Michif Minecraft Lesson 1: Introduction to Métis Culture and the Fur Trade

Lesson #	Length of Time	Topic
1 / 3	30 minutes	Introduction to Métis Crossing and Culture and Objective 1: Trapping, Trading, and Tradition

Lesson Description
In this lesson, students will explore the world of the Métis people using Minecraft Education. They will meet key community members at the Métis Crossing Visitor Centre to learn about Métis culture and language. Students will then complete Objective 1 by trapping beavers, trading at a historic fort, and delivering a fiddle to Ben Sinclair, gaining insight into Métis traditions and history.

Essential Question
How did the Métis people's relationship with the land and their cultural practices, such as trapping and trading, shape their identity and way of life?

Learning Objectives
After this lesson, students will be able to:

- Identify key aspects of Métis culture, including their language and traditions.
- Understand the role of sustainable trapping and trading in Métis history.
- Use in-game tools (e.g., compass, York Boats) to navigate and complete tasks.

Key Vocabulary

- Métis: A distinct Indigenous people with a unique culture, language, and history.
- Michif: The distinct language of the Métis developed through ethnogenesis.
- Trapping: Catching animals (e.g., beavers) for their fur.
- Trading post: A historical site for exchanging goods like furs.
- Fiddle: A musical instrument central to Métis culture.

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Materials + Resources

- Computer devices with Minecraft Education installed
- Educator guide (provided with the Michif Minecraft experience)
- Online Michif Dictionary - https://www.metismuseum.ca/michif_dictionary.php
- Notebooks or in-game portfolio for reflection

Getting Started

- Ensure Minecraft Education is installed and the Michif Minecraft world is loaded on all student devices.
- Review the lesson objectives and agenda with students.

- Emphasize the importance of respecting Métis culture and traditions during the experience.

MAIN ACTIVITY (25 min)

Say: "We'll explore Métis Crossing and complete Objective 1 to learn about Métis culture and history."
Direct students to open Minecraft Education. Allow time for troubleshooting technical issues.

Part 1: Meet the Community (10 min)

- Objective: Introduce students to Métis culture and prepare them for Objective 1.
- Instructions:
    - Spawn at Louis Riel's Camp (Coordinates: 271 59 -512).
        - Listen to Louis Riel's introduction and receive the compass.
    - Travel to Métis Crossing and enter the Visitor Centre.
    - Speak with Lena: Learn about the Métis people.
    - Speak with Rosa: Learn about the Michif language. Receive camera, book and quill, and portfolio.
        - Note Michif words (bolded in-game) in your portfolio as you go.
    - Speak with Theresa: Learn about the three objectives.
    - Find Isadore outside: Receive tobacco.
- Teacher Tip: Keep students focused on essential interactions to stay on track.

Part 2: Objective 1 - Trapping, Trading, and Tradition (15 min)

- Objective: Complete tasks to understand Métis trapping and trading practices.
- Instructions:
    - Visit Ben Sinclair at Sinclair House: Learn about the fiddle.
    - Travel to the Trapper's Hut: Speak with Ann to receive capote and snowshoes.
    - Optionally travel further down the trail to meet one other community member at a second Trapper's Hut.
    - Travel to the river: Speak with Charlotte for trapping instructions.
    - Trap Beavers:
        - Cross the river using the York Boat.
        - Place traps at blue infinity flags (coordinates provided in Educator Guide).
        - Sail back and speak with Ronnie the Trapper to activate traps.
        - Return, collect pelts, and sail west to the Trading Fort.
    - At the Trading Fort: Speak with Timothy and trade three pelts for the fiddle.
    - Locate the Red River cart and ride it back to Métis Crossing.
    - Deliver the fiddle to Ben Sinclair.
- Teacher Tip: Guide students directly to key locations and tasks to stay within time.

WRAP-UP (5 min)
Activity: Reflect and Connect

- Objective: Connect the experience to the Essential Question.
- Instructions:
    - Ask students: “What is one thing you learned about Métis culture or the fur trade?”
    - Discuss briefly: “How did trapping and trading shape Métis identity?”
    - Have students share one Michif word they learned.
- Optional: Students jot a quick note in their portfolio or notebook.

Things to Consider

- Cultural Respect: Emphasize the significance of Métis traditions.
- Time Management: Keep the pace steady; focus on essential tasks.
- Technical Support: Be ready to assist with navigation or controls.