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Bernard Mécoule
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101.1742 / Photo: Luc Bourrette

TEACHER INFORMATION + SECONDARY

Tales of Montréal

POINTE-À-CALLIÈRE, WHERE MONTRÉAL WAS BORN

You will soon be visiting Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Archaeology and History Complex with your students. The **Tales of Montréal** tour takes place in an exceptional archaeological and historical setting. Your students will discover the history of Montréal and its birthplace, Fort Ville-Marie, as they encounter ruins and artifacts left behind by various peoples who have occupied the site over the years.

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

Welcome to Pointe-à-Callière!

“Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Archaeology and History Complex, is the city’s birthplace and classified as a heritage site of national importance.”

This statement serves as a stepping off point for students to learn about the history of the site of Pointe-à-Callière, Fort Ville-Marie, and Montréal’s first Catholic cemetery, the remains of which they will see when they tour the museum.

The students will also learn more about Pointe-à-Callière’s heritage conservation mission, as shown through the archaeological digs, the exhibition of ruins and artifacts unearthed during the digs, and the acquisition of historical buildings that are restored or given a new vocation related to the museum.

OBJECTIVES

- Learn the history of the pointe at Callière.
- Understand that Fort Ville-Marie, the ruins of which the students will see, is the birthplace of Montréal.
- Learn more about the archaeological digs at the site.

COMPETENCIES DEVELOPED

- Examine the facts, figures, actions, causes, and consequences of social phenomena.
- Understand the concepts of continuity and change in relation to the present.
- Identify criteria for recognizing a site’s heritage value.

MATERIAL REQUIRED

- Worksheet **Welcome to Pointe-à-Callière!**


 45 MINUTES

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Hand out the worksheet **Welcome to Pointe-à-Callière!** Introduce the topic by leading a discussion on why they think Pointe-à-Callière is a recognized heritage site?
- 2 Have the students read the first two pages and ask them to check off their answers to the question (in the inset) *Why did First Nations never build a village on the point?* Provide the correct answer. Read the answer key before discussing the first two statements.
- 3 Project the two YouTube videos:



[Découverte \(Radio-Canada\) – Le fort de Ville-Marie \(2009\)](#)
(7:44)

After years of searching, a team from Université de Montréal and Pointe-à-Callière discovered archaeological evidence of the site where Montréal was founded.



[Ville-Marie: Berceau des Montréalistes / The Cradle of Montreal \(2017\)](#)
(7:40)

Pointe-à-Callière project manager Élisabeth Côté talks about the day-to-day lives of the Montréalistes, the men and women who came from Europe to found Ville-Marie in 1642 on the Island of Montréal. Signs of this history have survived to this day, and Mrs Côté describes them in this video.

- 4 Have the students read pages 3 and 4 of the worksheet and then answer the **Who are we?** questions, the photo mystery, and the Quiz on page 5. The correct responses appear in the answer key.

BACK IN THE CLASSROOM

Take note of your students' comments about the museum visit.
Did they enjoy it? What did they learn?

BACK IN THE CLASSROOM

Montréal: center of trade and commerce

THE POINTE GAME

"A centre of trade and commerce, Montréal has evolved through various occupations and roles into the city we know today. The ruins and artifacts found at the pointe at Callière site bear witness to this evolution."

This statement serves as a stepping off point for students to recall that certain buildings reflect Pointe-à-Callière's various occupations and to realize that regardless of the period, Montréal has always been a centre for trade and commerce.

OBJECTIVES

- Learn about the events that marked Québec's six major historical periods.

- Review the different human occupations of the pointe by way of the various buildings that were built on it.
- Understand the activities that made, and still make, Montréal a centre for trade and commerce.

COMPETENCIES DEVELOPED

- Examine social phenomena from a historical perspective.
- Examine the facts, figures, actions, causes, and consequences of social phenomena.

MATERIAL REQUIRED

- Worksheet [The pointe game](#)

 50 MINUTES

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Photocopy the appropriate number of cards for your class. The basic game has six sheets with **18 cards—enough for 18 students**. (See the section TEACHING MATERIALS AND ACTIVITY ANSWER KEY (BACK IN THE CLASSROOM).)
- 2 Cut out the 18 cards.
- 3 Mix up the cards and hand out one to each student randomly. Depending on the number of students in your class, there may be up to two of each card in circulation.
 - Some students will get a card summarizing the facts of a HISTORICAL PERIOD.
 - Some will receive a card listing the BUILDINGS THAT SHAPED POINTE À CALLIÈRE'S HISTORY during a given period.
 - Some will receive a card describing facts that show how Montréal was a CENTRE FOR TRADE AND COMMERCE during a given period.
- 4 The goal of the game is to match each period with the buildings constructed during that period and with the related information about trade and commerce. The students should mingle and find classmates with cards that complement their own. If there are multiples of the same card, the assembled teams will simply be that much larger.

Give a time limit for the students to find classmates with the matching historical period.
- 5 Once the teams have assembled, each should present the three themes of its period (the three cards) to the rest of the class. The teams should present in chronological order. In other words, the "Before 1642" team should start.



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POINTE-À-CALLIÈRE

STUDENT WORKSHEETS ✚ SECONDARY

Tales of Montréal

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

Welcome to Pointe-à-Callière!

“Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Archaeology and History Complex, is the city’s birthplace and classified as a heritage site of national importance.”

Did you know that the museum is located on the exact spot where Montréal was founded, with the construction of Fort Ville-Marie?

During your visit, you will get a chance to walk over the fort’s ruins, which date back over 375 years ago.

Why do you think Pointe-à-Callière is a recognized heritage site?

A Point, a Fort, a cemetery

The museum is located on a former **point of land**, just north of where a stream called the Saint-Pierre River emptied into the St. Lawrence River (to the south). In 1832, the stream was channelized, covered, and converted into a collector sewer. You will get a chance to walk through the sewer when you visit the museum.

Don't worry, it's been cleaned up!

With clear sightlines over two rivers, the point was a highly strategic location both for sailing and defence. In fact, though First Nations never built a village there, they had been using it as a stopover and temporary campsite long before the French arrived.

HINT
 The French would soon learn why, at their peril!

Why did First Nations never build a village on the point?

- The land on the point was not very fertile.
- It was a flood zone.
- It was a sacred First Nations ground.
- They feared attacks from the monster of Polar Peak.

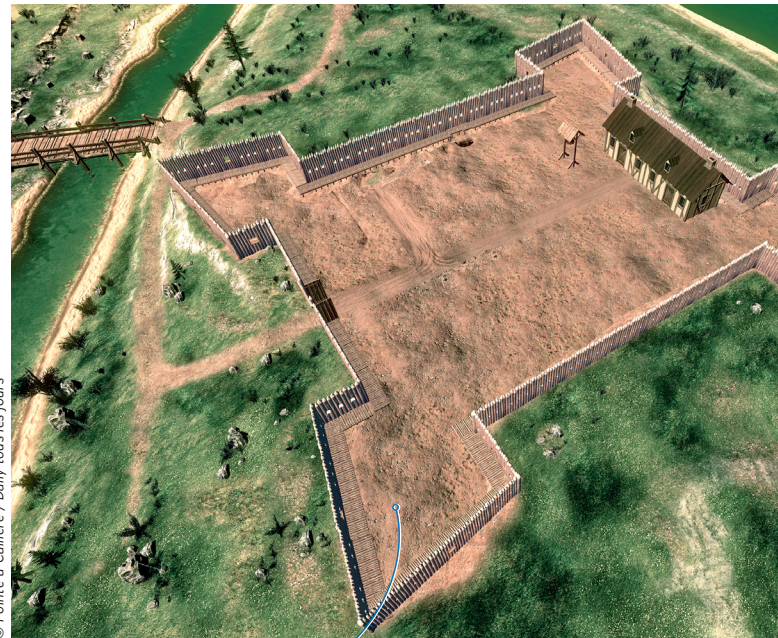
We know that when Jeanne Mance and Paul de Chomedey, sieur de Maisonneuve founded Montréal in 1642, they originally called it Ville-Marie. At first, it was just a camp surrounded by a wooden palisade and a ditch.

Fort Ville-Marie was built that same year, then expanded to include 4 bastions in 1643 to protect the first inhabitants, called “Montréalistes.” The Fort also symbolized the courage and resourcefulness of these women and men, who faced numerous hardships and braved many dangers in trying to achieve their purpose of creating a new society with the First Nations.

The Fort was built on the point, which was named after the Montréal governor Louis-Hector de Callière. He built a mansion there some 40 years later. By then, Fort Ville Marie had disappeared, but painstaking archaeological work has uncovered traces (ruins) of the old Fort.

After the Fort was abandoned, the site was home to a forge. Forging and smithing were highly sought-after trades, since they were essential to make and repair the tools needed for work and home life.

The first **Catholic cemetery of Montréal** was created in 1643, following the death of three Montréalistes. It was located at the end of the point, near the Fort. Today the cemetery is part of Pointe-à-Callière, and the grave pits can be



© Pointe-à-Callière / Daily tous les jours

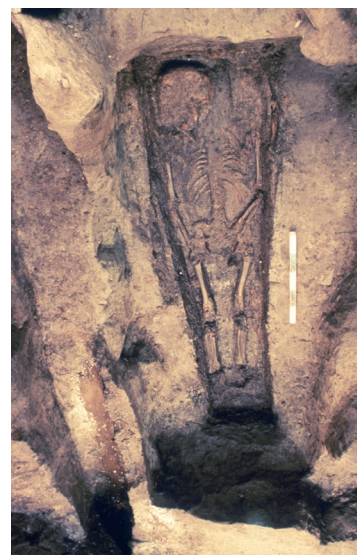
Bastion

viewed. The bodies are no longer there, though a **forgotten skeleton** was discovered. After the cemetery was abandoned in 1654, the bodies were transferred to another location in Montréal, but the precise location was never documented.

One odd fact: among the graves are also **latrines**. Around 1800, under English rule, the former cemetery was used as a cesspool.



Cemetery and latrines.



© Société du Vieux-Port de Montréal, 10IG89R2IT-36

psst!
 Latrine is
 another word for
 “outhouse.”

Remains of a Frenchman measuring 1.60 to 1.70 metres tall who died from unknown causes around the age of 30. Buried in Montréal's first cemetery between 1643 and 1654

Finding the birthplace of Montréal!

Did you know that the exact location of the Fort was long a mystery? It was thought to be located near the cemetery, but no one knew its precise shape and dimensions. In the surviving 17th-century documents, there is no reliable illustration of the Fort, and only a few rare descriptions.

After 15 years of persistent excavations, archaeologists were at last able to find enough pieces of the puzzle to solve these mysteries. And Pointe-à-Callière was then able to reveal the secrets of Fort Ville-Marie, showcasing the **ruins** and displaying the **artifacts** and **ecofacts** that had been discovered.

WHO ARE WE?

We can be things like walls, foundations, post holes, wells, fireplaces, channelizations, graves, and debris.

We are human-made objects, such as sundials, terracotta pots, arrowheads, glass bottles, coins, iron nails, and tools.

We are of natural origin, such as food remains, bones, teeth, charred wood, seeds, and fossils.



© Pointe-à-Callière / Photo: Raphaël Thibodeau

During the digs, archaeologists also found the ruins of the estate of Louis-Hector de Callière, governor of Montréal from 1684 to 1698 and the 13th governor of New France, from 1698 to 1703. In 1701, with the support of the Huron chief Kondiaronk, he was able to negotiate a lasting peace with 39 First Nations.

The **Great Peace** put an end to 100 years of wars that pitted the French and their Huron allies against the Iroquois and their English allies. The Iroquois, led by their chief Teganissorens, also agreed to remain neutral in conflicts between the French and the English.



© Ethnoscop

Examine the photo closely.
 What do you think the holes in a line are?

- Small wells for storing food.
- Signs of a pet.
- Post holes from the first palisade.

City within a city

The site of Pointe-à-Callière is also important because it has experienced many different occupations over the years.

Pointe-à-Callière, has seven pavilions and structures: the Éperon Building, the Marketplace, the Old Customs House, Mariners' House, the Youville Pumping Station, and, since 2017, Fort Ville-Marie and the Collector Sewer, a first in Canada. Salvaging these historical structures has allowed Pointe-à-Callière to both expand them and preserve them.

Inaugurated in 1992, the museum's main building is called the **Éperon**. It was built over the foundations of its predecessor, the Royal Insurance Company building, a notable 19th-century edifice. In designing the Éperon, Montréal architect Dan Hanganu took inspiration from the former insurance building's triangular shape and tower overlooking Montréal's port.



© Pointe-à-Callière / Photo: Normand Rajotte



© Pointe-à-Callière / Coll. Montréal, métropole du Canada 1872-1898

Pointe-à-Callière's main building, the Éperon, inspired by the architecture of the Royal Insurance Building.

© Pointe-à-Callière



© Pointe-à-Callière, Photo: Éric Major

Place Royale also yielded fascinating artifacts related to the daily lives of First Nations and Montrealers dating back to the 14th century. This was also the site of Montréal's first **Marketplace** in 1676.

Old Customs House: Designed by architect John Ostell, this building was constructed in 1837 as Montréal's customs house. It was one of the first structures in the city to reflect the British presence.

Built in 1915, the **Youville Pumping Station** was the first wastewater pumping station in Montréal that ran on electricity.

Since 2010, the museum has done major archaeological and historical research on the Old Montréal historic site of the St. Anne's Market (1832-1843, 1850-1901) and Parliament of the United Province of Canada (1844-1849). The ruins are buried beneath an old parking lot.

Perhaps the museum will have another pavilion in a few years.



© Pointe-à-Callière / Photo: Normand Rajotte

QUIZ

Pointe-à-Callière was inaugurated in 1992.
It was founded to celebrate Montreal's _____ anniversary.

Where was Fort Ville-Marie located?

What were the first Montrealers called?

Name two things found in Montréal's first Catholic cemetery.

In what year was the Great Peace of Montréal signed by governor Louis-Hector de Callière, Huron chief Kondiaronk, and Iroquois chief Teganissorens?

What was the name of the 19th-century building that inspired the architectural design of the museum's main pavilion?

What was the name of the first wastewater pumping station in Montréal to run on electricity?

VIDEOS! A couple of visual summaries

1 Découverte (Radio-Canada) - Le fort de Ville-Marie (2009)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pnEWZnv37no>

After years of searching, a team from Université de Montréal and Pointe-à-Callière discovered archaeological evidence of the site where Montréal was founded.

2 Ville-Marie: Berceau des Montréalistes / The Cradle of Montreal (2017)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifr4AnBX-Ss>

Pointe-à-Callière project manager Élisabeth Côté talks about the day-to-day lives of the Montréalistes, the men and women who came from Europe to found Ville-Marie in 1642 on the Island of Montréal. Signs of this history have survived to this day, and Côté describes them in this video.

SOURCES

Tales of Montréal. Scenario for guided tours of the permanent exhibition of Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Archaeology and History Complex (April 2019).

Where Montréal Began. Scenario for guided tours of the permanent exhibition of Fort Ville-Marie and the Callière estate (2016).

<https://pacmusee.qc.ca/fr/>



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BACK IN THE CLASSROOM

SECONDARY ✦ STUDENT WORKSHEETS

Tales of Montréal



A centre of trade and commerce, Montréal has evolved through various occupations and roles into the city we know today. The ruins and artifacts found at the Pointe à Callière site bear witness to this evolution.

While visiting Pointe-à-Callière, you got a chance to see “in person” ruins, artifacts, and ecofacts from the different periods traversed by the point and the city of Montréal over the years.

The game you are about to play will help you review Montréal’s six major historical periods (see table at right), remember which buildings from pointe à Callière’s history, and realize the extent to which Montréal has always been a centre for trade and commerce.

1967 to 2018 Montréal, centre of creativity	1760 to 1840 Montréal, British city
1900 to 1967 Montréal, open city	1642 to 1760 Montréal, French city
1840 to 1900 Montréal, Canada’s economic centre	Avant 1642 Montréal, First Nations territory

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 The teacher will hand out a card to each student.
 - Some will receive a card summarizing the facts related to a HISTORICAL PERIOD.
 - Some will receive a card listing the BUILDINGS THAT SHAPED POINTE À CALLIÈRE’S HISTORY for a given period.
 - Some will receive a card describing facts that show how Montréal was a CENTRE FOR TRADE AND COMMERCE for a given period.
- 2 Read your card.
- 3 The goal of the game is to match each period with the related buildings and information about trade and commerce. Mill around and find classmates with cards from the same historical period as your own. There may be more than one of the same card in circulation, so teams with duplicate cards will be larger.
- 4 There is a time limit to find classmates with cards from the same historical period.
- 5 Once you have gathered your team, present the three themes of your period to the rest of the class. Be sure to stay in chronological order. In other words, the “Before 1642” team starts.

Montréal, centre of trade and commerce

 50 MINUTES

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Photocopy the appropriate number of cards for your class. The basic game has 6 sheets and 18 cards - enough for 18 students.
- 2 Cut out the 18 cards.
- 3 Mix up the cards and hand out one to each student randomly.
- 4 Set a time limit for the students to find classmates with cards from the same historical period. If you have made duplicate cards, the assembled teams will be larger. Have each team present the three themes from its period, staying in chronological order.

1967 TO 2018
MONTRÉAL, CENTRE OF CREATIVITY

HISTORICAL PERIOD

The public and para-public sectors grow in Québec during the 1960s and 70s.

French becomes Québec's only official language (1974). The Parti Québécois comes to power (1976). Bill 101 is passed (1977). Some 131,500 English-speakers leave Québec between 1976 and 1981.

The Montreal Board of Trade merges with the Chambre de commerce de Montréal (1992).

A new French-speaking economic elite emerges.

1980 and 1995: Québec independence referendums.

While no longer the economic centre of Canada, Montréal remains the economic centre of Québec and strives to gain the title of international economic centre.

1967 TO 2018
MONTRÉAL, CENTRE OF CREATIVITY

BUILDINGS THAT SHAPED POINTE À CALLIÈRE'S HISTORY

Pointe à Callière is occupied by a parking lot (1952 to 1982).

A park, with basic grass landscaping, is found on the point (1982 to 1989).

Pointe-à-Callière is inaugurated in the spring of 1992 as part of Montréal's 350th anniversary celebrations.

The museum is the result of over 10 years of archaeological digs.

In May 2017, exactly 375 years after the founding of Montréal, Pointe-à-Callière inaugurates a new pavilion dedicated to Fort Ville-Marie.

The new pavilion pays tribute to the city's founders, who were driven by hope for a better world.

1967 TO 2018
MONTRÉAL, CENTRE OF CREATIVITY

MONTRÉAL, CENTRE FOR TRADE AND COMMERCE

Major events such as Expo 67 and the 1976 summer Olympics showcase Montréal on the international stage.

Montréal creators and festivals continue to put the city on the world map.

Factories close. Montréal is no longer Canada's transportation centre. It remains a financial force, but in second place behind Toronto.

The tertiary sector (services and office activities) continue to grow. Economic diversification benefits Montréal during global financial crises.

In the 1990s, Montréal begins to grow again, turning toward new technologies and artificial intelligence. The city is home to some 230 companies in the video game industry, such as Ubisoft, Warner Bros. Games, Electronic Arts, and Gameloft.

**1900 TO 1967
MONTRÉAL, OPEN CITY**

HISTORICAL PERIOD

1914 to 1918: World War I.

1929: Stock market crash and start of the Great Depression.

1939 to 1945: World War II.

Social change: women get the vote in Québec (1940), baby boom, women enter the workforce.

New transportation and communication technologies: creation of the National Film Board (1939), CBC goes on the air (1952), construction of the St. Lawrence seaway (1959) and Montréal metro (1966).

The state takes over education and health care from religious orders.

1960s: the Quiet Revolution. Modernization of the state and Québec society.

**1900 TO 1967
MONTRÉAL, OPEN CITY**

**BUILDINGS THAT SHAPED
POINTE À CALLIÈRE'S HISTORY**

Damaged by fire in 1947, the former Royal Insurance Company building and later main customs house is demolished in 1951.

From the 1950s to 1982, pointe à Callière is occupied by a parking lot.



© Pointe-à-Callière, Fonds Videanthrop (FP7), 200.1.1981.1249. D008 / Photo: Marc Laberge

Parking lot where Pointe-à-Callière is currently located, prior to archaeological digs in about 1981.

**1900 TO 1967
MONTRÉAL, OPEN CITY**

**MONTRÉAL, CENTRE FOR
TRADE AND COMMERCE**

Arrival of Jews from Eastern Europe and of Italians.

Greater Montréal has nearly one million inhabitants—quite large for the time.

Montréal's economy is based primarily on exports from the hinterland (grain, ore, wood).

The 1930s marks a sudden end to decades of growth. Unemployment is high and soup kitchens abound.

Pre- and post-war Montréal is primarily an industrial city. The textile industry and clothing manufacturing remain the main source of employment until the 1990s.

The war is profitable for Montréal, whose economy enjoys unprecedented growth in the 1940s and 1950s.

Montréal becomes the centre of development for Canada's radio and television broadcasting industry.

1840 TO 1900
MONTRÉAL, CANADA'S ECONOMIC CENTRE

HISTORICAL PERIOD

The country undergoes significant economic growth in the 19th century.

The industrial revolution leads to modernization in many countries. Transformation from a primarily agrarian and artisanal society to a commercial and industrial one.

1844-1849: evidence of the city's importance, the former St. Anne's Market is converted into the Parliament of the United Province of Canada.

Migration of French-Canadians from the countryside to the cities. By 1865, French is once again the majority language in Montréal.

Montréal is primarily a working-class city. The lifestyle of workers contrasts starkly with the mostly English-speaking elite. French-Canadians are significantly disadvantaged economically.

1840 TO 1900
MONTRÉAL, CANADA'S ECONOMIC CENTRE

**BUILDINGS THAT SHAPED
 POINTE À CALLIÈRE'S HISTORY**

Royal Insurance Building (1861). The building is constructed in part on the foundations of the former warehouse, which had been demolished.

The insurance building has all the latest amenities of the time: central heating, toilets with running water, gas lighting.

Mintons ceramic tiles, very popular during the Victorian era, point to the building's prestige.



© Pointe-à-Callière / Coll. Montréal, métropole du Canada 1872-1898

The insurance company building later becomes the city's main customs house (1871).

1840 TO 1900
MONTRÉAL, CANADA'S ECONOMIC CENTRE

**MONTRÉAL, CENTRE FOR
 TRADE AND COMMERCE**

Diverse immigration: Irish, Jewish, Italian, Greek, Polish, Cantonese, and African-American.

Between 1842 and 1901, Montréal's population grows from 40,357 to 360,838 inhabitants.

Rapid development of the transportation network: Grand Trunk Railroad (1852), Victoria Bridge (1860), widening of the Lachine Canal (1873-1885), electric trams (1892).

Montréal expands rapidly and becomes the economic centre of the United Province of Canada.

Montréal is a large port and manufacturing city, and an important financial centre.

1760 TO 1840
MONTRÉAL, BRITISH CITY

HISTORICAL PERIOD

1760: Montréal surrenders.

 1763: Treaty of Paris, which officially cedes the territory to England.

 Important changes to the landscape: fortifications are demolished (1804), Nelson column (1809) and Notre-Dame cathedral (1829) built.

 Opening of the St. Anne's Market (1833) and construction of Canada's first collector sewer (1832-1838).

 Englishman John Molson founds the family's brewing empire (1786).

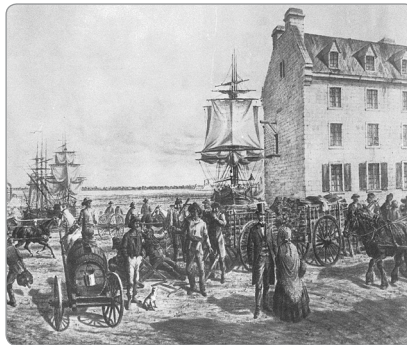
 City population becomes majority English speaking between 1831 and 1865.

1760 TO 1840
MONTRÉAL, BRITISH CITY

**BUILDINGS THAT SHAPED
 POINTE À CALLIÈRE'S HISTORY**

Buildings of the cooper Antoine Papineau occupy the site from 1799 to 1816. He builds a retaining wall around the property. The port begins to expand and the city is very active. Papineau runs an inn.

 The wealthy merchant Pierre Berthelet buys the property and builds a large L-shaped commercial building on it (circa 1830). The building is used as a store and warehouse for import/export goods.



© Musée McCord, MP-1983.31.44 | Photographie | Square de la Douane, Montréal, QC, 1830, Watercolor of John Henry Walker.

View of the Berthelet building from the square, circa 1846.

1760 TO 1840
MONTRÉAL, BRITISH CITY

**MONTRÉAL, CENTRE FOR
 TRADE AND COMMERCE**

English, Scottish, and Irish immigration.

 Import/export commerce with the United Kingdom.

 Goods once imported from France, such as household items, are now made in Britain. Raw materials such as sugar and tobacco come from English colonies in the Caribbean. Rum and whisky come from Scotland.

 The fur trade continues but is overtaken by the lumber trade. In 1810, three-quarters of Canadian exports consist of forestry products.

 Expansion of the Port of Montréal, opening of the Lachine Canal (1825) and construction of the Old Customs House (1838).



**1642 TO 1760
MONTRÉAL, FRENCH CITY**

HISTORICAL PERIOD

The Montréalistes seek to better their lives and dream of helping create a better world with the Indigenous peoples. Their idealist vision is soon confronted with reality!

Projectile points allude to Iroquois attacks and a climate of great uncertainty at the fort.

But other First Nations objects, such as pipes, remind us that the Montréalists live alongside their Huron and Algonquin allies, and learn how to better adapt to the region from them.



© Collection Pointe-à-Callière, 101.1742 /
Photo: Luc Bouvrette

**1642 TO 1760
MONTRÉAL, FRENCH CITY**

**BUILDINGS THAT SHAPED
POINTE À CALLIÈRE'S HISTORY**

Fort de Ville-Marie (1642).

First Catholic cemetery in Montréal (1643). The burial registry indicates that 38 people were buried in this cemetery: 26 French and 12 First Nations that had been baptized by missionaries.

A fence divided the cemetery into two sections: one for Europeans, and one for converted First Nations.

The registry shows that many died from Iroquois attacks and that infant mortality was high.

Mansion of Louis-Hector de Callière, governor of Montréal (1688) and later of New France. De Callière had the ground raised and leveled.

The mansion was destroyed by fire in 1765.

**1642 TO 1760
MONTRÉAL, FRENCH CITY**

**MONTRÉAL, CENTRE FOR
TRADE AND COMMERCE**

The fur trade starts in the very earliest days of New France. It is the foundation of the colony's economy.

Over time, Montréal becomes an increasingly essential stop and takes over as the centre of New France's fur trade. First peoples trade beaver pelts for various tools such as knives and axes, clothing, blankets, brass and copper pots, weapons, and glass beads.

In 1660, an annual fur trade fair is held, with temporary stores that serve as sales counters in this period. Until 1680, it is held on the other side of the Saint-Pierre River, with the point used to beach canoes and for First peoples encampments during the fair.

1701: The Great Peace of Montréal allows the French and Indigenous peoples to move about more freely. The agreement lets merchants extend their trade areas and access borders without danger.

BEFORE 1642
MONTRÉAL, FIRST NATIONS TERRITORY

HISTORICAL PERIOD

Around 1500, the St. Lawrence Iroquoians live in settlements in the St. Lawrence Lowlands, near the Great Lakes, and at Hochelaga.

Jacques Cartier visits Hochelaga on October 3, 1535. The village is not on the point but instead closer to Mount Royal.

Other than Cartier's account, little is known about the St. Lawrence Iroquoians and the village of Hochelaga, because they have mysteriously disappeared by the time Montréal is founded.

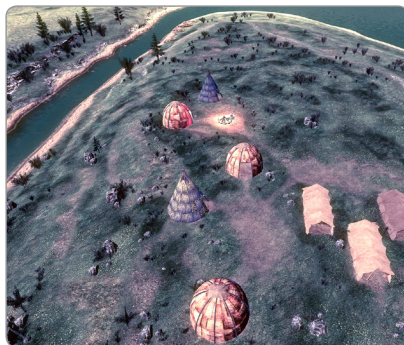
BEFORE 1642
MONTRÉAL, FIRST NATIONS TERRITORY

**BUILDINGS THAT SHAPED
POINTE À CALLIÈRE'S HISTORY**

First Nations encampments (the site was in use for over 650 years).

First Nations camped on the point. They left traces such as a firepit and the wood and bone debris in it. About 15 camp fires were also located.

The artifacts and ecofacts found tell us about their way of life: projectile points, shards of pottery, tools made of stone and bone, fish bones, and kernels of corn.



BEFORE 1642
MONTRÉAL, FIRST NATIONS TERRITORY

**MONTRÉAL, CENTRE FOR
TRADE AND COMMERCE**

Prior to 1642, the point is a perfect spot for First Nations to come ashore, set up camp, fish, hunt, and gather provisions for a few weeks before returning to their village. They come here in the spring and fall.

The site also serves to transship goods toward Trois-Rivières and Quebec City.

This river crossroads is likely also a site for trade with other First Nations.



Wampum beads, Luc Bouvrette, 2017

SOURCES

Tales of Montréal. Scenario for guided tours of the permanent exhibition of Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Archaeology and History Complex (April 2019).

Where Montréal Began. Scenario for guided tours of the permanent exhibition of Fort Ville-Marie and the Callière estate (2016).

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A point, a fort, a cemetery, p. 4


 © Pointe-à-Callière, Illustration: Bernard Méroule
 © Collection Pointe-à-Callière, 101.1742 / Photo: Luc Bouvrette

STUDENT WORKSHEETS ✦ SECONDARY

Tales of Montréal

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

Welcome to Pointe-à-Callière!

"Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Archaeology and History Complex, is the city's birthplace and classified as a heritage site of national importance."

Did you know that the museum is located on the exact spot where Montréal was founded, with the construction of Fort Ville-Marie?

During your visit, you will get a chance to walk over the fort's ruins, which date back over 375 years ago.

Why do you think Pointe-à-Callière is a recognized heritage site?

Answers will vary.

A Point, a Fort, a cemetery

The museum is located on a former **point of land**, just north of where a stream called the Saint-Pierre River emptied into the St. Lawrence River (to the south). In 1832, the stream was channelized, covered, and converted into a collector sewer. You will get a chance to walk through the sewer when you visit the museum.

Don't worry, it's been cleaned up!

With clear sightlines over two rivers, the point was a highly strategic location both for sailing and defence. In fact, though First Nations never built a village there, they had been using it as a stopover and temporary campsite long before the French arrived.

On the contrary, when Champlain came in 1611, he had cleared some land and sowed some seeds. He found the land quite fertile, which made it even more attractive as a potential settlement site.

On the night of December 24, 1642, the Saint-Pierre river overflowed its banks dramatically, threatening Fort Ville-Marie. Paul de Chomedey sieur de Maisonneuve prayed with the other settlers and promised God to take a cross up to Mount Royal if the flooding stopped. Just as the waters reached the gates to the fort, they began to recede. On January 6, 1643, Maisonneuve fulfilled his promise and erected a cross on Mount Royal. Its symbolic representation can still be seen today on the mountain. Because of repeated flooding, the settlement gradually moved to the other shore of the small river.

No.

Luckily, *Fortnite* did not exist in the 17th century!

Why did First Nations never build a village on the point?

HINT
The French would soon learn why, at their peril!

- The land on the point was not very fertile.
- It was a flood zone.
- It was a sacred First Nations ground.
- They feared attacks from the monster of Polar Peak.

Finding the birthplace of Montréal!, p. 6



POINTE-À-CALLIÈRE

+ SECONDARY
STUDENT WORKSHEETS

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

Finding the birthplace of Montréal!

Did you know that the exact location of the Fort was long a mystery? It was thought to be located near the cemetery, but no one knew its precise shape and dimensions. In the surviving 17th-century documents, there is no reliable illustration of the Fort, and only a few rare descriptions.

After 15 years of persistent excavations, archaeologists were at last able to find enough pieces of the puzzle to solve these mysteries. And Pointe-à-Callière was then able to reveal the secrets of Fort Ville-Marie, showcasing the **ruins** and displaying the **artifacts** and **ecofacts** that had been discovered.



© Pointe-à-Callière / Photo: Raphaël Thibodeau

WHO ARE WE?

We can be things like walls, foundations, post holes, wells, fireplaces, channelizations, graves, and debris.

ruins

We are human-made objects, such as sundials, terracotta pots, arrowheads, glass bottles, coins, iron nails, and tools.

artifacts

We are of natural origin, such as food remains, bones, teeth, charred wood, seeds, and fossils.

ecofacts

During the digs, archaeologists also found the ruins of the estate of Louis-Hector de Callière, governor of Montréal from 1684 to 1698 and the 13th governor of New France, from 1698 to 1703. In 1701, with the support of the Huron chief Kondiaronk, he was able to negotiate a lasting peace with 39 First Nations.

The **Great Peace** put an end to 100 years of wars that pitted the French and their Huron allies against the Iroquois and their English allies. The Iroquois, led by their chief Teganissorens, also agreed to remain neutral in conflicts between the French and the English.



© Ethnoscop

Examine the photo closely.
What do you think the holes in a line are?

- Small wells for storing food.
- Signs of a pet.
- Post holes from the first palisade.

Over time, wood rots away, but the post holes themselves can remain. Archaeologists search very carefully for this type of evidence.

City within a city, p. 8

✦ SECONDARY
STUDENT WORKSHEETS

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

QUIZ

Pointe-à-Callière was inaugurated in 1992.
It was founded to celebrate Montreal's 350^e anniversary.

Where was Fort Ville-Marie located?

On pointe à Callière, where the Pointe-à-Callière museum is located

What were the first Montrealers called?

Montréalistes

Name two things found in Montréal's first Catholic cemetery.

A skeleton and latrines

In what year was the Great Peace of Montréal signed by governor Louis-Hector de Callière, Huron chief Kondiaronk, and Iroquois chief Teganissorens?

1701

What was the name of the 19th-century building that inspired the architectural design of the museum's main pavilion?

The Royal Insurance Company building

What was the name of the first wastewater pumping station in Montréal to run on electricity?

The Youville Pumping Station

VIDEOS! A couple of visual summaries

1 Découverte (Radio-Canada) - Le fort de Ville-Marie (2009)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pnEWZnv37no>

After years of searching, a team from Université de Montréal and Pointe-à-Callière discovered archaeological evidence of the site where Montréal was founded.

2 Ville-Marie: Berceau des Montréalistes / The Cradle of Montreal (2017)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifr4AnBX-Ss>

Pointe-à-Callière project manager Élisabeth Côté talks about the day-to-day lives of the Montréalistes, the men and women who came from Europe to found Ville-Marie in 1642 on the Island of Montréal. Signs of this history have survived to this day, and Côté describes them in this video.

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