

Chapter 3

# Visitors From Far Away

## Chapter 3 Lesson 1



**Ideas To Explore**  
opportunity cost  
scarcity (skair seh tee)



**People To Meet**  
French traders

**Places To Discover**  
France



**Words to Welcome**  
bonjour (BOn jzure) French for  
good day or hello  
opportunity (ah por tune uh tee)

- Michigan
- Social
- Studies
- GLCEs
- 3H3.0.1
- 3H3.0.3
- 3H3.0.5
- 3H3.0.6
- 3H3.0.10
- 3G1.0.1
- 3G4.0.2
- 3G5.0.1
- 3G5.0.2
- 3E1.0.1
- 3E1.0.3



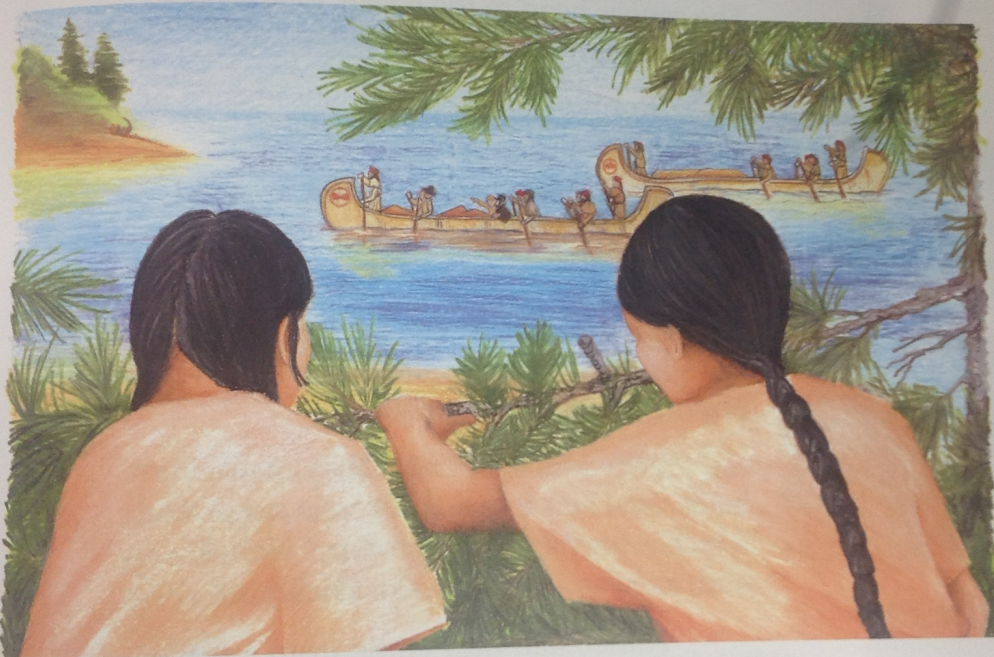


## *Visitors from Far Away*

Think about this while you read.

**How did life change for Michigan's tribes once they started trading furs with the French?**

Story illustrated by Don Ellens.



Shhhh! Come to the shore of Lake Michigan. Two Ojibwa children wait near the beach. They are Giji and Nabek. They feel the breeze on their faces. Both listen. There is only the sound of the waves. They wait for the splash of canoe paddles. They hide behind the pine branches. They are excited and curious. Then they hear the paddles.



Chapter 3

Giji says, "Look! The traders are coming. They are in two big canoes."

"I can see them, Giji. Look at them. Their skin is so light. They have hair on their faces. Ha! It looks like they have little bears on their cheeks!"

The canoes head to the beach. Ojibwa men and women are waiting there.

"**Bonjour** (BOn jzure)," shouts one of the traders.

Giji and Nabek did not understand. This is a **French** greeting. It means 'Good day!'

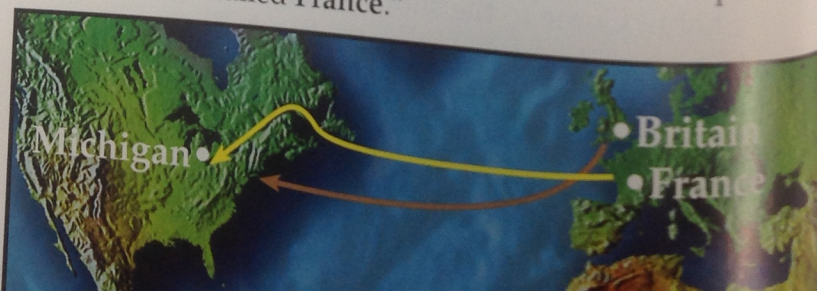
"Brother, listen. The **traders** talk so strangely. They speak some of our words, but they say them poorly!"

"Why not, Giji. I hear they come from far away. Their home is across a huge lake which is bigger than our own," Nabek said, as he pointed to Lake Michigan.

"Father said they come from a place called **France**."



A fur trader from France.







### They Brought Exciting Things!

The traders are taking many things from their canoes.

"Look, Giji. Look what they have! They brought pretty beads. They have blankets with bright colors!"

"Oh, Nabek! Look at those shiny metal cooking pots. Mother would really like some of those. They are so much better for cooking than our clay ones."

"The metal pots are nice. Father also needs new animal traps and bullets," said Nabek.

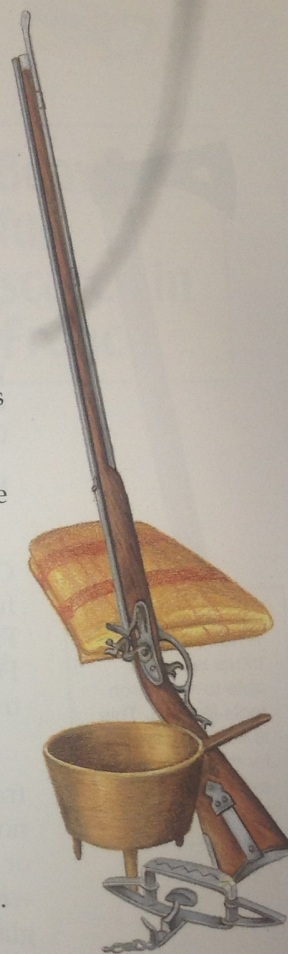
"What do mother and father want from the traders, Nabek?"

"Father said he wants to trade for one of their long guns. He wants a nice rifle. He wants one like the traders use themselves. He will not settle for the cheap ones they bring to trade."

"Don't forget some of the black shooting powder," Giji reminded him.

### How Did They Do?

"Father is handing them some of his furs. He caught many muskrat, beaver and fox last winter. The traders seem pleased."



Nabeck says, "Mother has her metal pots. She also has two blankets. I see she has sewing needles. Mother traded her maple sugar and wild rice. Father seems sad. I don't think father got the trader's nice gun."

Giji says, "But he has a new hatchet. Father also got bullets, shooting powder and a nice blanket. I see he has some new traps."

Now the traders are getting their canoes ready. It is time for them to leave. They are loading the furs. Giji and Nabek watch as they push away from the shore. The traders sing as they paddle away. Soon they are out of sight. Giji and Nabek hurry back to their village.

#### Why Did They Trade?

What did the French traders want from the Ojibwa? The French wanted furs. They wanted furs because they did not have many in France. France did not have many wild animals left. Furs were scarce in France. This brought the traders across the ocean.

What did the Ojibwa want from the traders? They wanted things which they could not make. The tribes could not make metal pots or metal traps. They could not make blankets with a lot of colors. They could not make pretty glass beads. The Ojibwa wanted things which were scarce here.



A hatchet. The tribes were not able to make iron tools like this. This is why they traded for them. Iron tools were scarce among the tribes.

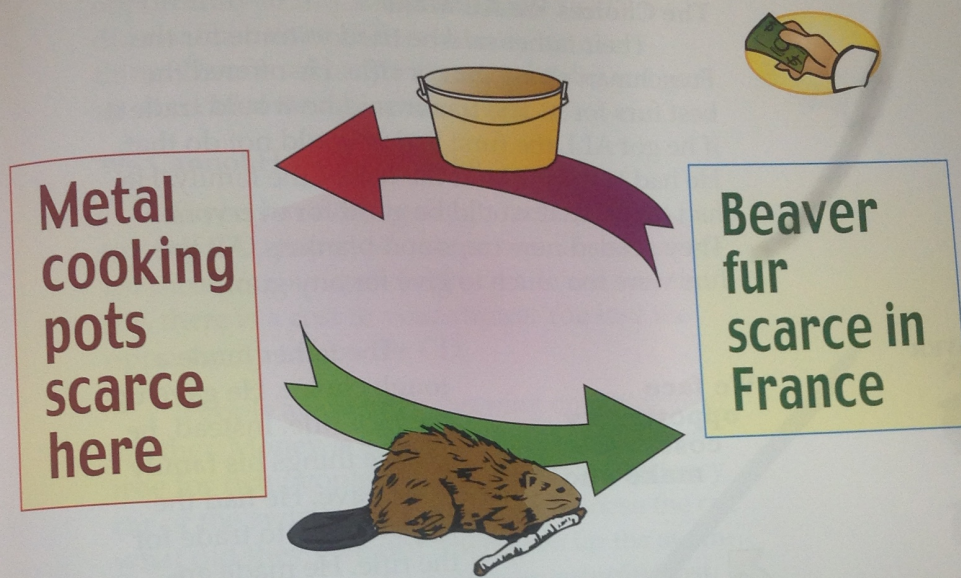
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## WHY DID THEY TRADE?



Each group wanted things which were scarce for them. They traded things which were not scarce. At that time, the tribes could get many furs. The French could make things from metal. They each had a lot of something that the other did not have. This means that **scarcity** brought them together. The lack of furs in France pushed them away from France. Since Michigan had beaver, it pulled the French here.

Scarcity still brings people together today. People far away buy iron or lumber from Michigan. They do this because it is scarce where they live.

### The Choices We All Make

Their father said he tried to trade for the Frenchman's long gun or rifle. He offered the best furs for it. The trader said he would trade it if he got ALL the furs! Father could not do that. He had to think about the rest of the family. He had to do what would be good for everyone. They needed new traps and blankets. All the furs were too much to give for any gun.

The father made a tough choice. He gave up the nice rifle. Instead, he got the things his family must have. He had the **opportunity** to trade for the rifle. He made another choice. He traded for the blankets and new traps. He wanted the rifle, but it was his second choice. He gave up getting it.

People make choices when they buy or trade. When you buy one thing, you give up something else. There is not enough money to buy everything you want. You give up an

