Comparing World Views: First Contact

Gillette Chipps, Nuu-chah-nulth, said:

I am going to tell you about when the first white man appeared in Nootka Sound. The Indians were dancing about when the first white man appeared in Nootka Sound. The Indians were dancing around the island—they called the schooner an island. They said there's an island because big trees on it. Big trees on it. They say Indian doctors go out there singing a song, find out, try to find out what it is. Rattling their rattles around the schooner, go around, all see a lot of white men standing aside, goes on the other side sees all kinds of white man, too. All different kind of faces. Pale face white man, they said it was the dog salmon and oh that's a spring salmon, I think they said was a Spanish, dark colour. Maybe it was the same men on the other side when they go around the other side the same person but different places. That is what I think myself. So anyway they seen lots of cohoes aboard this boat. Red-faced men, big nose, and so they said it was the coho. That was when the first white man appeared in Nootka Sound in the schooner.

Source: nu•*tka—Captain Cook and the Spanish Explorers on the Coast*, Sound Heritage Vol. VII, No. 1, Province of British Columbia, 1978.

Lt. James King, aboard the HMS Resolution wrote:

[A boat approached the fur traders with two men in it.] The figure & actions of one of these were truly frightful, he worked himself into the highest frenzy, uttering something between a howl and a song, holding a rattle in each hand, which at intervals he laid down, taking handfulls of red Ochre and birds' feathers & strewing them in the Sea; this was followed by a violent way of talking, seemingly with vast difficulty in uttering the Harshest and rudest words, at the same time pointing to the Shore; yet we did not attribute this incantation to threatening or any ill will toward us; on the contrary they seem'd quite pleas'd with us; in all the other boats someone or other act'd nearly the same way as this first man did.

Source: Lt. James King's journal, quoted in *Indian Life on the Northwest Coast of North America*, Erna Gunther, University of Chicago Press, 1972.

First Encounter

Use this poem to help with your "First Encounter Poem"

I am a chief.

I am a captain.

I saw a floating island.

I saw some new land.

There were men on the island.

There were savages on the land.

We welcomed them.

They came after us with weapons.

They hurt and killed my people for no reason.

We tried to keep peace.

They took my people and made them slaves.

We invited some to join our exploration.

They took our homes and belongings

and gave us small amounts of useless items

We did a fair trade with them and gave

them beautiful things.

They destroyed our culture and forced us

to believe in their culture.

We introduced them to a new and proper way of life.

They killed most of my people with weapons and new diseases.

Unfortunately a few of them died of some strange savage-like disease.

They took our land and food.

We set up beautiful settlements and brought civilization to this new world.

Then they left.

Then we left.

They left us with nothing.

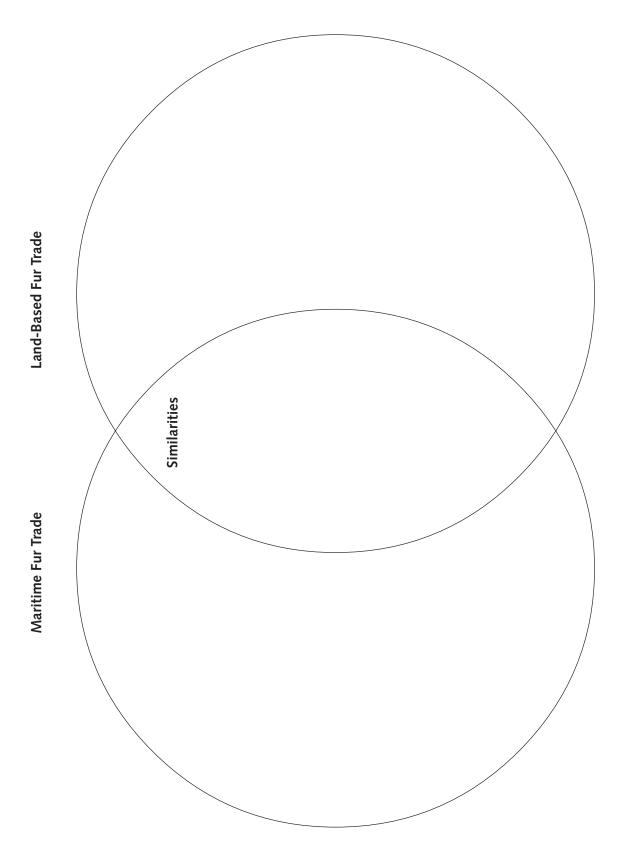
We gave them everything.

. Submitted by North Surrey

Secondary School, Rajiner Atwal and Juliette O'Keefe.

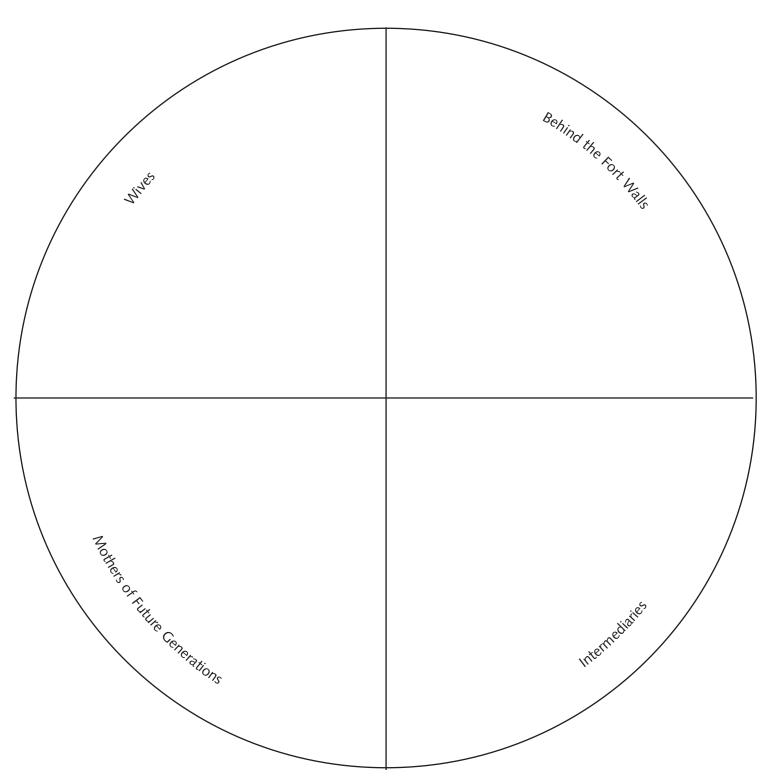
Compare the

Similarities and Differences in Land-Based and Maritime Fur Trade



Roles of Women During the Fur Trade

Using the Ch. 4 text, write down the differing roles that women played during the Fur Trade.



Epidemics

In the table below you will find some estimates of the First Nations population over time. Graph the figures to give a strong visual representation of the effects of epidemics and other diseases on the population.

	1835	1885	Low Year	1963
Haida	6,000	800	588 (1915)	1,224
Git <u>x</u> san, Nisga'a, Tsimshian	3,000	4,550	3,550 (1895)	6,475
Kwakw <u>a</u> k <u>a</u> 'wakw	10,700	3,000	1,854 (1929)	4,304
Nuu-chah-nulth	7,500	3,500	1,605 (1939)	2,899
Nuxalk	2,000	450	249 (1929)	536
Coast Salish	12,000	5,525	4,120 (1915)	8,495
Interior Salish	13,500	5,800	5,348 (1890)	9,512
Ktunaxa	1,000	625	381 (1939)	443
Athapaskan	8,800	3,750	3,716 (1895)	6,912
Total	70,000	28,000	22,605 (1929)	40,800

Source: Wilson Duff, The Indian History of British Columbia, Volume 1. The Impact of the White Man. British Columbia Provincial Museum, Victoria, 1965.

Note on validity of statistics:

It is very difficult to find accurate population figures, especially before 1881 when the first Canadian census was carried out in British Columbia. Early dates are estimates at best, based on figures gathered by the Hudson's Bay Company and others. Early census figures are not considered accurate, as often people who were out on the land were not counted when the census taker came by.

Assignment:

Create two graphs that illustrates the impact of the Diseases on First Nation Bands across British Columbia from 1885 to 1963.

Your X-Axis should be the Years. Your Y-Axis should be the Death Toll.

- 1) Graph 1 = A graph of each individual band in B.C. (You will need 9 different pencil crayons to illustrate the different bands; be sure to create a LEGEND assigning a colour to each band.
- 2) Graph 2 = A graph of the total number's impacted.
- ***Be mindful of the Low Year dates as they are not all the same.

Four Transforming Factors

Using Chapter 4 from your textbook, try to decide what impact each of the transforming factors had on different parts of First Nations Socities.

	Evidence of Impact on First Nations Societies						
Transforming Factor	Resources and Economy	Leadership and Governance	Oral Traditions and Spiritual Practices	Demographics (Population)			
Iron and guns. The impact of European trade goods.							
Epidemics. The impact of disease on First Nations societies.							
Children of the fur trade. The impact of the contributions of First Nations women.							
Changing settlements. The impact of trading forts on settlement patterns.							