**The Red River and Lake Winnipeg**

***Local History Teaching Aids Project IV.1.***

**Introduction to the Local History Teaching Aids (LHTA) Materials**

The Local History Teaching Aids (LHTA) materials provide a comprehensive, critical, and easily-accessible resource for presenting the history of our area in the classroom. This package of free resources from the Red River North Heritage (RRNH) website (redrivernorthheritage.com) offers teachers multiple layers of material that can be adapted to meet the needs of individual class settings.

The LHTA cover five subject areas: Indian and Metis culture; Eastern European immigration; early industries; river and lake history; and local institutions (churches, schools, government, etc.). Each unit contains one or more complete lessons that present the theme as it manifested in the Red River North area (Selkirk, St. Andrews, and St. Clements). Opportunities arise for both content examination and critical thinking about sources and other areas.

The foundation of each lesson is a lesson outline which includes lists of materials and goals, a lesson initiator, an outline of content, review questions, optional learning activities, and a list of key terms for reference, quizzing, or review. For the teacher's reference, a separate text file gives the instructor the information necessary to teach the lesson. This file has been based primarily on materials available on the RRNH website, but includes other accessible resources online and in library. The third part of each lesson's resources is the PowerPoint presentation that adds that visual component that is so helpful to learning and memory. Of course, content from each of these three parts can be easily extracted to fit time constraints. The best way to do this is with reference to the natural breaks evident from the lesson outline.

**Advantages of the Local History Teaching Aids**

* Flexibility - can be used in part or in whole to fit teacher's needs and time
* Accessibility - all necessary material in one place for ease of use
* Clarity - learning goals stated for each lesson
* Thoroughness - background information, outline for application, and aids for visualization
* Key points - central people, events, and themes made clear for teaching, memory, and quizzing

***Visit   
Red River North Heritage (redrivernorthheritage.com)   
for your   
one-stop guide to local history!***

**I. The Influence of the River and Lake on Regional History**

**Materials and Resources**

* Visuals: PowerPoint
* Sources: LHTA IV.1. text resource from Red River North Heritage website (redrivernorthheritage.com)
* Videos: St. Peters Dynevor (https://redrivernorthheritage.com/historic-sites-activities/experiential-geocache/site-3-st-peters-dynevor-church/), St. Andrews Lock and Dam (https://redrivernorthheritage.com/historic-sites-activities/experiential-geocache/site-6-st-andrews-lock-dam/), The East Slough (https://redrivernorthheritage.com/historic-sites-activities/experiential-geocache/site-11-east-slough/), Fisherman's Wharf (https://redrivernorthheritage.com/historic-sites-activities/experiential-geocache/fishermans-wharf/).

**Learning Goals**

1. Students will be able to explain the historical significance of York boats.
2. Students will be able to explain why and how Selkirk became a major port.
3. Students will be able to explain ways the river and lake were important helps during the founding of Manitoba.

**Lesson**

1. Quick Initiator: Today Manitoba's waterways are just places to go boating or swimming, but in the past they were the most convenient routes of transportation. The rivers and lakes of the northwest were a natural Trans-Canada Highway system used by explorers, missionaries, businessmen, settlers, and soldiers.
2. The Stage of History
   1. Rivers
   2. Towns and posts
   3. Regions
   4. The Importance of the Forks
3. The Fur Trade
   1. First by canoes from York Factory and Montreal
   2. York boats go inland
      1. Design
      2. Viking ancestry
      3. "Brigades"
      4. "York Main Line"
   3. Significance of York boats
      1. Extended HBC governance
      2. Paved way for Selkirk Colony
      3. Facilitated mission work
      4. Helped keep Canada British territory
4. Red River
   1. Missionaries
      1. James Evans - Rossville - Cree alphabet
      2. William Cockran of the CMS
         1. Lower Church
         2. St. Peters
         3. Agriculture
   2. The Selkirk Settlers, 1812
      1. Settled and defended using York boat transport
      2. Settled along the river
   3. The Forks the seat of government in the northwest
      1. George Simpson
      2. Lower Fort Garry
      3. Council of Assiniboia
   4. Local Political Figures
      1. Thomas Bunn - St. Clements - Riel's "Secretary of State"
      2. Donald Gunn - St. Andrews - Political, religious, cultural pillar
      3. Alfred Boyd - St. Andrews - 'First premier'
      4. Thomas Spence - St. Peters; Republic of Manitoba
5. The Port of Selkirk
   1. Coming by rail, working by water
   2. Selkirk's strategic location
      1. Below the rapids
      2. On high ground
      3. Railway branch line
      4. East and West Sloughs
   3. Steamboats
      1. *Anson Northrup -* First steamboat
      2. *Chief Commissioner -* First lake steamboat
      3. *Colvile*
         1. Morris and Treaty Five
         2. Lord Dufferin's visit
         3. North-West Rebellion
         4. Colvile Landing
   4. Lake Barons
      1. William Robinson - fishing and lumbering empire-builder
      2. William Purvis and Joe Simpson - Northern Fish Company and shipbuilding
      3. Theodore Arthur Burrows - Selkirk Lumber Company (1883)

**Review**

1. What were groups of York boats called? ["Brigades"]
2. Give two reasons York boats were historically significant. [They expanded HBC territory, paved the way for the Selkirk Colony, facilitated missions work, and transported troops to defend the northwest from American incursion.]
3. What missionary worked among the people of St. Peters? What special work did he do there? [Rev. William Cockran helped Chief Peguis and his band shift to a farming lifestyle at St. Peters that eventually helped them transition to the post-Confederation era with less hardship than was faced by other Indian tribes.]
4. Explain two reasons why Selkirk's location was strategic. [It was on high ground and didn't flood, it had a railway branch line, it was above the St. Andrews Rapids, and it had the East and West Sloughs nearby for wintering boats.]
5. Which famous governor general and his wife did the *S.S. Colvile* carry on their tour of Manitoba in 1877? [Lord and Lady Dufferin]
6. What company did Theodore Arthur Burrows found? [The Selkirk Lumber Company in 1883.]

**Student Assignments or Learning Activities**

* Map Assignment: Have students identify and label the locations of important rivers, lakes, settlements, and regions having to do with the era discussed.
* Activity: Using the material presented in this lesson, have students present an argument supported by evidence as to which period discussed (early fur trade, Selkirk Colony, Port of Selkirk) was the most significant in our history.

**Key Terms**

* Hayes River
* Red River
* Assiniboine River
* Winnipeg River
* York Factory
* Norway House
* Grand Rapids
* Warren's Landing
* Grindstone Point
* Berens River
* Gimli
* Selkirk
* Colvile Landing
* Lower Fort Garry
* Lockport
* North basin
* South basin
* Red River North
* The Forks
* Canoes
* HBC (1670) - York Factory (1684)
* NWC (1779) - Montreal
* Merger, 1821
* York boats - Orkney Islands - Vikings
* "Brigades"
* "York Main Line"
* James Evans - Rossville, Norway House - Cree alphabet
* William Cockran - CMS - Lower Church - St. Peters
* Selkirk Settlers (1812)
* Crossroads of the northwest
* George Simpson
* Lower Fort Garry (1830)
* Council of Assiniboia (1821-1870)
* Thomas Bunn
* Donald Gunn
* Alfred Boyd
* Thomas Spence
* St. Andrews Rapids
* Lockport Dam (1910)
* Selkirk's high ground
* East Slough and West Slough
* *S.S. Anson Northrup* (1859)
* *S.S. Chief Commissioner* (1872)
* *S.S. Colvile* (1875)
* Alexander Morris
* Lord and Lady Dufferin
* North-West Rebellion
* William Robinson - 1880 - Northwest Navigation Co. - Dominion Fish Co. - William Robinson Company
* William Purvis
* Joe Simpson
* Northern Fish Company
* Shipbuilding
* Theodore Arthur Burrows - Selkirk Lumber Company (1883)