**Benchmark #2**

The Fur Trade - Okanagan Fur Brigade Trail

The infrastructure is created for early European expansion into the Valley

Early exploration in northern and western North American mostly occurred as a result of the HBC and NWC trying to outdo each other in finding a Pacific port to ship their furs to the Orient and Europe easier.

In 1811, David Stuart from the Pacific Fur Company (part of the NWC) found a network of travel and trade routes used by Aboriginal people for centuries that ran north and south of the Okanagan Valley. This trail became known as the Okanagan Fur Brigade Trail and was a VITAL link in the lucrative North American fur trade.

The trail runs on the west side of Lake Okanagan and through the town sites of West Bank and Fintry. Moreover, these town sites were initially trading posts or sites of trade with the local Aboriginals.

The Okanagan Fur Brigade Trail continued to be used as a vital transportation network, after the fur trade dwindled in 1848, for early missionaries, gold miners in the Okanagan and to the Cariboo, ranchers, and settlers for another 50 years. The Brigade Trail was extremely important to the creation of the Okanagan Valley and a historic transportation route in North American History.

**The Okanagan Fur Brigade Trail**

**Questions:**

**Read the section - Discovering a Pacific Port. pp 15-16.**

**1. Finding the Okanagan Fur Brigade Trail.**

In the late 1700s, American Businessmen John Jacob Astor and his Pacific Fur Company were in fierce competition with the HBC to find a Pacific Port.

Describe **David Stuart's** and **David Thompson's** (Scottish Nor'Wester's) roles in how the Okanagan Valley was discovered. Point form is good.

David Stuart -

David Thompson -

**2. Complete the Map of The Okanagan Fur Brigade Trail on the map provided. Include all details on the map.**

**3. Read section "For the Sake of a Hat - The Okanagan Fur Brigade Trail". pp 16-19**

a) What drove the North American Fur Trade?

b) What years did the Okanagan Fur Brigade Trail run under the HBC Company?

c) What two factors lead to the decline of the fur trade in North American?

d) In your own words, what was the Okanagan Fur Brigade Trail?

**3. In your own words and in well-written paragraph: (see attached rubric for marking)**

Why do you think that the Okanagan Fur Brigade Trail was so important to North American and Okanagan Valley history that Westbank had a memorial cairn created in 1949 to celebrate and remember the "Brigade Trail"? Use details and be specific from your reading.

Write here:

**Evaluation for Paragraph**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **Exceeding Expectations** | **Fully Meeting Expectations** | **Adequately Meeting Expectations** | **Minimally Meeting Expectations** | **Not Yet Meeting Expectations** |
| **Content:** Writing communicates an original insightful message that is supported with details that enrich and develop the argument. | The message is original, insightful and precisely supported with examples that develop the argument. | The message communicates insight and the details and logical examples support the development of the theme. | The message attempts to communicate insight however the development of the argument is only limitedly supported with details and examples. | The message lacks insight and the development of the argument is weak as the explanation of supporting details and examples are vague and incomplete. | The message is not supported with any details or examples or it contains serious misunderstandings which make the writing impossible to follow. |