

Unit 6

Name: _____

Date: _____

Rivers as Roads Questions

Before Reading

Preview the selection on pages 134 and 135 in *Literacy in Action* by reading the title, headings, and captions, and by looking at the images.

Answer the following questions in complete sentences:

1. What is this selection mainly about?

This selection is mainly about the Europeans quest for furs.

2. What is the purpose of the selection?

This type of non-fiction writing is to give information about a topic.

3. **What I Think I Know:** What do you already know that might help you read and think about this selection? (Use your background information and your preview of the selection to answer.)

Answers will vary.

4. **How I Know:** How do you know that information?

You may be able to recall past Social Studies work or past reading you may have done on the fur trade and coureurs de bois.

During Reading

Read the selection, **Rivers as Roads**, on pages 134 and 135 in *Literacy in Action* by reading the title, headings, and captions, and by looking at the images.

Remember that the main or key ideas can be found in the first sentence or the last sentence of a selection or implied throughout.

Use the **crack the code** strategies to solve unfamiliar words as you read.



Websites

You can use the **Online Dictionary** (<http://kids.wordsmyth.net/we/>) to check words or spelling.

1. After the opening paragraph: What caused the fur trade?

In Europe, the most important fashion item for men was a felt hat made of beaver fur.

2. After The Search for Furs: What have you learned about the fur trade?

Possible answers:

- Fur trade was a great way to make money quickly.
- Many young men, called coureurs de bois or runners of the woods, set out to trade with the First Nations.
- The easiest way to travel was by river.

3. After A Rough Life, first paragraph: What made the life of a coureur de bois so difficult?

Had to contend with dangerous rapids, mosquitoes, blackflies, cold weather, and food shortages; travelled for months at a time.

4. After the next paragraph: What is the main idea in this paragraph?

Many coureurs de bois married First Nations women and learned how to live on the land from them.

5. At the end: Why was the fur trade important to the exploration of Canada?

Coureurs de bois helped to draw the map of the eastern and central parts of the continent.