

## Sums, Difference and the Fur Trade

Subject: Mathematics  
Stand: Patterns and Relations

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Grade: 4

Content (topic)	
Exploring the Addition of Whole Numbers	
Outcomes	Indicators
<p><b>P 4.2:</b> Demonstrate an understanding of addition of whole numbers with answers to 10 000 and their corresponding subtractions (limited to 3 and 4-digit numerals) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using personal strategies for adding and subtracting</li> <li>• Estimating sums and differences</li> <li>• Solving problems involving addition and subtraction</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p><b>P 4.2c:</b> Estimate sums and differences using different strategies (front end estimation)</p> <p><b>P 4.2d:</b> Explain the strategies used to determine a sum or difference</p>
<p>Mathematical Processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connections</li> <li>• Problem Solving</li> <li>• Reasoning</li> <li>• Visualization</li> <li>• Communication</li> </ul>	
<p>Lesson Preparation</p> <p>Equipment/materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The invoice of some of the trading goods sent over from England 1706. (Appendix A)</li> <li>• A table that recorded some of the goods remaining from the previous year. (Appendix B)</li> </ul> <p>Advanced Preparation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photocopy enough copies of Appendices A, B and C for your students.</li> </ul>	
<p>Presentation</p> <p>Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain to students that the fur trade was one of the earliest and most important industries in North America and it played a role in developing North America. The fur trades started shortly after contact in 1500 between the First Nations people and Europeans. Aboriginal people traded furs for implements, cloth, weaponry and other supplies, which aided in the quality of their livelihood.</li> <li>• Soon after the European people began trading with the Aboriginal people, they realized their currency system was worthless and practical items would suit their lifestyle better. Therefore, beaver pelts soon became a currency, and items measured against the value of the beaver pelt. The Hudson Bay Company developed a system, which calculated</li> </ul>	

the number of beaver pelts required to purchase other goods.

- Hand out a copy of the two shipment tables from Fort Albany to all students.
- Provide students with the worksheet (Appendix C) or other questions, which will require them to solve problems involving addition and subtraction of two or more numbers.
- As a class, brainstorm a variety of different strategies used to determine a sum or a difference. Write each of these strategies down along with an example using the questions provided in the worksheet.

## Appendix A

*The text below is extracted from the Albany Fort America Journal of 1706. Fort Albany was a fur-trading post in northern Ontario at the mouth of the Albany River on James Bay. It was founded (before 1682) by the Hudson's Bay Company and was one of its earliest forts.*

The invoice of some of the trading goods sent over from England to Michael Grimington, commander of the Royal Hudson Bay.

5584 lbs powder	144 powder horns
20162 lbs shot	216 tobacco boxes
350 kettles	3456 pewter buttons
25 lbs black lead	72 pairs of shoes
100 lbs thread	3184 yard broadcloth
450 guns	271 yards baize
4000 flints	288 fire steels
24 bayonets	500 worms
2200 needles	3456 pewter buttons
72 pairs of shoes	

## Appendix B

*The text below is extracted from the Albany Fort America Journal of 1706. Fort Albany was a fur-trading post in northern Ontario, at the mouth of the Albany River on James Bay. It was founded (before 1682) by the Hudson's Bay Company and is one of its earliest forts.*

Some of the remaining trading goods from the previous year's account:

430 lbs powder	154 powder horns
8477 lbs shot	83 tobacco boxes
149 kettles	8108 pewter buttons
60 <sup>1/2</sup> lbs thread	12 pairs of shoes
78 guns	0 <sup>3/4</sup> yard broadcloth
1564 flints	50 yards baize
29 bayonets	691 worms
308 fire steels	700 pewter buttons
96 lbs lead	

## Appendix C Worksheet

1. According to the invoice, 72 pairs of shoes were ordered. Check the list of remaining items and calculate the total pairs of shoes.
2. After receiving the new shipment, the shopkeeper found that he had 83 pounds of black lead. How many pounds of black lead remained from the previous year's account?
3. 149 kettles were remaining from the previous year and 350 kettles were ordered. How many kettles are there in total?
4. According to the invoice, there were 3456 pewter buttons ordered. Check the list of the remaining trading items and calculate the total number of buttons.
5. After receiving the new shipment, the shopkeeper found that he had 278 needles. How many needles remained from the previous year's account?