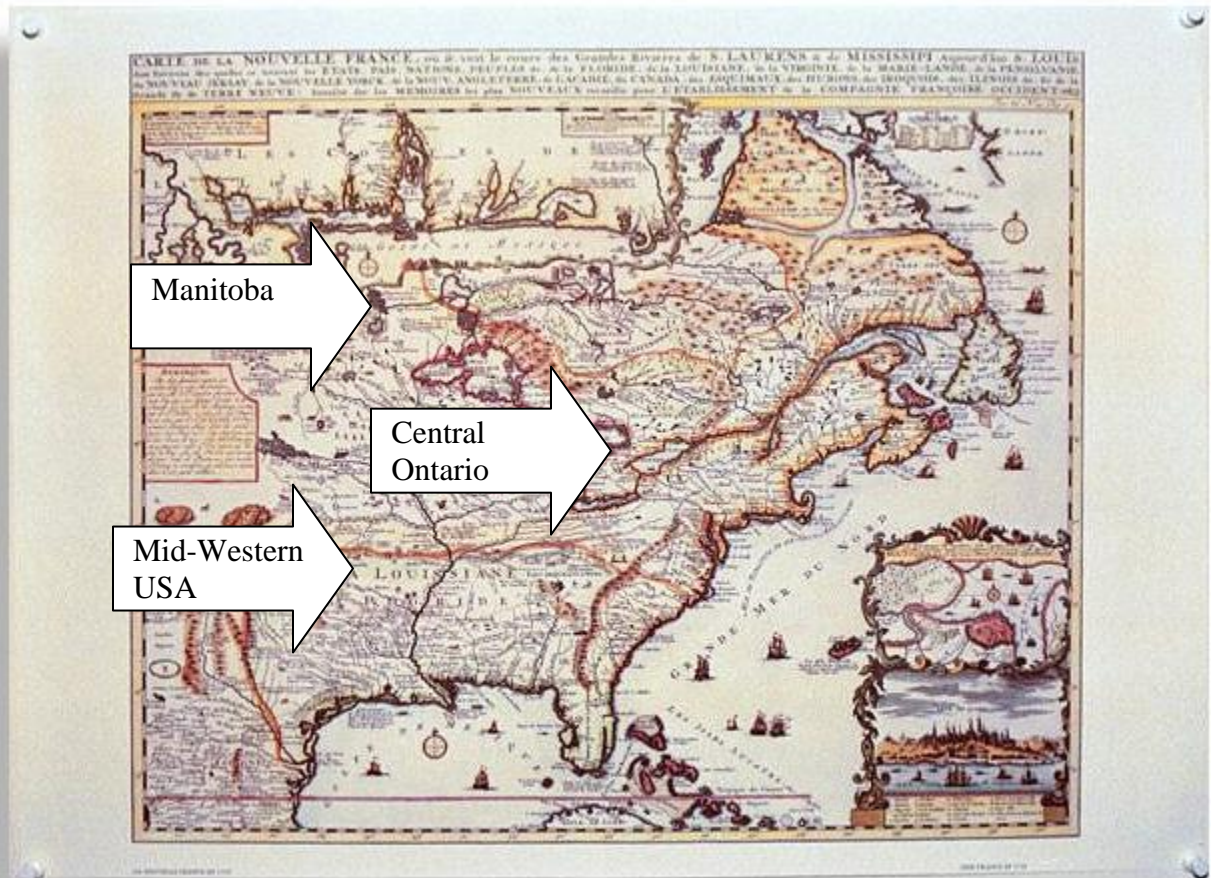


French relationships in the Pays d'en Haut (the country “up there”)

- ✦ The *pays d'en haut* was the lands of New France that stretched west, and south, of Montreal. A vast wilderness dusted with French Trading posts and forts, populated by only 500 Europeans in 1740.



- ✦ This region was also populated by numerous Indigenous Peoples and Nations who would come in contact with the French Traders, Jesuit missionaries and adventurers. The French enjoyed much better relations with Indigenous Peoples than their English rivals. (Why?)
- ✦ Although the French claimed vast tracts of land, they did so by recognizing the independence and self-government of the Indigenous Nations and did not impose laws, taxes, or military service.
- ✦ Indigenous Nations and Peoples were viewed as allies – not subjects.
- ✦ The French settlements were confined to areas along the St. Lawrence.
- ✦ French Traders, called *courier de bois*, and Jesuit (as well as other) missionaries lived with Indigenous People, learning their ways of life.

- ✦ *Métissage*, or intermarriage between Frenchmen and Indigenous women, was encouraged in New France to compensate for the shortage of French women in the colony.
- ✦ By 1735 New France no longer encouraged *Métissage*, but intermarriages still occurred.

It is from the word *Métissage* that a new group of half-French, half-Indigenous people began to identify themselves as *Métis*.

- ✦ These relationships in New France's pays d'en haut merged cultures into a hybrid between the "New" world and "Old."



WHO ARE THE MÉTIS?

Prior to Canada's crystallization as a nation in west central North America, the Métis people emerged out of the relations of Indian women and European men. While the initial offspring of these Indian and European unions were individuals who possessed mixed ancestry, the gradual establishment of distinct Métis communities, outside of Indian and European cultures and settlements, as well as, the subsequent intermarriages between Métis women and Métis men, resulted in the genesis of a new Aboriginal people - the Métis.

In 2002 there were 400,000 Métis in Canada.

Taken from the Métis National Council of Canada @ www.metisnation.ca

The Introduction of Alcohol

- ✦ Indigenous-European contact also introduced alcohol into the land. Indigenous Peoples had a difficult time adjusting to alcohol's effects.
- ✦ The Catholic missionaries tried to stop the spread of alcohol, but were not able.

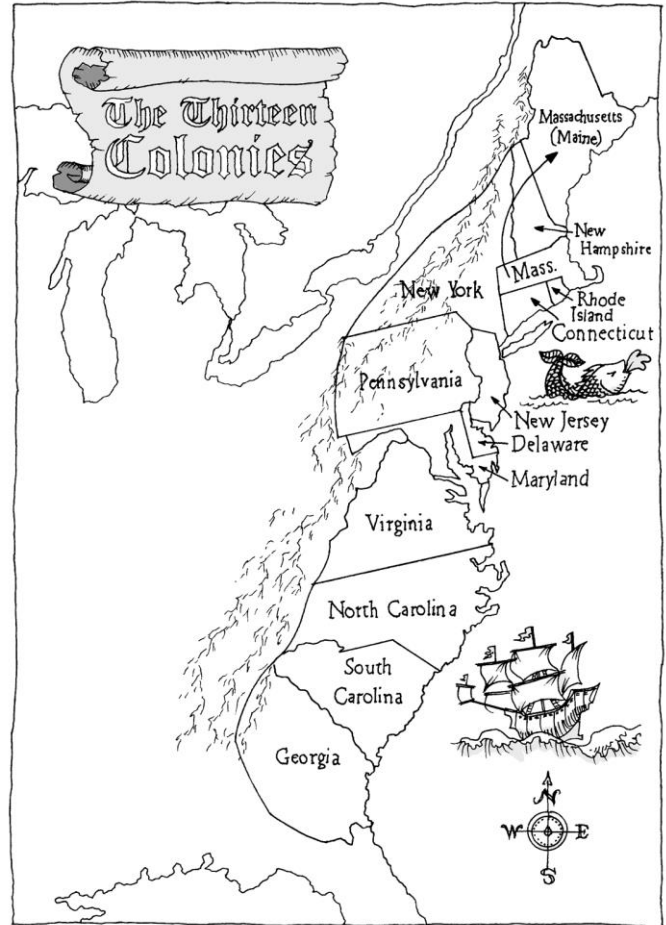
Remember that the representative of the king was the governor-general.

- ✦ The French king and governor-general deplored the use of alcohol, but officials realized the other effects of liquor in the "New World":
 - Provided the state with revenue
 - Made the Indigenous Peoples dependent on French trade and military alliances
 - Any attempt to enforce French laws against alcohol would result in confrontation

- ✦ Soon there was competition in North America between supplies of French brandy and English Rum.

Let's turn our attention to the English at this time . .

- 🇬🇧 As the English settlements grew, violent conflicts ensued.
- 🇬🇧 Indigenous Peoples were frustrated with the English encroachment into their lands, as well as their violations of nature and wildlife.
- 🇬🇧 When Indigenous leaders and representatives entered into Treaties with the English they thought they were creating relationships, not granting ownership (an unknown concept) to the settlers.



Interpretation – Two very different relationships:

The French tended to develop relationships with Indigenous Peoples and Nations. New France was a vast territory under-populated by Europeans who were dependent on Indigenous Peoples for trade & military alliances, as well as information about the land.

As the English populations grew in the 13 colonies, they began occupying more and more Indigenous lands, pushing their communities deeper into the continent.