Michif Minecraft Lesson 3: Build Challenge and Bonus Locations

Lesson #	Length of Time	Topic
3 / 3	40 minutes	Objective 3: Build Challenge and Bonus Locations

Lesson Description
In this culminating lesson, students will complete Objective 3 by participating in a build challenge that celebrates Métis culture within the Michif Minecraft experience. Participants will design and construct a structure that reflects Métis identity, history, and values. Their creation should incorporate key symbols such as the Métis Sash, Red River cart, or Infinity Flag, and demonstrating themes of sustainability and growth. After completing their builds, students can explore bonus locations like Cromarty Barn and Homer's Place to deepen their understanding of Métis traditions and community life.

Essential Question
How can creative expression in a virtual environment honor and represent Métis culture and values?

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

- Design and build a structure that celebrates Métis identity, history, and culture.
- Include at least one Métis symbol (e.g., Sash, Red River cart, Infinity Flag) in their build.
- Incorporate elements that demonstrate sustainability and growth.
- Explore bonus locations to learn more about Métis traditions and community life.

Key Vocabulary

- Métis Sash: A woven belt symbolizing Métis culture and identity.
- Infinity Flag: The flag symbolizes the creation of a new society, and the infinity symbol suggests that the Métis people will exist forever.
- Sustainability: Practices that ensure resources are used responsibly for future generations.
- Creative expression: Using traditional art or building to convey ideas and cultural values.

Commented [GU1]: culture instead of heritage

Commented [GU2]: add the word traditional before the word art

Materials + Resources

- Computers with Minecraft Education installed
- Educator guide for the Michif Minecraft experience
- Notebooks or in-game portfolio for reflection
- (Optional) Projector to display student builds or maps

Getting Started

- Ensure the Michif Minecraft world is loaded and students are familiar with basic controls.
- Review the lesson objectives and build challenge criteria with students.
- Encourage creativity and Métis cultural sensitivity in their designs.

Commented [GU3]: Métis

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MAIN ACTIVITY (25 minutes)

Say: “Now, we’ll complete Objective 3 by creating a build that celebrates Métis culture. Your challenge is to design something meaningful, that includes Métis symbols and shows the themes of sustainability and growth.”
Launch Minecraft Education and assist with any technical setup.

Part 1: Introduction to the Build Challenge (5 minutes)

- Objective: Understand the build challenge and how to reach the build zone.
- Instructions:
    - Explain the challenge: Build a structure that celebrates Métis:
        - Identity: Reflecting who the Métis are as a people.
        - History: Connecting to their past, such as the fur trade or bison hunts.
        - Culture and Learning: Showcasing traditions or education.
    - Include at least one Métis symbol:
        - Métis Sash
        - Red River cart
        - Infinity Flag
    - Show sustainability (e.g., renewable materials, efficient design) and growth (e.g., space for a community to thrive).
    - Optional: Show the map to locate the build zone (see appendices or Visitor Centre wall).

Part 2: Traveling to the Build Zone (variable time)

- Objective: Reach the build zone via teleportation or Red River cart.
- Instructions:
    - Teleport with Sarah: From the back deck of the Visitor Centre at Métis Crossing for instant access.
    - Or take the Red River cart: Head east past the bison location (budget 5 minutes for travel).
- Teacher Tip: Carts may get stuck on rises; break and replace as needed. Extra carts are available along the route.

Part 3: Build Challenge (15 minutes)

- Objective: Create a build that meets the criteria.
- Instructions:
    - Speak with Sarah at the build zone to confirm the criteria.
    - Use special Métis items from the creative inventory (activated upon entry) and Infinity Flags from the chest.

- Build Suggestions (students can choose or invent their own):
    - Learning or Gathering Space: A school or community hall with an Infinity Flag.
    - Bison Hunt Camp: A sustainable camp with a Red River cart for transport.
    - Natural Playground: A natural space for Métis children, decorated with a Sash pattern.
    - Trapper's Cabin: A small, eco-friendly home with fur trade elements.
    - Family Home: A house with renewable resources and room to expand.
    - Fur Trade Experience: A trading post with historical and cultural details.
  - Focus on cultural meaning over complexity (e.g., a simple cabin with a Sash is fine).
- Teacher Tip: Encourage quick planning (1-2 minutes) and remind students to use symbols and sustainability features.

Part 4: Completing the Build and Returning (2 minutes)
- Objective: Finish the build and return to Métis Crossing.
- Instructions:
  - Use the button in the build zone to teleport back.
  - Optional: Take a screenshot or write a description of the build for reflection.

Part 5: Bonus Locations (3 minutes)
- Bonus Locations: If time allows or as an extension, explore:
  - Cromarty Barn:
    - Narcisse: Learn about the Métis Sash (top floor).
    - Wabastains: Understand bison hunt laws and their importance (lower floor).
  - Homer's Place:
    - Homer Poitras: Join a dance and learn about Métis jigging.
    - Louise: Hear a personal jigging story and watch a video.
    - Gerry: Discover Métis fiddling with a video.
    - Joan: Explore Métis artwork and beading.
    - Peter: Learn about dog sledding as transportation.
    - Cecil: See spoons as a musical instrument with a video.
  - Sky Watching Domes and The Lodge: Additional cultural sites for exploration.

WRAP-UP (5 minutes)
Activity: Share and Reflect
- Objective: Connect the build to Métis culture.
- Instructions:
  - Ask students to share their builds (e.g., via projector or verbally) or write a brief reflection.
  - Discuss: "How does your build celebrate Métis culture and values?"

- Optional: Use the in-game portfolio to record thoughts.

Things to Consider

- Cultural Sensitivity and Respect:
    - Encourage students to approach the build challenge with reverence for Métis culture. Emphasize that their builds should thoughtfully reflect Métis identity, history, or values (e.g., community, sustainability) rather than stereotypical or generic designs.
    - When exploring bonus locations like Cromarty Barn or Homer's Place, remind students to engage respectfully with cultural elements such as the Métis Sash, jigging, or beading, recognizing their significance to Métis heritage.
- Build Challenge Focus:
    - Guide students to prioritize meaningful design over complexity due to the time constraint. For example, a simple structure like a trapper's cabin with a Métis Sash or Infinity Flag is as impactful as a larger build if it reflects cultural understanding.
    - Ensure students include at least one Métis symbol (Métis Sash, Red River cart, or Infinity Flag) from the creative inventory or chest to meet the challenge criteria.
    - Reinforce the themes of sustainability (e.g., using renewable materials like wood or designing for efficiency) and growth (e.g., creating space for community expansion or learning).
    - Suggest quick planning (1-2 minutes) before building to help students focus on key elements and avoid getting overwhelmed by creative inventory options.
- Time Management:
    - Allocate 15-20 minutes for the build challenge to allow sufficient time for creativity while staying within the 40-minute lesson. If students choose to travel by Red River cart instead of teleporting with Sarah, remind them to budget approximately 5 minutes for travel to avoid cutting into build time.
    - For bonus locations, consider assigning exploration as an optional extension or homework to keep the main lesson on track. If included, prioritize one or two key interactions (e.g., Narcisse at Cromarty Barn or Homer at Homer's Place) to fit within a short timeframe.
- Technical Support:
    - Be prepared to assist students with accessing the creative inventory, which activates automatically in the build zone, or locating Infinity Flags in the chest.
    - Help with Red River cart navigation if students choose the eastbound route, as carts may get stuck on inclines; remind them to break and replace carts as needed or use spares along the route.
    - Ensure students know how to use the teleport button to return to Métis Crossing efficiently after completing their build.

- Documentation and Reflection:
    - Encourage students to use the in-game camera or portfolio to capture their builds for sharing or reflection. This can serve as evidence of learning and a way to discuss how their design reflects Métis culture.
    - For bonus locations, encourage participants to note one key cultural insight (e.g., the role of the Métis Sash or jigging) in their portfolio to reinforce learning.
- Bonus Location Engagement:
    - Cromarty Barn: Highlight Narcisse's explanation of the Métis Sash as a core symbol of identity and Wabastains' discussion of bison hunt laws to connect to earlier objectives.
    - Homer's Place: Emphasize the cultural vibrancy of Métis dance and music through interactions with Homer (jigging), Gerry (fiddling), and Cecil (spoons). These can inspire students to incorporate performance spaces in their builds.
    - Sky Watching Domes and The Lodge: If explored, frame these as opportunities to see Métis connections to land and community but prioritize them only if time allows.
    - Encourage brief interactions to maximize learning without overloading students.
- Differentiation:
    - For students needing support, suggest simpler builds like a playground with an Infinity Flag or a small family home with a Métis Sash. Provide clear examples of sustainable elements (e.g., wooden structures, open spaces for growth).
    - For advanced students, challenge them to integrate multiple Métis symbols or create a narrative through their build (e.g., a trading post that tells a story of Métis history).