

The last chapter we'll discuss is the James Bay Project and the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement.

The idea to build dams in the north started with then QC premier Robert Bourassa to meet the energy demands of Quebec.



Bourassa's reason

Bourassa (QC minister) announced in April 1971 that the James Bay project. Here are his words:

“Fascinating challenge for the conquest of Northern Quebec: its rushing spectacular rivers, its lake so immense they are almost inland seas, its forests of coniferous trees... the whole history of Quebec must be rewritten. Our ancestors' must live again in the 20th century. Quebec must occupy its territory; it must conquer James Bay. We have decided the time has come”.



Outcome

Cree people knew this project would damage their way of life so they fought it in the courts with **Billy Diamond** at the front of the resistance.

In 1974, the drama played out in the courts and the government and Cree and Inuit were forced to **make a deal**.

JBNQA

The agreement gave a lot of money and **authority** to the Cree people.

Many organizations and companies came out of the agreement, like:

- Cree school board
- Cree Health board
- AirCreebec



Damage to the environment

Obviously those big changes to the landscape would have serious impacts for the **wildlife** here.

For example, changes in the waterflow makes the marshes here less desirable for migratory like the **geese**.

The **weather** has also changed, including delaying the onset of summer and changing rain patterns.

Changes to society and Grand Council

Knowing what damages would come for Cree people, the resistance to the project and the money from the project brought Cree communities closer together.

A clear example of this is the Grand Council of Crees, which was created because of the James Bay Project. The first Grand Chief was none other than Billy Diamond.

Cree Co. www.creeco.ca

The best example of this is Cree Co. which we can think of as a parent company to many other companies. They help with funding and management of these other companies.

Here is their mission statement:

Our mission statement: To be highly innovative in the delivery of excellent customer service and contribute to the development and self-sufficiency of the Cree Nation while maintaining long-term profitability.

Big picture

So there are the three big chapters.

Pre-contact with Europeans	European incursions and colonization	James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement and decolonization
Time immemorial - 1600s	1600s - 1970s	1970s - present