

## Un livre de comptes d'un traiteur québécois, Joseph Bailly

### Goals:

- Recognize trade goods and furs previously encountered
- Classify the trade goods represented in this trader's document
- Analyze merchandise quantities to predict trading patterns
- Predict the relative values of various furs, based on their frequency
- Recognize some spelling variants of old French

### World-Readiness Standards for Learning French:

- Interpretive Communication
- Presentational Communication
- Making Connections
- Acquiring Information and Diverse Perspectives
- Language Comparisons

## Activités

### A. Comprenez-vous?

1. Dans les listes du 6 juin et du 7 juin, écrivez des exemples de marchandises utiles et de marchandises décoratives. Est-ce qu'il y a des articles qu'on peut mettre dans les deux (*both*) catégories?

Utiles	Décoratives

2. Quelle fourrure est la plus nombreuse? Laquelle est la plus rare?
3. Pourquoi est-ce que Bailly et ses hommes ont besoin d'une voile (*a sail*)? Pourquoi est-ce qu'ils ont besoin d'une "romaine" (*small scale*)—qu'est-ce qu'ils vont peser (*weigh*)?

**B. Considérez: Réfléchissez, discutez.**

1. Research “point blankets” (“couvertures à points”). What do the points indicate?
2. How do you explain the fact that many of the quantities of trade merchandise in these lists are quite large (6 ¼ lbs of gunpowder, 36 small bells, 60 small brooches)? Do you think these lists record trade with just one Native person?
3. Which furs/skins do you think were most valuable to the European market? Why do you think so? What factors made them more or less valuable to the purchaser?
4. Standard contracts with “voyageur” employees at that time required Bailly to provide certain supplies. What items on this list do you suppose were required by contract?

**C. Projet**

You are a voyageur hired by Joseph Bailly who will spend the winter trading with the Native people in the forests of central Michigan. Make a partial list, in French, of what items you will need to survive, and what other items you will need to trade for the furs. Explain, in French, why you will need these things.

After you have spent the winter trading: prepare to tell Joseph Bailly what furs you have received, how many of each kind, and exactly what you traded for each fur.

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