



## ELEMENTARY ✦ TEACHER INFORMATION

# Where Montréal Began

## FORT VILLE-MARIE, WHERE IT ALL STARTED

You will soon be visiting Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Archaeology and History Complex with your students. The tour **Where Montréal Began** takes place in an exceptional archaeological and historical setting. Your students will have a chance to walk on a glass floor over the ruins of Fort Ville-Marie, where Montréal was founded in 1642.

**BEFORE YOUR VISIT****ACTIVITY 1** Where it all started

Have your students reconstruct the timeline of the Fort Ville-Marie site. This will give them a better grasp of the various historical periods that will be covered during the tour at the museum.

**OBJECTIVE**

Learn about key moments in Montréal's foundation and the Fort Ville-Marie site, from the prehistoric period to the ruins' discovery by Pointe-à-Callière archaeologists, and place them in time and space.

**COMPETENCIES DEVELOPED**

- Interpret change.
- Use information.
- Make connections of continuity with the present.

**MATERIALS REQUIRED**

Worksheet **Where it all started**

**40 MINUTES****INSTRUCTIONS**

- 1 Have students form pairs and hand out the worksheet **Where it all started**. Review the information on the first page with them and have them answer the question about why Montréal was founded. The answer appears on page 14.
- 2 Next, have the students cut out the statements on page 7. They should then place them in order and glue them onto the timeline on page 6, using the images on the timeline as a guide.
- 3 Have the students share their work with the rest of the class. Refer to the answer sheet on page 8. Collect any questions that students have about the images or statements so that they can ask the tour guide at the museum.

## BEFORE YOUR VISIT

**ACTIVITY 2** People who made history

The first inhabitants of Ville-Marie, called “Montréalistes,” deserve our admiration because they were able to find solutions to the many challenges they faced day after day.

**OBJECTIVES**

- Learn about the obstacles that the Montréalistes had to overcome to survive.
- Become familiar with their way of life.
- Think about the meaning of resilience.

**MATERIALS REQUIRED**

Worksheet **People who made history**

**COMPETENCIES DEVELOPED**

Society being studied: 17th-century French society in New France

- Understand the organization of a society in its territory.
- Make connections between assets and limitations of the territory and the organization of French society in 17th-century New France.


 70 MINUTES

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- 1 Hand out the worksheet **People who made history**. Explain how the 49 pioneers of Montréal had to adapt to totally new and very difficult living conditions.



GSM Project

- 2 The activity then has two parts.
 

First, have the students complete the puzzle about the obstacles that the Montréalistes had to overcome. They must unscramble the letters of the words in the right-hand column and use them to complete the statements to the left.

Then, have them check all the responses they feel are correct in the activity *How did the Montréalistes overcome the challenges and survive?* on page 9 of the worksheet.

The answers appear on page 16.
- 3 Finally, lead a discussion about the bravery, determination, and resourcefulness that the colonists of New France needed to survive, become established, and thrive.
 

Have the students think about how the pioneers' courage might inspire us today.

## BACK IN THE CLASSROOM

Collect comments from the students. Did they enjoy the visit?  
What did they get out of it?

### BACK IN THE CLASSROOM

#### ACTIVITY 1 Amazing relics of the past

When they visited the exhibition **Where Montréal Began**, your students walked over the very spot where Montréal was born, over 375 years ago.

It took nearly 15 years before the archaeological digs undertaken by Pointe-à-Callière could confirm that Fort Ville-Marie had truly been found. Archaeologists excavated some 350,000 artifacts from the site; once they have been interpreted, we will have a better understanding of how the first French colonists who inhabited Fort Ville-Marie lived in the 17th century.

#### OBJECTIVES

- Understand why the ruins are important and how they are useful.
- Make connections between the artifacts and the lives of the Montréalistes.

#### COMPETENCIES DEVELOPED

- Recognize traces (artifacts) of people and events.
- Identify elements of a society's adaptation to the territory and the changes they make.

#### MATERIALS REQUIRED

Worksheet **Amazing relics of the past**

 30 MINUTES

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Have students form pairs and hand out the worksheet **Amazing relics of the past**. Using the first page of the worksheet, lead a discussion on archaeology and the importance of ruins and artifacts in understanding how people lived in times when nothing was documented by photos, videos, and news reports on TV, the radio, and the internet.
- 2 Referring to the text at the start of page 12 of the worksheet, review the day-to-day activities of the Montréalistes shown during the visit to Pointe-à-Callière. Then have the students do the corresponding game. They must match each image of an artifact to its corresponding action. The answers appear on page 17.



Axe head found at the site of Fort Ville-Marie.

## ACTIVITY 2 The cross on Mount Royal

The cross atop Mount Royal is closely connected to the founding of Montréal in the 17th century. Paul de Chomedey de Maisonneuve first erected it to keep a promise made in a prayer to save Fort Ville-Marie from a flood.

### OBJECTIVES

Learn the unusual story about the cross atop Mount Royal and how it is connected to the founding of Montréal.

### MATERIALS REQUIRED

Worksheet [The cross on Mount Royal](#)

### COMPETENCIES DEVELOPED

Make connections between characteristics of the society and the organization of its territory.

 30 MINUTES

### INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Hand out the worksheet [The cross on Mount Royal](#). Mention that the origin of the cross dates back to the city's beginnings, then have the students draw a comic strip on the worksheet based on the statements that tell the cross's unusual story.

For more about Mount Royal (in French):

<http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/siteofficieldumontroyal/front>







BEFORE YOUR VISIT

ELEMENTARY ✦ STUDENT WORKSHEETS

# Where Montréal Began

## ACTIVITY 1 Where it all started

In 1642, **Paul de Chomedey de Maisonneuve** and **Jeanne Mance** founded Ville-Marie (named in honour of the Virgin Mary), which would later become Montréal. It was strategically located on a point of fertile land between the St. Lawrence and a small river. Today, Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Archaeology and History Complex is located on this very spot.

Fort Ville-Marie was built in 1642 and later expanded. It was surrounded by a palisade of wooden stakes for protection. Inside, settlers built the governor's residence, a large communal building where 60 people could live, a chapel that was also used as a school, a well for fresh water, and, eventually, a forge. Fort Ville-Marie disappeared long ago, but archaeological digs have unearthed relics that help us better understand what it was like.



Do you know why Montréal was founded?

Check what you think is the correct reason.



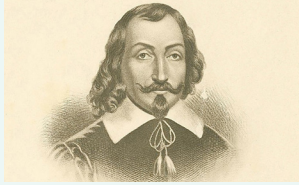






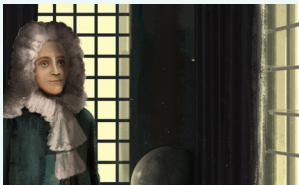

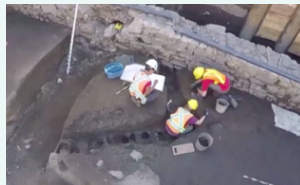




- They wanted to set up a fur-trading post in Montréal.
- They wanted to found, populate, and develop a French colony.
- They wanted to establish a mission to spread the Catholic faith among the Indigenous people, convert them, house them, and care for them.



NH Photographie

You will soon be visiting the site at Pointe-à-Callière where Montréal was founded over 375 years ago. Can you put the events that marked the site's history in the correct order?

Cut out the statements on the next page. Then, glue them in the correct order on the **timeline** (from 6000 years ago to the 2000s).

-6 000 to 1500	1535	1611	1643 - 1667
			
 [Dashed box for cutting]	 [Dashed box for cutting]	 [Dashed box for cutting]	 [Dashed box for cutting]
1667 - 1688	1688	1701	2000
			
 [Dashed box for cutting]	 [Dashed box for cutting]	 [Dashed box for cutting]	 [Dashed box for cutting]

Cut out the statements below and glue them onto the timeline on page 6 in the correct order (from 6000 years ago to the 2000s).



<p>Four sturdy bastions are built around <b>Fort Ville-Marie</b> to protect the Montréalistes from Iroquois attacks.</p>	<p><b>The Fort is no longer used defensively.</b> It houses soldiers and traveling fur traders who come to trade with the Indigenous peoples.</p>	<p>The war with the Iroquois has gone on too long. With the help of his allies, Governor Callière convinces 39 Indigenous nations to sign the historic <b>Great Peace of Montréal.</b></p>	<p><b>Jacques Cartier</b> travels to Hochelaga, a village near Mount Royal inhabited by St. Lawrence Iroquoians.</p>
<p>Archaeological digs done by the <b>Pointe-à-Callière Museum</b> show that the birthplace of Montréal has been found!</p>	<p><b>Samuel de Champlain</b> searches for a good spot for a colony. He finds the future Pointe à Callière and tries to grow some crops there.</p>	<p><b>Historical period.</b> Indigenous peoples occasionally use the point for sleeping, hunting, fishing, and cooking.</p>	<p>The site is acquired by the <b>new governor, Louis-Hector de Callière</b>, representative of King Louis XIV. He covers the site with earth to build a large estate and luxurious chateau.</p>

---  
SOURCES

Tour scenario for "Where Montréal Began", guided tour of the permanent exhibition of Fort Ville-Marie and the Callière estate.

Andy Riga, "Imagine what else lies under Old Montreal", Montreal Gazette, May 17, 2017.

<http://montrealgazette.com/feature/375-years-later-montreals-lost-fort-ville-marie-resurfaces>

Binh An Vu Van, "Retour au berceau de Montréal", Radio-Canada, Découverte, 28 avril 2017.

<http://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1030141/fort-ville-marie-berceau-montreal-archeologie-pointe-calliere-debut-fondation-colonie-maisonneuve-mance-youville-premier>

Pointe-à-Callière, "When Montréal Was Founded", 2017, 64 pp.









BACK IN THE CLASSROOM

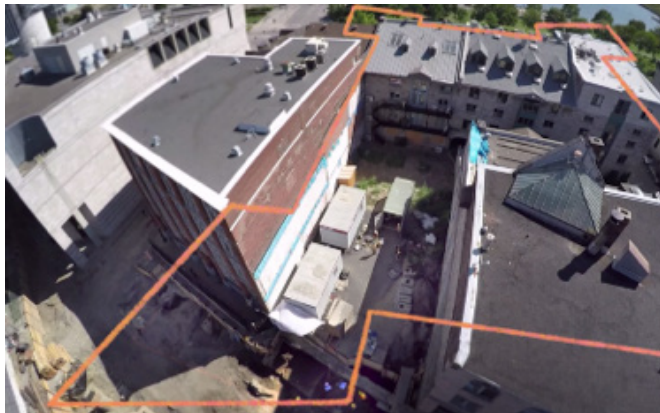
ELEMENTARY ✦ STUDENT WORKSHEETS

# Where Montréal Began



## ACTIVITY 1 Amazing relics of the past

On your visit to Pointe-à-Callière, you walked over the very ground where Montréal was founded over 375 years ago.



Did you know that for over 25 years, we didn't know exactly where Fort Ville-Marie was located? It was a real mystery. We also didn't know its shape or size.

To solve these mysteries, the Pointe-à-Callière Archaeological Field School and archaeology students from Université de Montréal thoroughly excavated the land where the museum pavilion you visited is located.

They also excavated underneath the sidewalk of Place d'Youville in the summer of 2015. And that is where, two metres below the surface, they made an amazing discovery: a section of the Fort Ville-Marie bastion. Based on this discovery, they were able to "recreate" the fort on paper and make a model of it. So it turns out that for all those years, they were actually excavating inside the fort.



### WHY ARE THESE RUINS IMPORTANT?

When you visited the museum, you saw actual, authentic archaeological **ruins**, **artifacts**, and **ecofacts**. These are more than just objects; they are relics, memories, and clues.

They are valuable because they tell us about the lives of the people who lived on the site at different times before us. Since we don't have books, photographs, or films to document this history, archaeological research is vital.

The museum is still studying the 350,000 artifacts found on the site since 2002. Once interpreted, they will help us better understand the lives of the Montréalists who inhabited Fort Ville-Marie in the 17th century.

**Ruins** might be things like walls, foundations, remnants of stakes, wells, fireplaces, channels, graves, or debris.

**Artifacts** are object made by human beings, such as sundials, terra cotta bowls, arrow points, glass bottles, coins, iron nails, or tools.

**Ecofacts** come from nature - things like food remains, bone, charred wood, seeds, or fossils.





**WHAT DO THE RUINS TELL US ABOUT LIFE AT FORT VILLE-MARIE?**

The Montréalistes had to work hard and improvise in order to adapt and survive in their new and not always hospitable home.

They had to **build** structures for shelter and work, as well as a palisade for protection; **defend** themselves against the Iroquois and establish a cemetery for their dead; **live together**, learn about the peaceful Indigenous peoples, and learn from them; farm the land, harvest crops, and raise animals to **eat**; dig wells for fresh water inside the fort. Sometimes, they might even take their minds off things, take their minds off, relax, and **play**.

They relied on the blacksmith to **produce** tools and metal objects for the colony, and on merchants for trade. In fact, Montréal would become the main centre of the fur **trade** in the 17th century.

Think back to the artifacts and ecofacts you saw in the displays at the museum. They illustrate all of these different aspects of the lives of the first Montrealers.

Use an arrow to connect each image of an artifact to the matching activity.

---  
SOURCE

Tour scenario for "Where Montréal Began", guided tour of the permanent exhibition of Fort Ville-Marie and the Callière estate, December 2016.

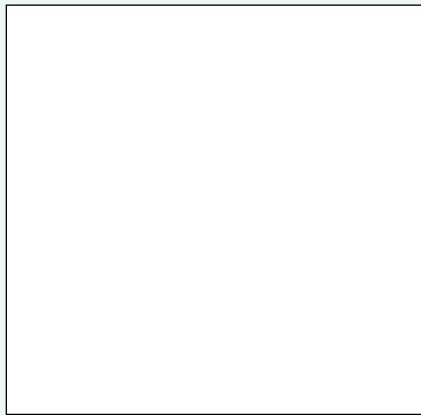


**ACTIVITY 2** The cross on Mount Royal

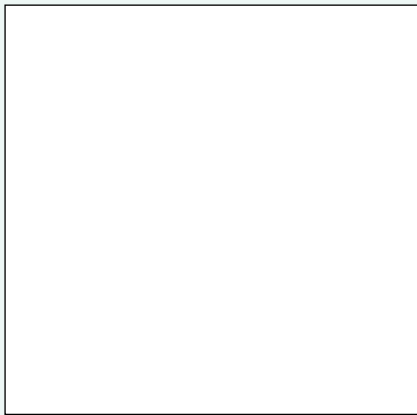
Do you know the story of the cross that stands at the top of Mount Royal? It dates all the way back to the foundation of Montréal, in 1642.

Here's a comic strip version - but it's your job to draw a picture of what is described under each square.

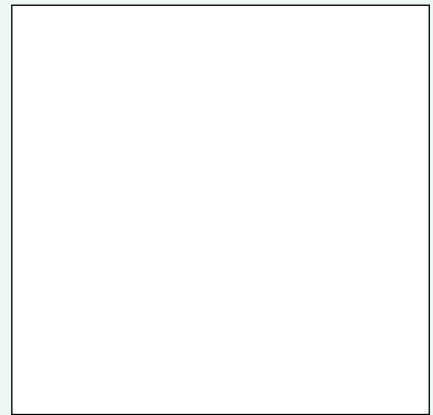
**December 24, 1642, Christmas Eve.**  
 Night falls over Fort Ville-Marie, and everyone is anxious.



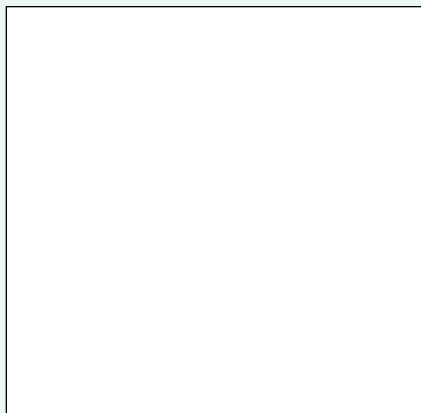
A sudden thaw causes the Petite Rivière to overflow its banks, and it threatens to flood the fort.



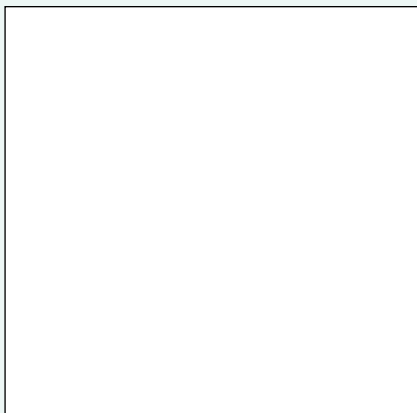
De Maisonneuve writes a prayer and promises God to erect a cross at the top of Mount Royal if the colony is spared.



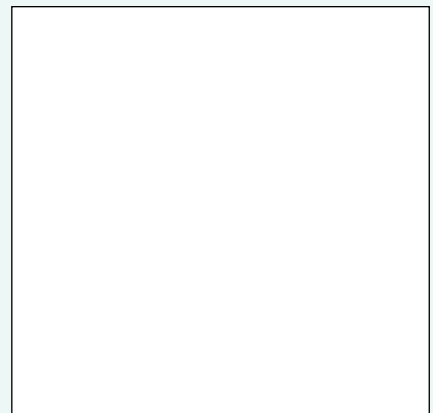
He ties it to a small wooden cross, which he pounds into the riverbank. Everyone waits and hopes.



The water continues to rise... But to everyone's relief, it finally recedes, and the fort is saved!



On January 6, 1643, De Maisonneuve himself carries a large cross to the top of the mountain and erects it in gratitude.



In 1924, to commemorate the event, the Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste builds a huge steel cross atop Mount Royal and illuminates it.

---  
 SOURCE

Pointe-à-Callière, "When Montréal Was Founded", 2017, p. 29.

ACTIVITY 1 Where it all started, p. 6

Do you know why Montréal was founded?

Check what you think is the correct reason.









- They wanted to set up a fur-trading post in Montréal.
- They wanted to found, populate, and develop a French colony.
- They wanted to establish a mission to spread the Catholic faith among the Indigenous people, convert them, house them, and care for them.



NR Photographie

You will soon be visiting the site at Pointe-à-Callière where Montréal was founded over 375 years ago. Can you put the events that marked the site's history in the correct order?

Cut out the statements on the next page. Then, glue them in the correct order on the **timeline** (from 6000 years ago to the 2000s).

-6 000 to 1500	1535	1611	1643-1667
			
<p><b>Historical period.</b> Indigenous peoples occasionally use the point for sleeping, hunting, fishing, and cooking.</p>	<p><b>Jacques Cartier</b> travels to Hochelaga, a village near Mount Royal inhabited by St. Lawrence Iroquoians.</p>	<p><b>Samuel de Champlain</b> searches for a good spot for a colony. He finds the future Pointe à Callière and tries to grow some crops there.</p>	<p>Four sturdy bastions are built around <b>Fort Ville-Marie</b> to protect the Montréalistes from Iroquois attacks.</p>
1667-1688	1688	1701	2000
			
<p><b>The Fort is no longer used</b> defensively. It houses soldiers and traveling fur traders who come to trade with the Indigenous peoples.</p>	<p>The site is acquired by the <b>new governor, Louis-Hector de Callière</b>, representative of King Louis XIV. He covers the site with earth to build a large estate and luxurious chateau.</p>	<p>The war with the Iroquois has gone on too long. With the help of his allies, Governor Callière convinces 39 Indigenous nations to sign the historic <b>Great Peace of Montréal</b>.</p>	<p>Archaeological digs done by the <b>Pointe-à-Callière Museum</b> show that the birthplace of Montréal has been found!</p>

ACTIVITY 2 People who made history, p. 8

ACTIVITY 2 People who made history

The first inhabitants of Montréal were called “Montréalistes” (and not Montrealers, like today). Leaving their lives in France to found Ville-Marie was a daring adventure for these brave women and men.

Today, it is difficult for us to imagine how hard life was for these people, day after day. The 49 pioneers who founded Montréal deserve

our respect. Together, and with the help of their Indigenous allies, they were able to find solutions to the challenges they faced. And there were many challenges!

Did you know that the Huron and Algonquin were allies of the French? The formidable Iroquois, who had been at war with the other Indigenous nations, sided with the English.

What obstacles did the Montréalistes have to overcome to be successful in their mission?

Unscramble the letters of the words in the right-hand column to complete the sentences.

- Working the E A R T H (clearing, ploughing, planting, etc.) was difficult. A E H R T
- They also had to chop down trees and split logs to get wood for H E A T I N G and construction. A E G H I N T
- The Montréalistes were not very N U M E R O U S. E M N O R S U U
- There was a lack of specialized W O R K E R S and services. E K O R R S W
- The I R O Q U O I S might attack by surprise at any time. I I O O Q R S U
- In summer, thousands of M O S Q U I T O E S plagued the inhabitants. E I M O O Q S S U T
- Every W I N T E R, there was a risk of famine. E I N R T W
- Winters were more harsh, C O L D and L O N G than in France. C D O L  
G L N O
- There could be up to three metres of S N O W on the ground, which could make getting around very hard. N O S W
- There was also the threat of D I S E A S E. A D E E I S S

Despite all this, resources were abundant, and the people hoped for a better future than in France. Not to mention more freedom!





ACTIVITY 1 Amazing relics of the past, p. 12

WHAT DO THE RUINS TELL US ABOUT LIFE AT FORT VILLE-MARIE?

The Montréalistes had to work hard and improvise in order to adapt and survive in their new and not always hospitable home.

They had to **build** structures for shelter and work, as well as a palisade for protection; **defend** themselves against the Iroquois and establish a cemetery for their dead; **live together**, learn about the peaceful Indigenous peoples, and learn from them; farm the land, harvest crops, and raise animals to **eat**; dig wells for fresh water inside the fort. Sometimes, they might even take their minds off things, take their minds off, relax, and **play**.

They relied on the blacksmith to **produce** tools and metal objects for the colony, and on merchants for trade. In fact, Montréal would become the main centre of the fur **trade** in the 17th century.

Think back to the artifacts and ecofacts you saw in the displays at the museum. They illustrate all of these different aspects of the lives of the first Montrealers.

Use an arrow to connect each image of an artifact to the matching activity.

SOURCE

Tour scenario for "Where Montréal Began", guided tour of the permanent exhibition of Fort Ville-Marie and the Callière estate, December 2016.