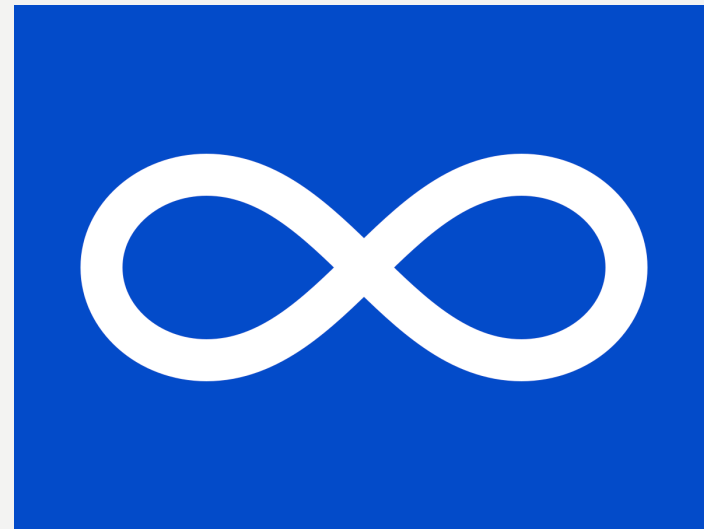




**THE BEGINNING
OF THE METIS**

THE METIS PEOPLE

- When the fur trade came to the west of Canada a new group of people were born.
- British and Francophone traders married women from different First Nations groups.
- The children of these families would marry one another and eventually a new nation was formed – **the Metis nation.**



Metis Flag

METIS

Metis were descended from British or Francophone traders and First Nations.

- Some of their ways of life came from these roots but the Metis developed their own unique culture.
- Why do you think they would have their own unique culture that is different from other First Nations, British, and Francophone culture?

HOW DID THE METIS HELP THE FUR TRADE?

- How do you think the Metis may have helped the fur trade?
- Being people who came from multiple cultures (British or French and First Nations) what advantages or benefits would they have over others?
- Many Metis people could speak multiple languages – English, French, First Nations (Cree, Blackfoot).
- How could this help them in the fur trade?
- They could translate!

PROVIDED GOODS FOR THE FUR TRADE

- Metis hunted buffalo and used them to create many goods for fur traders. This included:
 - Buffalo tongues for eating
 - Robes made from buffalo pelts
 - **Pemmican**
 - *Dried, pounded meat mixed with hot buffalo grease and dried berries.*
 - *Pemmican would become very hard and never went bad.*
 - *It was extremely nutritious.*



YORK BOATS

- As time went on, fur traders were finding that their loads were getting bigger and heavier and canoes were too small and light to carry them.
- The Metis solved this problem by inventing the York boat.
- York boats could carry twice as much cargo as canoes and 6 to 8 crewmen.
- They were 8.5 meters long, had flat bottoms, and were made of spruce planking.



YORK BOATS

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_42BwuIovuU

RED RIVER CARTS

- Another invention by the Metis.
- It was made without any metal. It was made all out of wood.
- It was horse drawn.
- It could carry more cargo than the boats.
- The wheels could be removed by taking the pegs out when they had to travel the river.

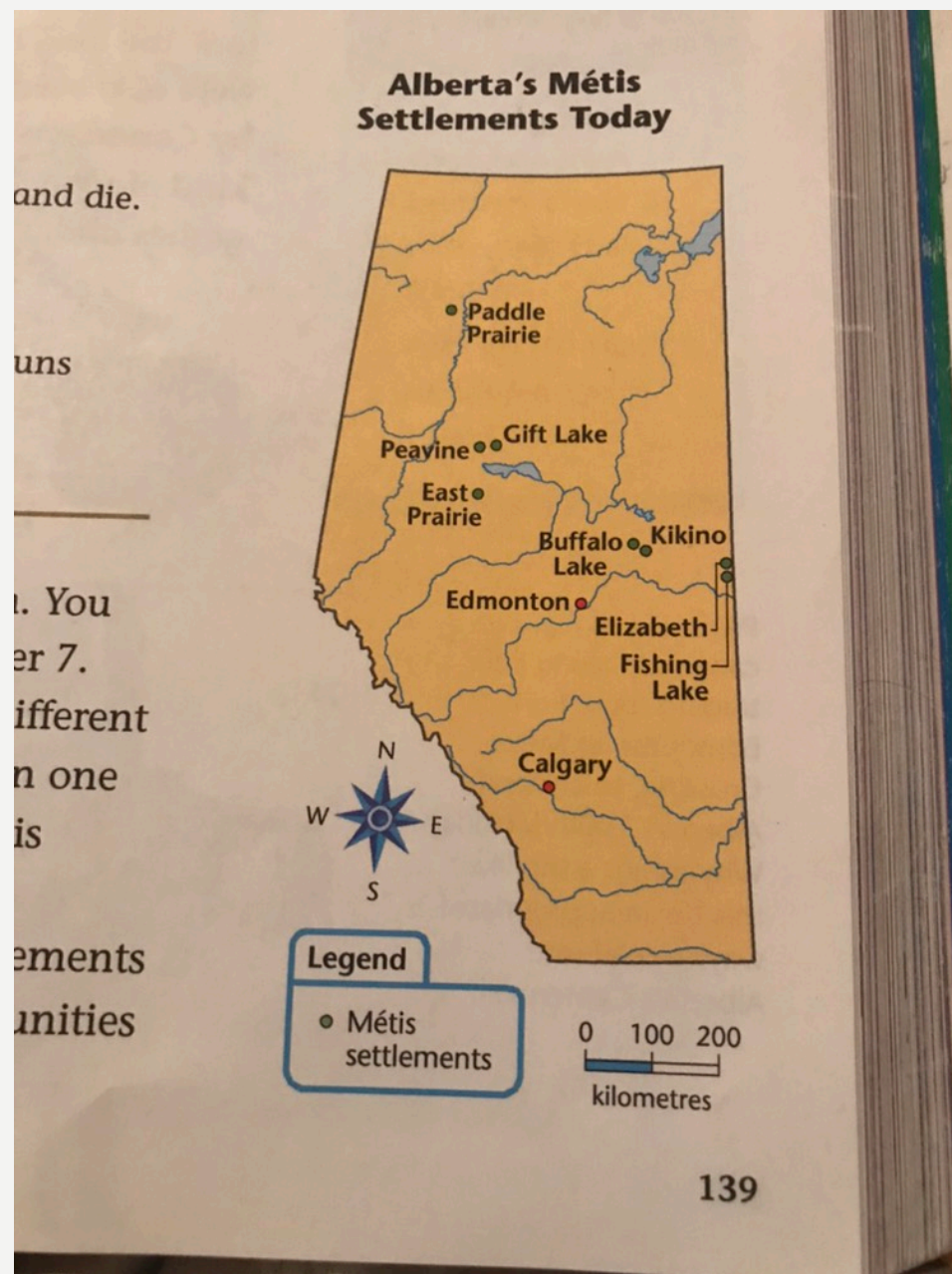


RED RIVER CARTS

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tH5DaBEoTaM>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4iFP5COE8ts>
- First minute of this video shows what the squeaking sound of the Red River Cart sounded like.

METIS SETTLEMENT

- At first, many Metis spent most of their time on trade routes.
- Eventually many started to settle in one place.
- Some lived near fur-trading forts.
- Others began to farm for part of the year and hunt buffalo for another part.
- With this, Metis communities started to develop.
- Today, Alberta is the only province in Canada with official Metis settlements.



EXIT SLIP

- 2 things you learned about the Metis people.

FINGER WEAVING AND THE METIS SASH

- One symbol of the Metis is the colourful sash.
- They were worn around the waist.
- Many traders used them to help carry their belongings.
- They could also use it as a scarf, washcloth, towel, and rope.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z2hj8YA03T4>



FINGER WEAVE YOUR OWN SASH

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxEijYIV_04