



Chapter 2 Lesson 1

Michigan's First People

Did early Native Americans trade for things from far away?

The Hopewell People

Lynda and her friend Josiah were studying maps in school. They looked at a map of their city. Lynda asked Josiah, "What is this road, Indian Mounds Drive?"

"I never heard of it. Let's ask our teacher, Ms. Ortiz."

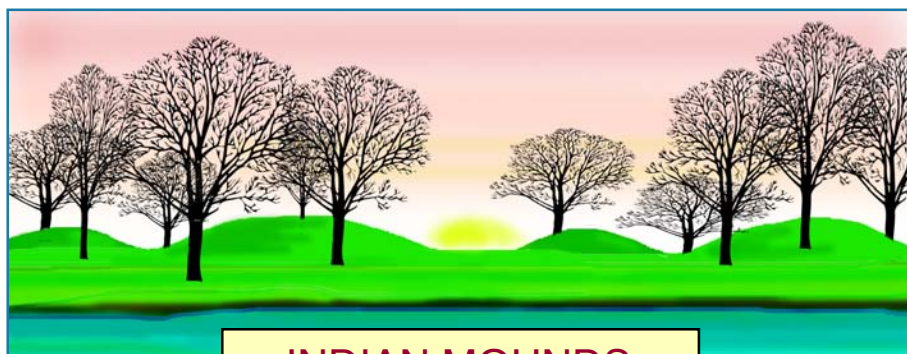
Their teacher said, "That is the road which goes by the old Indian mounds."

"What is an Indian mound, Ms. Ortiz?"

"They are **Native American** burial mounds. These mounds are along the shore of the Grand River. *Native means 'first' when used this way.*"

Josiah and Lynda's eyes went very wide. They both said, "There are dead people there?"

Ms. Ortiz went on, "Yes, there are bones and skeletons. There are also clay pots, metal tools and arrowheads. Fancy ornaments were buried too. Once there were 30 mounds. Now there are about 11. The biggest one is about 15 feet high and 100 feet across. They may be 2,000 years old."



INDIAN MOUNDS
near Grand Rapids

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“The people who made the mounds were called the **Hopewell** (HOPE well). This group lived before the tribes we hear of today. We do not know what these people called themselves. Hopewell is the name of a farmer. Some mounds were found on his land.

“The Hopewell had many villages in Ohio. Then they expanded north. Grand Rapids and Muskegon are about as far as they went. Other mounds were found near Detroit. Besides mounds, the Hopewell made big designs in the earth. One looked like a giant wagon wheel. The early settlers saw it.

“The Hopewell did much farming. They never moved too far north. We think they lived where their crops grew well.

“Most often the Hopewell lived along rivers. Perhaps they used **dugouts** to go long distances to trade. *Dugouts are logs hollowed out into boats.* There are things in their mounds which came from places over 1,000 miles away.

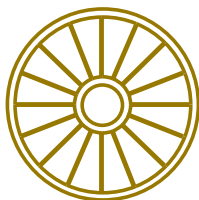
“They were good artists and metal workers. They made things from copper, iron and even silver. All we know about them we learned from their mounds. The Hopewell people disappeared hundreds of years ago.

“Over the years most of the Hopewell mounds have been removed. People wanted to make room for farms, homes and offices. That is sad. People who study history like to see what is in the mounds. On the other hand, we must also respect the dead buried there.”



What one artist thinks a Hopewell man may have looked like.

Art by
George
Rasmussen.



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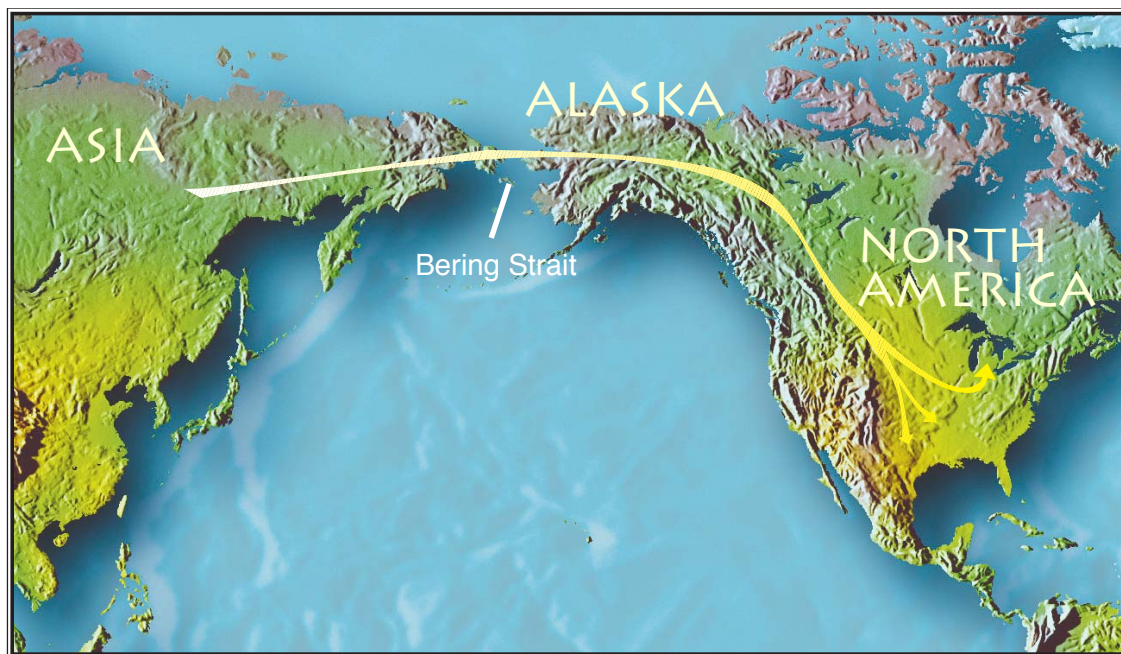
Lynda said, “Wow, the Hopewell must have had an interesting **culture**.”

Ms. Ortiz went on, “You can even see some of the things found in mounds. They are in the museum downtown. You can also go to web sites on the internet. You can learn more about these mysterious people from long ago.”

Culture (KUL cher) means all the different aspects of how a group lived. It includes their food, homes, jobs, beliefs, government and more.

How Did They Get Here?

Have Native Americans, like the Hopewell, always lived here? Many scientists believe there were no people in **North America** at first. *Basically, North America is the land which has Canada, the United States and Mexico.* They think groups moved from **Asia** to **Alaska**. These groups crossed a strip of land which is now covered by the ocean. Today that ocean is the Bering (BEAR ing) Strait.



The first people reach Michigan. The gap they crossed from Asia is now called the Bering Strait.

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If no Native Americans lived here, why did they move? They probably followed the animals which they hunted for food. Maybe they just wanted to explore. Perhaps they moved to escape fighting. After they reached North America, they spread out. Finally, some of them reached Michigan.

When Did They Arrive?

How long ago did the first people come to Michigan? We think they reached southern Michigan first. That was between 11,000 and 12,000 years ago!

At that time, a great **glacier** covered the rest of the land. *The glacier was a giant layer of ice.* It was as much as a mile thick!

How do we know these things? **Archaeologists**

(are kee OL oh jists) tell us. *Archaeologists are scientists who study the way people lived long ago. They often look for clues buried in the ground. They dig up arrowheads, old bones and other things left behind.*

How Many Were There?

Go back in time 400 or 500 years ago. When the Native Americans lived here alone, there were fewer people. Probably between 35,000 and 45,000 people lived in Michigan then. Today, almost ten million people (10,000,000) live here!



The first people who lived in Michigan probably came here 11,000 to 12,000 years ago.

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Questions to think about

1. Why do we think the Hopewell traded for things far away?
2. The Hopewell had an interesting culture. What did they do with their dead?
3. How do many scientists think the first people reached North America?
4. About how long ago did the first people reach Michigan? What kept people from living here much before that time?

Brain Stretchers

Make a graph to compare how many people lived in Michigan at two times.

- 1.) the number of people when the tribes lived here alone
- 2.) the number of people who live here today

Take a Stand!

Some archaeologists want to learn more about the Hopewell people. Should they be allowed to dig up Hopewell mounds to do this? Is this being respectful of the dead in the mounds? Give reasons to support your position.



Chapter 2 Lesson 3

Other Tribes

Who were the Three Fires?

Who were Giji and Nabek's neighbors? The Ojibwa shared the land with other tribes. There were three main tribes here and smaller ones also.

The Ottawa (ot ah wah) also Odawa or Odawe—
A tribe of the northwest Lower Peninsula.

The Ojibwa and Ottawa were related. Many of their

customs or ways of living and doing things were also alike.

Ottawa comes from the word "adawa" or "adawe," which means to trade. The Ottawa traded corn, sunflower oil, and tobacco with other tribes.

A tribe traded something it had plenty of for something which was **scarce**. *If it was scarce, they did not have much of it.* A Michigan tribe might trade some copper for another tribe's buffalo robe.

Once the Ottawa lived to the east in Canada. Then they were forced to leave when the fierce **Iroquois** tribes attacked them. (The "s" is silent in Iroquois. It sounds like EAR a quoy.) The Iroquois group



The Tribes in 1760



This map shows the areas used by the tribes living in Michigan about 1760. Remember, the tribes moved from time to time. The boundaries often changed.

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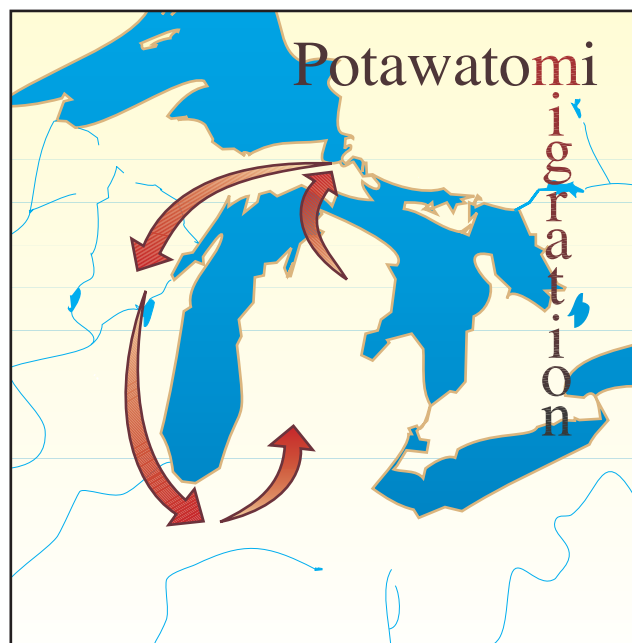
lived far to the east around Lake Ontario.

Moving to avoid war is one reason for tribes to **migrate** (MY great). *People migrate when they move to a new area.* They do this because of some important reason which concerns all of them. They may migrate to find food, water, to escape war or disease.

The Potawatomi (POT a WAT o me)– A tribe of the south.

The Potawatomi had settled in southern Michigan by the 1750s. The Potawatomi name comes from Ojibwa words for fire. It probably means “people of the place of the fire.” They got this name because they burned the grassland before planting their crops.

This tribe lived farther south than the Ojibwa and Ottawa. Since



The tribes of the Great Lakes region did not stay in one location. This map shows the movement of the Potawatomi tribe over some 200 years. Map by Aaron Zenz.

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they lived in a warmer area, the Potawatomi could depend on farming. The land where they lived, in the south, also had better soil. This helped their crops grow. They planted corn, squash, beans, tobacco, melons and sunflowers.

Because of their crops, the Potawatomi did not move their villages often. They did not need to find food.

The Potawatomi tribe is related to the Ojibwa and Ottawa. These three tribes are sometimes known as the “**Three Fires**.” The three tribes all spoke a language which was similar.

In the 1700s and 1800s, the Three Fires were the main tribes living in Michigan. They were not the only tribes though.



**Who were
the 3 fires?**

Other Tribes

Menominee (meh NOM eh nee)

A tribe of northern Michigan

Miami (my AM ee) A tribe of southwestern Michigan

Huron (hYOUR on) A tribe of southeastern Michigan



The **Menominee** tribe lived in the southern part of the Upper Peninsula. The Menominee River is named for them. Their name is an Ojibwa word for “wild rice people.” Wild rice was an important food for them. Their customs were much like those of the Ojibwa who lived nearby.

The **Miami** lived in the Lower Peninsula near Niles. Their tribe did not have many people. Their area did not include much of Michigan.

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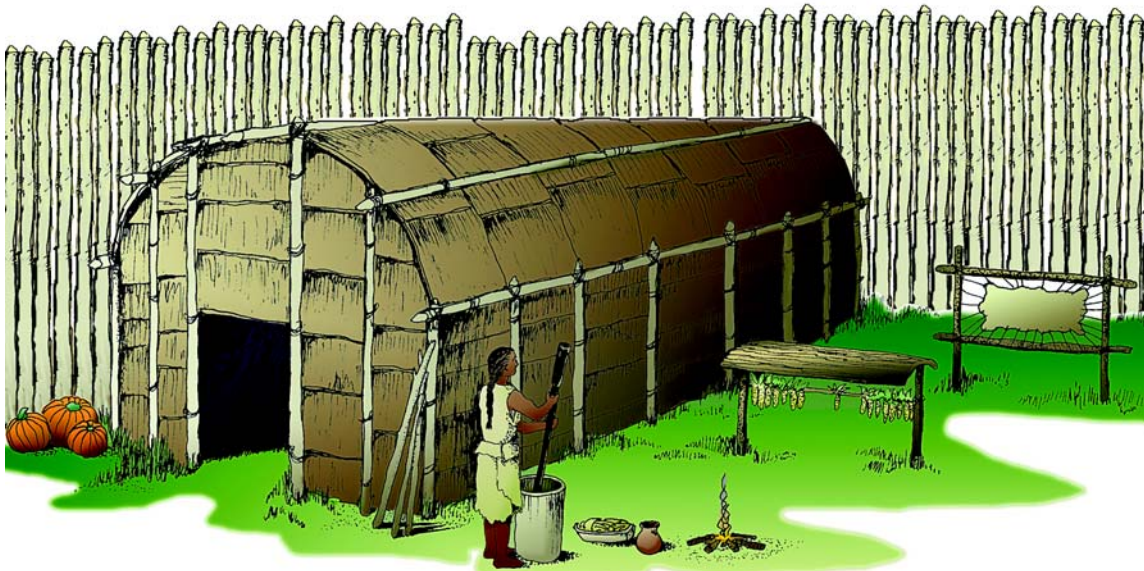
The **Huron** tribe once lived in Canada. Later, the Iroquois tribes attacked the Huron. This forced them to migrate. The Huron tried different places in Michigan for a new home. They moved near Mackinac and finally near Detroit. The tribe was also known as the Wendat or **Wyandotte** (WY n dot). The city of Wyandotte is named after them.

This tribe spoke a language which was different from those of the Three Fires. They also had a different kind of home. The Three Fires tribes lived in **wigwams**. The Huron lived in **longhouses**. Longhouses were larger than wigwams. Several families lived in each one. The Huron sometimes built walls around their villages. They made their villages into small forts.

The Great Lakes tribes lived in the forests and woods. Because of this, they are also called **Woodland Indians**.



A wigwam.



A Huron longhouse. Art by Tim Pickell

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Questions to think about

1. Which tribe lived in your part of the state during the 1700s? Tell something about it. If no tribe lived in your area, choose one to write about.
2. Explain how the tribes living in Michigan were alike or had the same customs. Tell how they were different or had different customs.
3. What does the word migrate mean? Why did some tribes migrate?

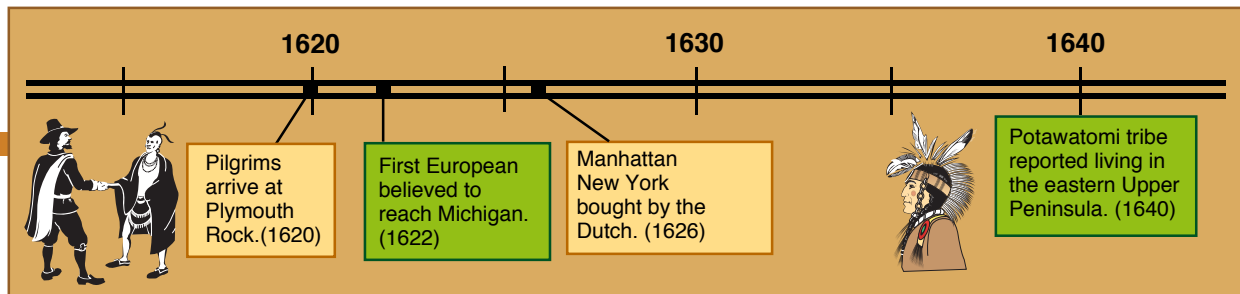
Brain Stretchers

Draw a map showing Michigan's tribes. Use your left hand as a guide to make the two peninsulas. Show where each tribe lived. Be sure to label your map.

Words In Action!

Explain which tribes are in the Three Fires group. Why are these tribes put together as a group?

This time line shows dates spaced 10 years apart or once every **decade**. *A decade is the same as 10 years.*



Time line

A time line shows *key events* in the order they took place. They are shown from earliest to latest.

Chapter 2 Lesson 6

Visitors from Far Away

How did life change for Michigan's tribes once they started trading furs with the French?

Story illustrated by Don Ellens.

An Adventure Begins- The Traders Come!

Shhhh! Quietly come to the shore of Lake Michigan. The Ojibwa children, Giji and Nabek, wait near the beach. The cool breeze from the water touches their faces. Both listen. They wait for the splash of canoe paddles. At first there is only the soft sound of the waves on the sandy beach. They hide quietly behind the pine branches. They want to see, but not be seen. Giji and Nabek are excited and curious.

Giji says, "Look! They are coming in two very big canoes."

"I can see them too, Giji. Look at them. Their skin is so light. Their faces have much hair. Ha! It looks like they have little bears on their cheeks!"

"Bonjour (BOn jzure)," shouted one of the traders.

Giji and Nabek did not understand. This is a **French** greeting meaning 'Good day!'



One of the French traders



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"Brother, listen. The traders talk so strangely. They speak some of our words, but they say them poorly!"

"Umm, well why not, Giji. I hear those men come from a place very far from here. Their home is across a great water which is even bigger than our own," Nabek said, as he pointed to Lake Michigan.

"Yes, Nabek, Father said it is a place called **France**."

Such Exciting Things!

The strange traders are taking many things from their canoes.

Our Michigan Adventure



"Look, Giji. Look what they have! They brought such pretty beads and blankets with bright colors! Father is handing them some of his furs. He caught many muskrat, beaver, and fox last winter. The traders seem pleased."

"What do mother and father want from the traders, Nabek?"

"Father said he wants to trade for one of their long guns. He wants one like the traders use themselves. He will not settle for the cheap ones they bring to trade."

"Oh, Nabek! Look at those shiny metal cooking pots. Mother would really like some of those. They are so much better for cooking than our clay ones."

"The metal pots are nice, Giji. Father also needs some new animal traps and lead balls for his old long gun," said Nabek.

"Don't forget some of the black shooting powder," Giji reminded him.

How Did They Do?

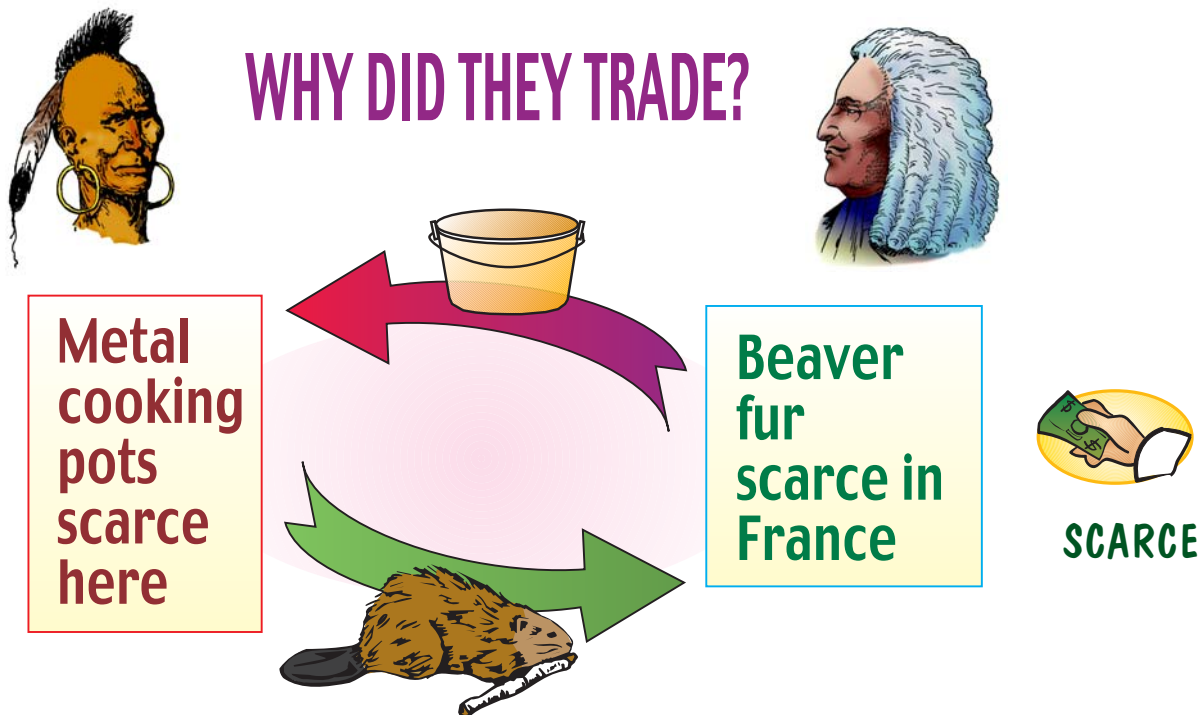
"Well, Giji, mother has her metal pots. She also has two blankets and some metal sewing needles. Mother made a good trade using her sugar from the maple trees. She also traded the wild rice she gathered. I don't think father got the trader's long gun, though. He seems a little sad."

"But, Nabek, he has a new metal hatchet. Father also got lead balls to shoot from his gun, more shooting powder, and a beautiful blanket."

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Now the traders are loading the furs into their canoes. Giji and Nabek watch as they push away from the shore. The traders begin singing as their paddles dip into the blue water. Soon they are out of sight. Giji and Nabek scurry back to their village.



Later, their father told them he tried to trade for the Frenchman's long gun or rifle. He offered the best furs for it. The trader said he would not trade it except for ALL the furs! Father could not do that. He had to think about what would be good for the rest of the family too. They would not have any new traps or blankets, if he did. That was just too much to give for any gun.

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Giji and Nabek's father had to make a tough choice while trading. He gave up getting the nice rifle for the things his family needed. He had the **opportunity** to trade for the rifle, but decided against it.

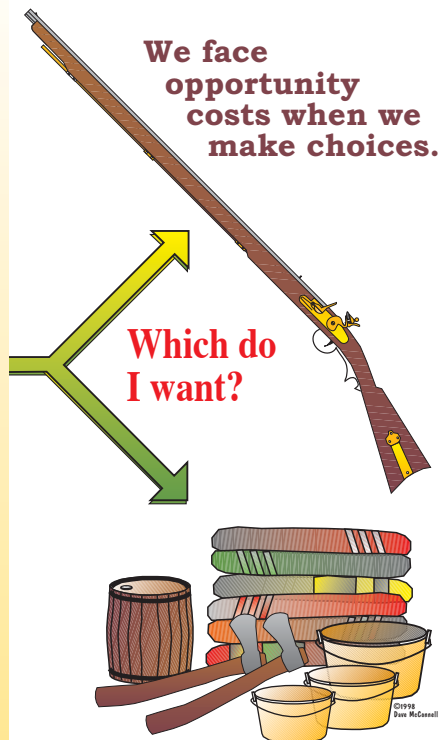
See what Giji's father traded. He took the blankets and new traps. He wanted the nice rifle, but it was his second choice. He gave up getting the rifle. Decisions involve choices. When you make a choice, you give up an opportunity to get something else. You may give up the opportunity to do something else.



**Opportunity
Cost**

and

**Trade
Off**



*There is a name for the second choice- the next best thing you gave up. It is called **opportunity cost**.*

If you have only enough money to buy a yo-yo or a CD, you must choose one. The one you do not choose is your opportunity cost. If you buy the yo-yo, there is a cost to your choice. You lose the opportunity to buy the CD.

Sometimes when you buy things *you get less of one to get more of another*. This is called a **trade off**. An Ojibwa woman may trade for fewer beads to get more ribbon. A Trade off is another cost of making a choice.

Making wise choices is important. If you do not, you will spend your money and not have much to show for it.

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HOW MANY FURS DOES IT COST?

Prices may change without notice!

BLANKET.....	3 BEAVER OR 4 DEER SKINS
GUNPOWDER	1 BEAVER FOR EACH POUND
BRASS KETTLE	1 POUND OF BEAVER FOR EACH POUND
60 LEAD BULLETS.....	1 BEAVER OR 15 MUSKRATS
CLOTH	1 BEAVER FOR EACH YARD (3 FEET)
EARRINGS	1 SMALL BEAVER FOR EACH SET
HATCHET	5 BEAVER OR 10 FOX SKINS



Questions to think about

1. What country was home to the fur traders?
2. What things did the Ojibwa get from the traders?
How did these things make life easier?
3. What was scarce in France? Why did this bring fur traders here?

Brain Stretchers

How do you think life will change for the tribes once they start trading furs with the French?

Tell how many beaver furs a French trader wanted for a blanket, two yards of cloth, and two sets of earrings.

Words In Action!

Give an example when you bought something. Tell what you bought and what your second choice was. What was your opportunity cost?