



Life at a FRENCH

If the French voyageurs were around today they would tell you that they liked visiting frontier forts. One of these was Fort Michilimackinac located at the Straits of Mackinac. The fort not only provided protection but was also an important trading post for many voyageurs. There the men could get a good meal and a safe place to rest. The voyageurs also met many soldiers and women at the fort. Today, visitors can tour a rebuilt Fort Michilimackinac, which is located at the south end of the Mackinac Bridge.



The blacksmith, a person who made useful objects out of metal, was important. The blacksmith made many things, including horseshoes, tools and weapons. To make these objects he heated metal in a large fire until the metal was red hot. The heat made the metal soft. The blacksmith then hit the metal with a hammer and shaped it into what he wanted to make.

After the metal cooled it became hard again. People at the fort often traded these items to Native Americans for food, furs and blankets.



CH FORT

In spring, voyageurs, with the help of the fort's women and children, repaired their birch-bark canoes and then stocked them with supplies. These few supplies such as dried food, gunpowder and clothes had to last until the voyageur arrived at the next trading post.



Women and children at the fort raised crops in large gardens. With help from Native Americans, the French grew corn, cabbage, gourds and squash. Here, two French women harvest gourds and cabbage.



Women at the fort were married to voyageurs, traders or soldiers. Women had many chores to do everyday. One of these was washing the clothes. This was done by scrubbing them on a wood washboard in a bucket of water from Lake Michigan. The clothes were washed in homemade soap and hung up to dry on clotheslines. It was hard work and often took an hour to clean a few pieces of clothing.

At Fort Michilimackinac, Native Americans lived in small villages outside of the fort's walls. They lived in wood-covered lodges called wigwams. Native Americans were important to the fort because the French traded with them for furs and food. They also taught the French how to grow crops such as corn, how to catch fish and how to hunt elk and deer. Many Frenchmen married Native American women. Their children were called "Métis" people.



Find Your Way Around the FORT



TO ANSWER THE RIDDLE, put the letter you find at each place in the fort in the blank(s) that corresponds with the number of the directions. For example, for number 1, place the letter from the location you find in every blank with the number 1 below it. When you finish with number 10 you'll have the answer to the riddle.

1. Go help the voyageurs get ready for their long journey. Find the canoes along the shore.
2. Help your mother prepare dinner. Go pick corn and peas in the garden.
3. Go take a snack to your father. He is in the bastion guarding the fort.
4. Your sister is getting married. Go to the church for the wedding.
5. You've made friends with a Native American girl. Go to the Native American settlement and see her.
6. A soldier is playing a fiddle. Go listen to him play French songs in the soldiers' quarters.
7. Your clothes are dirty. Go to the lake and clean them.
8. Your father needs you to pick up an axe from the blacksmith's shop.
9. Go get water from the well.
10. Walk with your father to the powder magazine. This is where they keep the guns and ammunition for protecting the fort and hunting.

QUESTION:
What do you call something that protects fried potatoes?



4 10 9 6 8 2 5 10 9 3 10 7 9 1

TOWNS & Tongues

L Anse

This small town was named after the French word for the nearby bay. L'Anse means "the cove."

Marquette

Marquette was named after Father Jacques Marquette. Today it is the largest city in the Upper Peninsula.

Sault Ste. Marie

This first European settlement in Michigan was near rapids. Sault is the French word for rapids and Marie is for the Virgin Mary. Today Sault Ste. Marie is home to the Soo Locks.

Speaking fur-trade FRENCH

coureur de bois (curry-eh day bwa)

A **runner of the woods** was an independent fur trader who lived with Native Americans.

canot de maître (can-oh day met-reh)

Montreal or **master canoes** were used on the big, open waters of the Great Lakes. The canoes were 30-40 feet long and held 8-16 voyageurs.

canot de nord (can-oh day nor)

North canoes were used on small lakes and rivers. The canoes were 18-22 feet long and held 2-6 voyageurs.

hivernant (ee-vayr-nont)

A **winterer** was an experienced, older voyageur. He spent the winter months trading with various tribes.

mangeur du lard (ma-zure dew lar)

A **pork eater** was an inexperienced voyageur from the East who only worked in the summer. These men were called pork eaters because they ate pork fat mixed with pounded corn.

portage (por-tahj)

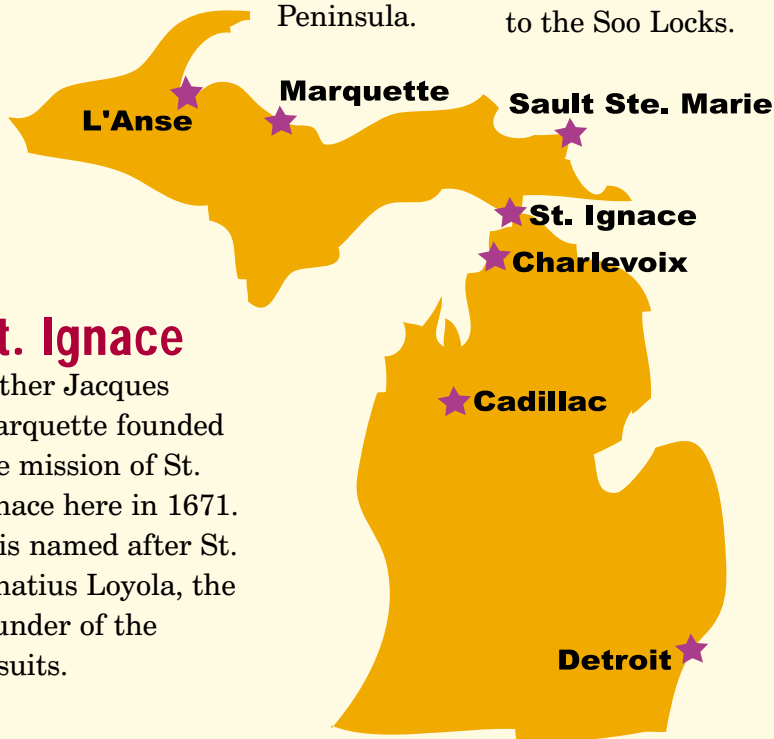
These were places where voyageurs had to **carry** furs, canoes and supplies over land because of rapids or a waterfall in the river. Sometimes voyageurs went over land to a different lake or river.

pose (poze)

These were **rest** stops along a portage trail, usually about 1/2-mile apart. Voyageurs would usually smoke a pipe at each pose, so a portage was measured by the number of pipes smoked during its crossing.

rendezvous (rah-day-voov)

This was a yearly gathering of traders at a wilderness post. They played games, celebrated and met with old friends. Voyageurs also exchanged furs for supplies brought from Montreal, Canada.



St. Ignace

Father Jacques Marquette founded the mission of St. Ignace here in 1671. It is named after St. Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits.

Charlevoix

This city was named after French missionary Pierre F. X. Charlevoix.

Cadillac

This city was named after Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac, the founder of Detroit.

Detroit

This city was named after its location on the narrowest part of the river connecting Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair. Detroit means "the straits."

PLACES IN MICHIGAN WITH FRENCH NAMES