

## Fraser Trade Brigade

### Background Information on the Fraser River:

The Fraser River starts as a trickle of melted snow at the top of Mount Robson which is in the Rocky Mountains, sitting on the border of British Columbia and Alberta. The river travels 1,375 kilometers through BC and empties into the Pacific Ocean. There are many tributaries (a river or stream that flows into a larger river or lake) that add water to the Fraser as it travels through BC. The Fraser River is longest river in BC, and one of the largest in all of Canada.

The landscapes of the Fraser River change from the beginning of its journey to its end. As you exit the headwaters on Mount Robson the water is crystal clear, shallow, and extremely cold. The middle portion of the river is called the Fraser Canyon, where the river is squeezed between mountain ranges, increasing the speed, and creating many impressive rapids. The point at which the fresh water of the Fraser River meets the salty water of the Pacific Ocean is called the estuary. Because estuaries have access to both riparian (river) and marine nutrients, they are home to an incredible diversity of life. The lower mainland is located in the estuary portion of the Fraser River.

Indigenous people have been living in what we now call Canada for time immemorial, meaning that Indigenous communities have no stories of arriving here. They have always been here. There are many different First Nations along the River; each group is unique, with their own language or dialect, specific traditions, particular relationships with the landscape, stories, etc. The river has been used by Indigenous communities for thousands of years and they have specialized technologies, traditions and celebrations related to the river, nature, and biodiversity. Hul'q'umi'num', Halq'eméylem, and hənq'əmin'əm' are Indigenous language dialects spoken in the lower portion of the Fraser River. In Halq'eméylem, the language dialect spoken in the upper portion of the lower Fraser, the word for river is Stolo. In hənq'əmin'əm', a language dialect spoken in the lower portion of the lower Fraser, the word for river is stalə'w'. Indigenous communities throughout BC speak other languages and dialects and will have other names for the river.

The Fraser River Discovery Centre is located on the traditional and unceded territory of the hənq'əmin'əm' and Halq'eméylem speaking peoples. Territory acknowledgement is one small part of Reconciliation. We ask you take a moment to think of other ways you can participate in Reconciliation with Indigenous communities.

The River is also now known as the Fraser River, named after Simon Fraser, a European fur trader and explorer who led an expedition in 1808 along the river, establishing trade routes for what is now called the Hudson Bay Company.

The Fraser River Basin is an extremely biodiverse region, with hundreds of species of plants, animals, and fungi. The major habitat types along the Fraser River include brackish and freshwater marshes, salt marshes, tidal flats, sloughs, and flood-plain forests among others.

The Fraser River watershed is also home to 60% of BC's population, approximately 3 million people. A watershed is an area of land that drains all the water into one main river. You could imagine this as the watershed being a sink, and the Fraser River the drain; anything poured along the sides of the sink will end up in the drain, just like all the rivers and streams around the watershed end up in the Fraser River.

## Program Overview:

The Fraser River is one of the world's great rivers, not only in its contribution to the environmental, cultural, and historical wealth of British Columbia, but because of its current pivotal role in the economy of BC. In this program, students explore the role of BC in the global economy through interactive games and activities.

## Program Objectives

- To understand our connection to the Fraser River, through recreation, culture, the economy and the environment.
- To understand how the Fraser River connects Canada to the rest of the world, through the import and export of goods.
- To understand the role of supply and demand in our economy.
- To explore the economic and environmental cost of various methods of transport.
- To learn about the way international relationships affects economic prices.

## Helpful Vocabulary

**Import:** to bring a good or service from another area for trade

**Export:** to transport goods or services to another place for trade

**Interdependence:** people and countries rely on one another for goods, services, and ideas

**Trade:** buying, selling or exchanging of goods and services

**Raw materials:** the basic material that products are made from

**Natural Resource:** materials or substances such as minerals, forests, water, and fertile land that occur in nature and can be used for economic gain

**Shipping:** the transport of goods by sea or other vehicles

**Industry:** economic activity concerned with the processing of raw materials and manufacture of goods in factories

**Supply and Demand:** the amount of a commodity, product, or service available and the desire of buyers for it, considered as factors regulating its price

**Global/Local:** relating to the whole world; worldwide/belonging or relating to an area or neighborhood, typically exclusively so

## In- class activities:

Here are some ideas to help prepare your class for the program, and to continue the learning back in the classroom.

### Pre-visit:

1. In this program, we'll be talking about supply and demand, as well as exploring the global trade economy. Below are some short videos providing introductions to both topics.
  - a. Supply and demand
    - i. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JB1Kd6TGJao>
    - ii. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GqeRnxSulFI>
  - b. Global economy. This short animation provides a great introduction to global trade, what it is, and some advantages and disadvantages. However, the text is not spoken aloud, but this is easily worked around by reading aloud the text for your students.
    - i. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aemiFHJXrHI>
2. In this program we'll also be talking about imports and exports. Canada, and particularly BC, export a lot of natural resources. With your students, research what natural resources BC exports. Depending on how much time you can spend on this, you may want to look at where each resource comes from within BC, where each resource goes, how much money each resource brings into BC, or other details.

### Post visit:

1. A lot of our food is traded globally. You can use some or all of the material in "Our Food's Journey" lesson plan, put out by John Hopkins University, to explore the global food trade with your students.
  - a. [http://www.foodspanlearning.org/\\_pdf/lesson-plan/unit2/lesson7-foods-journey-lessonplan.pdf](http://www.foodspanlearning.org/_pdf/lesson-plan/unit2/lesson7-foods-journey-lessonplan.pdf)
2. In this program we talked about how resources and products are traded around the world, and touched briefly on the whether all products traded globally are strictly necessary. The Story of Stuff Project is a great resource for this topic. This is a San Francisco-based organization that fosters honest conversations about our consumption-based culture. They have made quite a few animated movies (see below), as well as run study programs and campaigns.
  - a. Here is the original video, made in 2007. As a US organization, it does reference US politics a couple times, but the content is very applicable to Canadians. This 20-minute video examines the "underside of our production and consumption patterns. [It] exposes the connections between a huge number of environmental and social issues, and calls us together to create a more sustainable and just world."
    - i. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GorqroigqM>
  - b. They have many other award-winning "Story of" movies, all high-quality and fact-filled.
    - i. <https://www.storyofstuff.org/movies/story-of/>
  - c. Their website is a treasure-trove of resources, tools and links.
    - i. <http://storyofstuff.org>