Social Studies 10-2

Unit 2: Legacies of historical globalization

Cultural contact and oral histories

Objects and oral stories

- At a fur trade post, a copper pot and a firearm sit beside a birch canoe and a bag of pemmican.
- In the Mexica capital, maize and cacao meet horses and steel after Spanish arrival in 1519, and Tenochtitlan falls in 1521.
- An elder teaches a place story that a trader’s journal tells from a European desk.



Effects of contact and respect for stories

- In Canada and in the Mexica world, name the exchange of goods and technologies, depopulation, and changes in who governs.
- First Nations, Métis, and Inuit oral histories are valid evidence. A written European account is one perspective.
- Name effects on First Nations, Métis, and Inuit societies in the past and today. The 2007 program uses the word Aboriginal for those societies.

Key terms

cultural contact

Cultural contact is a meeting of peoples that changes goods, technologies, population, and who holds political authority.

depopulation

Depopulation is a severe loss of population, which historians connect with disease, war, displacement, and hunger after contact.

oral history

Oral history is taught memory of events, law, kinship, and place, and it stands as valid evidence of the past.

Contact in Canada and Mexico

- Metal goods, cloth, and firearms moved inland through the fur trade and changed what people used.
- Canoes, snowshoes, and pemmican shaped how European traders travelled and what they ate on those routes.
- A First Nations oral history and a clerk's journal can each describe the same trade route.



The Mexica record, 1519 to 1521

- Spanish arrival reached the Mexica world in 1519 and opened a new contact between those societies.
- In that meeting, maize and cacao from the valley met horses and steel brought from Spain.
- Historians include the 1520 smallpox epidemic when they explain the loss of population.
- Tenochtitlan fell in 1521, and Spanish officials then governed the valley.

Filling in both columns

- A post inventory lists pots, cloth, and firearms that moved inland through the trade.
- A second note lists canoes, pemmican, and epidemics along the routes people travelled.
- The Mexica column uses Spanish arrival in 1519, the 1520 smallpox epidemic, the fall of Tenochtitlan in 1521, and colonial officials governing the valley.
- A First Nations oral account of the same route sits beside the factor’s journal.

Oral and written accounts

- A Métis oral history tells how pemmican and kinship made the plains trade move.
- A clerk’s letter from the same decade describes the post as a company achievement and says little about Métis skill.
- Decide what each source can show, and which effect of contact the pair helps you see.

Review

- From memory, name exchange, depopulation, and government for the fur trade and for the Mexica world after 1521.
- State depopulation as a historians' account that includes disease along with war, displacement, and hunger.
- Add one reason First Nations, Métis, and Inuit oral histories count as valid evidence.

Summary

- Cultural contact shows up as exchange, depopulation in historians' accounts, and a change in who governs.
- The fur trade and the Mexica world from 1519 to 1521 are the two places.
- Oral histories of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit are valid evidence, and contemporary consequences for Aboriginal societies remain live.

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