

Name/Date:

Social Studies 9 Unit 2 Culture Conflict Colonization

2F On the West Coast

References:

Cranny, M. (1998) Crossroads: A Meeting of Nations, Ch. 9
video titles: "e.g. "BC Time Vol. 1"

Important Focus Questions

- How was the western coast of North America explored and mapped?
- What differences marked the inland fur trade and the west coast fur trade?
- What was the "mutual impact" of contact and trade between Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals on the West Coast? (how they affected each other - land, society, culture, environment, control...)

READING

Source: <http://www.canadianencyclopedia.ca/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=J1SEC809593>

Instructions: read the following, use a highlighter or pen to mark/underline key ideas, and answer the questions that follow.

Exploration of the Pacific Coast

The Northwest Pacific Coast was one of the last regions of America to be explored by Europeans. It was isolated from the rest of the world by vast stretches of open ocean. The Rocky Mountains blocked attempts to reach it from the western interior. In the final decades of the 18th century, however, ships from Europe began to appear along the coast.

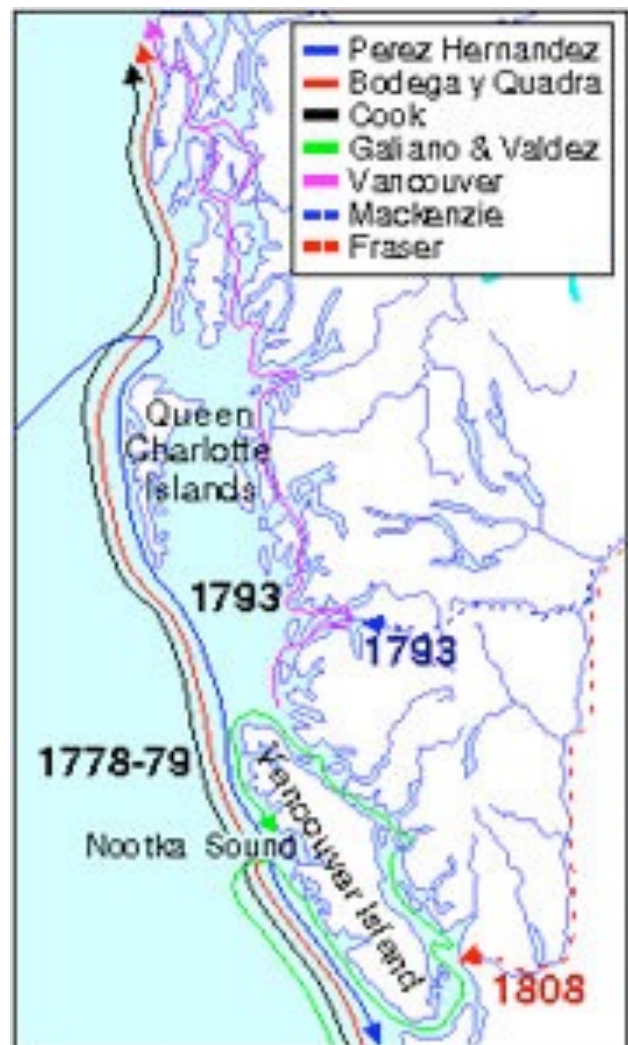
Spanish Voyages

There may have been earlier visits, but the first recorded voyage along the coast took place in 1774. A Spanish sailor, Juan Pérez Hernández, sailed as far north as the Queen Charlotte Islands. Spain at this time controlled Mexico and California and hoped to extend its claim northwest up the coast.

Rumours that Russia was planning to move down the coast from Alaska prompted the Spanish to send another expedition in 1775. Captain Bodega y Quadra sailed all the way to Alaska, but saw no Russians.

British on the Coast

In March 1778, Captain James Cook entered Nootka Sound on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Cook was likely the greatest of all the captains of discovery. He was bound for the Arctic looking for an eastern entrance to the Northwest Passage. His way was blocked by arctic ice, and on his voyage back across the Pacific he was killed in what is now Hawaii. His ship went on to China where crew members sold a few sea otter pelts they had traded at Nootka Sound. When news of the exchange reached the rest of the world it touched off a rush of traders to the Northwest Coast.



Conflicting Claims

In 1789 the Spanish captain Esteban José Martínez returned to Nootka Sound. He sparked a crisis between Spain and Britain by seizing several British ships and building a Spanish fort.

In the summer of 1791 another Spaniard, Alejandro Malaspina, sailed as far north as Alaska. The next summer, 1792, two more Spanish ships, commanded by Captains Alcalá-Galiano and Valdés, explored Juan de Fuca Strait and charted many of the Gulf Islands. While on the coast they encountered the English explorer George Vancouver, who was beginning three summers of surveying the entire mainland shore of B.C. Finally, in 1795, the conflicting claims to the coast were settled. The Spanish gave up their claim. The coast was to remain British.

Overland to the Pacific

In an amazing coincidence, Alexander Mackenzie arrived at the mouth of the Bella Coola River on July 20, 1793, just seven weeks after Vancouver reached the area by sea. After David Thompson charted a route down the Columbia River in 1811, the Pacific fur trade finally found a route that flowed in both directions: by sea across the Pacific, and by river back to Canada.

Questions

1. Why was the Pacific Northwest one of the last areas in North America to be discovered?
2. Why did the Spanish explore the Pacific coast?
3. Why did the British explore the Pacific Coast?
4. What trade item became important enough for explorers to return?
5. How did the rivalry between the Spanish and British get resolved?
6. What was the great coincidence among two famous explorers?

Read Crossroads page 274-278. Questions based on the reading:

1. Why was Chief Maquinna a respected trading partner for the British and others?
2. What was the Spanish contribution to the exploration of the west coast?

3. What was the Russian contribution to the exploration of the west coast?

4. What was the British contribution to the exploration of the west coast? Comment specifically about the contributions of Captain Cook and Captain Vancouver.

5. What kind of animal provided the main prize for fur traders on the west coast? Where was the market for these furs (where were they in high demand?)

6. Examine the image below, made by the official artist who accompanied Captain James Cook on his Third Voyage in 1778. What can you pick up from this image — themes, perspectives, ideas, etc. Share your observations with a partner, and listen to what they thought about the image.

'Resolution' and 'Discovery' in Ship Cove, Nootka Sound



Some additional reading on famous explorer David Thompson

source: <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/592952/David-Thompson>

David Thompson, (born April 30, 1770, London, Eng.—died Feb. 10, 1857, Longueuil, Lower Canada [now Quebec]), English explorer, geographer, and fur trader in the western parts of what are now Canada and the United States. He was the first white man to explore the Columbia River from source to mouth. His maps of western North America served as a basis for all subsequent ones.

Thompson was apprenticed to the Hudson's Bay Company in 1784 and worked as a clerk in northern and western Canada until 1796, when he made an expedition for the company to Lake Athabasca. He left the company in 1797 to join and become a partner in the rival North West Company and continued to explore and trade on the western plains.

In 1797 Thompson descended a stretch of the Missouri River, and in 1798 he discovered Turtle Lake, one of the headwaters of the Mississippi River. In 1807 he crossed the Rocky Mountains by the Howse Pass and built the first trading post on the Columbia River. Having explored what is now northwest Montana, Thompson descended the length of the Columbia River in 1811. He then settled in Terrebonne, near Montreal, and drew up maps of the newly explored territory. Thompson acted as an astronomer and surveyor for the commission that charted the border between Canada and the United States from 1818 to 1826. He conducted other surveys but was not recognized as a geographer until after his death.

source: <http://www.hbcheritage.ca/hbcheritage/history/people/explorers/david-thompson>

David Thompson's achievements as an explorer and surveyor have earned him the reputation as one of the best pioneering geographers in Canadian history. Each day, regardless of where he found himself, he would faithfully write down the latitude, longitude, temperature and the geographical characteristics of his location. In this way he mapped almost half of North America between the 46th and 60th parallels, from the St. Lawrence and Great Lakes all the way to the Pacific....

By the fall of 1810 it was clear that the Peigan, one of the Blackfoot tribes, were determined not to let the Europeans into the Kootenay country again. The two tribes were traditional enemies. In order to prevent the Kootenay from gaining access to firearms, they effectively blocked the southern passes. That meant that a different route, one that bypassed their territory, needed to be developed. According to the journal of Alexander Henry the Younger, Thompson would "endeavour to open a new road from North branch [of the Saskatchewan] by Buffalo Dung lake [Chip Lake] to the Athabasca river, and thence across the mountains to the Columbia ..."

Thompson set out December 29, 1810. After much hunger and hardship, he crossed the mountains through the Athabaska Pass – a brutal route west via the Athabaska, Whirlpool and Wood Rivers – reaching the forks of the Columbia and Canoe rivers on January 18, 1811. After the harsh crossing his men refused to go on, and he was forced to spend the winter nearby at a place called Boat Encampment.

In the spring the party constructed canoes out of cedar, there being no suitable birchbark to hand. Still apparently convinced that the northward flowing river could not be the Columbia he sought, Thompson instead chose the route he knew, travelling upstream to Kootenae House, by portage to the Kootenay River, and south to Spokane House. He arrived by horse, at Kettle Falls on the Columbia River at the end of June. Knowing the geographical positions of the NWC's Columbia posts, he realized that the Pacific and the mouth of the Columbia were not far away. He arrived at the mouth of the Columbia on the Pacific Ocean on July 14, 1811, only to discover Astoria, the new post of American John Jacob Astor's Pacific Fur Company, which had been founded three months earlier.