

Learning Activity 4: Establishing Historical Significance

What makes Fort Point historically significant and important to learn about?

Course Link: Newfoundland and Labrador studies 2205

Outcome addressed:

SCO 1.0 - The student will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of how the arts may be used to express ideas related to culture, heritage and identity

SCO 2.0 - The student will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of economic, political and social issues related to Newfoundland and Labrador, both past and present.

SCO 5.0 - The student will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of how the fishery influenced Newfoundland and Labrador from the mid-1700s to the late 1800s.

Learning Goal and Description

Goal: To have students demonstrate the historical significance of Fort Point by showing

- How the French Invasion of 1762 influenced developments at Fort Point and Trinity during the War of 1812 (1812 – 1815).
- How events of the period (1812-1815) shed light on emerging issues in the larger history of Great Britain? (The strategic importance of Trinity, and Newfoundland, to the British during this time in history.)

Brief Description:

To gain an appreciation of why Fort Point was re-constructed and guarded by a volunteer force during the War of 1812, students need to examine the events that unfolded between 1748 and 1762. They also need to consider the impact of American privateers during the American War of Independence (1775-1783). Events that preceded the rebuilding of Fort Point in 1812 help establish the significance of Trinity, commercially and militarily, during times of war. The developments at Fort Point were part of a much larger series of events that were shaping the future of North America, economically and politically.

Planning and Preparation

Sources and references are all available online.

- a) For an overview of how the fishery influenced Newfoundland and Labrador from the mid-1700s to the late 1800s, teachers and students may examine the following sources from the Newfoundland and Labrador Heritage Website:
 - Economic Changes, 1730-1815
http://www.heritage.nf.ca/law/economic_changes_1815.html
 - The Decline of the Migratory Fishery
<http://www.heritage.nf.ca/exploration/decline.html>
- b) The Newfoundland and Labrador Heritage Website also provides a

good overview of conflict within North America and among the British, French and American powers that made Trinity and Fort Point historically significant. Teachers and students may investigate:

- Anglo-French Warfare
http://www.heritage.nf.ca/exploration/fpres_warfare.html
 - The Seven Years' War, 1756-1763
<http://www.heritage.nf.ca/exploration/7years.html>
 - Newfoundland and the American Revolutionary War, 1775-1783
http://www.heritage.nf.ca/exploration/amer_rev.html
 - Newfoundland and the French and American Wars, 1793-1815
http://www.heritage.nf.ca/exploration/french_rev.html
- c) Canadian Geographic has a site that speaks to the problem of trade embargos, Americans being forced to serve on British warships, and British Orders in Council requiring licenses for any ships to sail around the continent: See
http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/atlas/themes.aspx?id=warof1812&sub=warof1812_basics_causes

Preparations:

- a) This Learning Activity expects students to examine documents beyond those available through the Trinity Historical Society. Sources referenced here come from reputable websites sponsored by Memorial University of Newfoundland and the Canadian Geographical Society. Students may be encouraged to find other sources, but always ask the 5 W's to examine reliability.
- b) Depending on access to the Internet, teachers may have to direct students to print resources or provide a summary of the backdrop (the broader conflicts) occurring in North America and the Atlantic between 1750 and 1815.
- c) Teachers may need to take time before the beginning of this Learning Activity to become familiar with the wars between the French and the British and their impact on the Americans (especially during the Napoleonic Wars). It is only important that teachers become sufficiently familiar to be able to help students appreciate why Britain and Newfoundland would see Trinity Harbour and Fort Point as an important part of the protection of British territory in North America.

Strategies for Completion

Activation: (20 minutes of instruction/discussion.)

Teachers may begin by asking the question: What was happening around North America and in Europe during 1812? The intent here is to have students understand that the developments at Fort Point must be examined in light of the larger competition and conflict between Britain, France, and America. The question for student inquiry is: Are the events surrounding Fort Point during the War of 1812 historically significant when related events and consequences over time are considered? Teachers may ask students to think about the implications of the following:

Canada's History, December 2012-January 2013 issue, contains an article written by Donald E. Graves titled, "Who Won the War of 1812?" Graves

states that “...whether or not Canada was an objective of the war or simply a theatre of war, American victory in the conflict would have meant the end of British possessions in North America – and, of course, no Canada today” (page 25)

Teachers may ask what is meant by the expression “a theatre of war”. After a brief discussion, teachers may move to the **Connection** section.

Connection: (40 minutes.)

Students may work in small groups to complete **Organizer #10**. Working in small groups should reduce the time needed to make the appropriate notes as well as allow for discussion and clarification of evidence.

Consolidation: (Students will complete this task independently.)

Students may:

- a) Craft a five minute presentation for a tour guide to use while a ferry takes tourists from Trinity to Fort Point (the presentation will include a succinct history of Fort Point as a strategic fishing room, a fortification, and a lighthouse location).
- b) Identify three traditional songs that may be played or performed on the voyage to and from Fort Point, providing a brief justification for each choice.

Extension: (Student may complete this task independently.)

Teachers may engage students in the lesson developed by The Royal Canadian Geographical Society on the Role of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment and the War of 1812. Teacher and student resources for this lesson may be found at:

http://www.eighteentwelve.ca/?q=eng/Educational_Resource/11&tab=1

Assessment and Evaluation

For this learning activity, teachers may

- examine the levels of detail and effort students demonstrate in the completion of **Organizer #10**;
- assess each student’s engagement in small group work; and
- measure the depth of thinking / reflection provided by students in their response to the task assigned under **Consolidation**.

Organizer #10: Historical Significance of Fort Point

Focus for Inquiry	Notes
Importance of the Newfoundland Fishery between 1750 and 1815	
Summary of conflict involving the French, British and Americans between 1805 and 1815	
Impact on the Newfoundland fishery of conflict among the French, British and Americans between 1805 and 1815	
Importance of Trinity and Fort Point during this period	