Connections to the Peoples – Grade 4 Program
Explorers Session: Post-Program Activity

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(If any errors are found in this document, please e-mail them to celliott@fortsask.ca)

Additional information sourced from the canadianencyclopedia.ca

Overview:

The explorers that made expeditions to the Canadian west, and eventually to what is today Alberta, travelled vast distances. They utilized rivers whenever possible and often had to portage, or travel overland, with their canoes and supplies to reach another river system. During this era of exploration (1730-1815) a trip from central Canada to western Canada may have been a voyage of as much as three to five months. Today, driving from points in Central Canada, to Edmonton, takes three and a half to four days.

In the following activity students are required to apply basic skills of addition and multiplication and an understanding of the use of map scales in order to determine the approximate distances that each explorer, from the on-site session, travelled. Students only need to use straight line measurements, even though the explorers' routes were irregular (since they followed rivers whenever possible).

Curriculum Connections:

This activity addresses the skills of geographic thinking as prescribed in the Grade Four Social Studies Curriculum, and reinforces Grade Four Mathematics skill outcomes. It provides knowledge of Alberta's location within Canada, and the significance of rivers as the main routes of travel.

Curriculum Connections: Teachers may inquire how this session relates to the grade 4 curriculum. The Post-Program activity addresses curriculum Skills and Processes:

4.S.3 Develop skills of geographic thinking:

- Use the scale on maps (of Alberta) to determine the distance between places.

Have students use the **scale of 1 cm = 250 km** to calculate the distance that the five explorers travelled, to and from, their destinations; i.e. La Verendrye travelled from Montréal to the Saskatchewan Delta (where the river flows into Lake Winnipeg) and back to Montréal.

Measure a straight line from Montréal (1) to Fort La Verendrye (2).
9 cm=2250 km X 2= 4500 km.

Materials Required:

- One colour copy of the *Explorers Session Watershed Destinations Map* for each student. The map needs to be downloaded, from the link on our website, onto your desktop and opened with your usual photograph viewer. Once opened, please print a full page, landscape photo, ensuring that the picture is fitted to the frame. Printing your map to these size specifications will ensure that student calculations correspond with the Distances Key provided at the bottom of this document.
- One 30.5 cm. ruler for each student.

Instructions:

- Introduce class to activity. **Sample presentation script**.: *Today's activity will allow us to think about how far the explorers travelled canoeing and hiking across the west. Although we will use straight line measurement for this activity, the explorers actually travelled farther because they followed the rivers whenever possible. We will do the first explorer together as a class.*
    - La Verendrye travelled from Montréal, location **1** on the map to Fort La Verendrye, location **2** on the map. Measuring with your rulers, you can see that the distance is 9 centimetres (rounded off to nearest whole number). Since the map scale is 1 centimetre equals 250 kilometres, then the distance between Montréal and Fort La Verendrye is 9 times 250, or 2250 kilometres. A trip from Montréal to Fort La Verendrye **and back** would be twice as far, or 4500 kilometres.
- *You can now use this information to calculate the distances between the different locations that the other four explorers travelled. They are Anthony Henday, Peter Pond, Alexander Mackenzie and David Thompson. Here are the starting locations and destinations for each explorer:*
    - **Anthony Henday**: From York Factory, marked with a **3** on the map, to his winter camp, marked with a **4 on the map,** on the North Saskatchewan where present day Edmonton is located. Remember to include the trip back to York Factory.
    - **Peter Pond**: From Detroit, marked with a **5** on the map to Fort Chipewyan marked with **6** on the map. Be sure to include his return trip.
    - **Alexander Mackenzie:** In his expeditions to find a route to the Pacific Ocean, Alexander Mackenzie actually made two trips. The First was from Fort Chipewyan, marked with a **6**, to the Arctic Ocean, marked with a **7** on the map. Remember to include the trip back to Fort Chipewyan. The second trip was from Fort Chipewyan **6** to the Pacific coast, marked with an **8** on the map**.** Also include the trip from the Pacific coast back to Fort Chipewyan.
    - **David Thompson:** David thompson did not follow a single route like the other explorers. He actually travelled back and forth across the west as he made maps of the land for the Northwest Company. We are just going to calculate the distance from Montréal marked with a **1** to Fort Astoria, marked with the number **9** on the Pacific coast.

- Allow time for the students to complete their measurements and calculations.
- When students have completed the tasks, review the results using the Distances key provided.

Distances Key

Explorers	Distance*
La Verendrye	9 centimetres (2250) one way 4500 km (round trip)
Anthony Henday	5 centimetres (1250 km) one way 2500 km (round trip)
Peter Pond	10 centimetres (2500 km) one way 5000 km (round trip)
Alexander Mackenzie (Arctic)	6 centimetres (1500 km) one way 3000 km (round trip)
Alexander Mackenzie (Pacific)	5 centimetres (1250 km) one way 2500 km (round trip)
David Thompson	15 centimetres (3750 km) one way 7500 km (round trip)

* Distances rounded to nearest centimetre.