



Economy under the French régime

1608–1760

During the 16th century, meetings between Aboriginal peoples and Europeans increased because of European fishing activities along the North American coast. Then, French and Aboriginal peoples discovered that another resource, furs, would be profitable for both groups. It was the fur trade that would lead the French to settle permanently in the territory as of 1608. This was also what would encourage various groups of Aboriginal peoples to accept the Europeans' presence. Through the chartered companies in particular, the French developed this trade, which contributed to the expansion of their colonial empire in North America. During the French régime, the fur trade became one of the main motors of the economy and one of the bases of the Franco-Aboriginal Alliance.

In 1663, the French State decided to take over administration of the territory. At the end of the 17th century and during the 18th century, the mother country adopted measures designed to increase the colony's population and diversify its economy. The French State wanted, among other things, to create a local market in New France in which to sell its own finished products and improve the exploitation of the colony's resources. The inhabitants developed other economic activities, such as agriculture and craft enterprises, in order to meet their needs.

What were the effects of economic activities on the society and the territory of New France? **SSC 2**

