**Social Studies Grade 8: March 2016**

Chapter 3: Making A Living in the 19th Century

Early immigrants depended on resources of the land and the sea. They were largely **self-sufficient**, providing most of what they needed for themselves, although there was always a reliance on **merchants** and **traders** for foodstuffs that could not be grown on the island.

**Consumer VS. Subsistence Economy**

**Consumer Economy:**

-It is the system that we have **today** (need banks)

-we pay money (credit card, debit, cash) for the items we need (groceries) or want

- think **C**onsumer = **C**ash

**Subsistence Economy:**

-when people make/grow/build most of what they need to live

- the area where you lived limited what you could do yourself

-think **S**ubsistence = **S**elf

**IMP**: Be able to tell how people took care of their needs in a subsistence and a consumer economy . You may need to fill in a chart. Also make sure you know what activities happened in what seasons from page 49. For example hauling wood was more of a winter activity and

**The Inshore Fishery: (pg 51)**

-happened near the shore

-men would make several trips each day in their dories out to the fishing grounds

-men used baited handlines

**Handline**: long lines with weighted bait hooks attached used to catch cod.

**Fish Flake**: a raised wooden platform that allowed air to move around the drying fish

**Curing**: the process of drying and salting the fish to preserve it.

**Why was curing fish so important?**

* the quality of the “cure” affected the grade the fish would be given. The grade, in turn, effected the price paid to the fisherman. Too little fish, flies would lay eggs in the fish and they would go “maggoty” and too much salt, the fish would turn yellow and crack.
* If there was a bad cure = low price, good cure = higher price

**Roles of Women:**

1. Women would help lay out fish to dry and salt it (cure the fish)
2. keep flies away
3. cover when wet/ raining
4. turn & dry evenly on both sides
5. use correct amount of salt for best results
6. tend the garden
7. tend vegetable garden
8. look after livestock
9. wash clothes/household chores
10. haul water for cooking/washing
11. cooking and meals

**Role of Children:**

1. shoo away flies and goats
2. bring mugs of tea to the adults
3. bring food to the men
4. take care of the younger children
5. young men would go out and fish
6. haul water

**Role of Men**: Besides fishing and heaving the fish on the wharf and then splitting them, men would also:

1. mend and repair fishing gear
2. fix boats
3. build fish flakes
4. hunted for animals
5. hauled wood for fuel/ resources

**Labrador Fishery (pg 52)**

-a migratory fishery conducted by non-residents of Labrador.

* every year thousands of NLers left in June to go fish the coast of Labrador and would come back home to the island in Sept.
* sometimes entire families went to the Labrador fishery. It was very difficult journey because:

1. women and children had to travel for a week in very small boats not meant to carry passengers,

2. they would also be filled with the fishing supplies needed for the season.

3. the weather coming home in late Sept/Oct could be dangerous

* Labrador residents welcomed the arrival of Newfoundlanders every spring and would often have a dance or a “time” when they arrived

There are 2 groups involved in the Labrador Fishery:

1. **stationers**:

- stayed on shore and dried their fish from one location.

**–** they only went as far as Cape Harrison

1. **floaters**:

-these fishermen stayed on their boats and travelled from one fishing ground along the coast to another.

- they would not stop to lay out the fish and dry it, so they would have to use a lot more salt to preserve the fish .

- they went as far as Cape Chidley

**Bank Fishery (pg 54):**

* refers to the Grand Banks, Rose Blanche Bank, and St. Pierre Bank where the fish gathered to spawn and feed
* this fishery used large vessels called “schooners”
* the schooners sailed out to the fishing Banks with smaller boats “dories” and a crew of men, when they arrived a 2 man crew got in the dories and left the schooner to fish by handlines with bait the way they do in the Inshore fishery. They would return to the schooner several times a day to get more bait and unload the catch.
* **Some of the dangers they faced:**

1. having to ride out gales and storm on the open sea

2. navigate through fog

3. dory could capsize easily

4. run down by other boats

5. stranded from the schooner

In the 1800’s the bank fishery caused lifestyle changes:

1. the season was extended , started earlier and ended later

Men: had less time to cut wood so families had to purchase coal for fuel

Women: less time for gardens & other food production because they were drying the fish, so families had to buy more food than they had before

MOVE FROM: self-sufficient ---------------------- consumer economy

**The Truck System**

**TRUCK SYSTEM (Definition):**the method of trade between fisherman and merchants that was a cashless system where no money was exchanged. The fisherman brought their season’s catch to the merchant. The fisherman received credit for goods available from the merchant (fishing gear, food, clothing)

**FISH GRADING:**

-Fish was valued by its grade. (7 different grades). The grade was determined by the ***culler*** who was appointed by the merchant. The higher the grade the higher the price.

**Lowest grade**- these fish went to the West Indies

**Highest grade**- these fish went to Spain, Portugal and Italy

**Negatives about the Truck System:**

1. prices for fish & goods available in the stores were set by the merchant, this meant the fishing families were in a difficult position because they could be easily exploited by the merchants. Sometimes they were overcharged foe goods in their stores.
2. often there was only one merchant in an outport community so the fisherman could not negotiate for a better price with a different merchant ( no competition). Sometimes they were paid unfair prices.
3. sometimes at the end of a bad season the fishing family would be in debt to the merchant (didn’t catch enough fish to pay for the fishing supplies). This began a cycle of debt that a family could carry for years.
4. Sometimes if the debt wasn’t paid off, the merchant would refuse further credit. This created hardship for the

**Positives about the Truck System**

1. some merchants were fair to fisherman by supporting families during bad years (saying they needed the profit of good years to balance out the supplying of food & goods when the fisherman didn’t make money). They provided credit even when fishers couldn’t pay them back.
2. the merchants faced financial risk because of the unsteady price the fish could bring in the marketplace and they could not recover the debts owed to them
3. supported the community & respected the men, trying to help them when they could

**SEALING INDUSTRY**

Two branches of the seal industry were:

1. *landsman’s hunt*- near the shore (like the inshore fishery)

2. *offshore hunt -* “the front”- off Labrador

- “the gulf”- Gulf of St. Lawrence(- much larger ships with crews)

\*OIL was the main profit item from seals, commercially it could be used in many items including: -lamps, machine lubricants, softening textiles, paint, explosives, margarine

At one time 84% of exports in Nl were from seal oil

Why was the seal fishery the most dangerous ?

1. the location of the seal herds (on foot on the icefloes)

2. the season of the hunt (Feb-March)

3. the method used to hunt the seals (gaff/towing)

What was the Southern Cross?

The *Southern Cross* was a sealing ship in NL during the 1900's. For many years it had been successful but in 1914 it was lost at sea. The ship was returning from the Gulf of St. Lawrence with a full load of seal pelts when it encountered a severe blizzard. There were 173 men aboard the ship. All were lost at sea. It is remembered as one of NL worst sealing disasters.

Gaff- long iron tipped pole used to kill seals

Sculping- the practice of removing the pelt with a thick layer of white fat still attached.

Skinner- parson who removed the fat from the skin, they could do 450 seals in 10 hrs.

**Shipbuilding & Michael Kearney (Page 63-65)**

- the primary (first) method of transportation in NL was the boat/ship, often men built their own

-the availability of timber was a factor in deciding where a community settled and grew

-as demand grew shipbuilding became an industry (consumer) more than what people did for their own use (subsistence)

-Michael Kearney may have been NL’s greatest shipbuilder, we can’t be sure because there is no accurate count of how many ships he helped construct.

-He learned to build ships in England & Ireland as a young man. He returned to his family and their love of the sea His two brothers were both sea captains.

-Kearney’s talents included sailor, sail making and being a shipwright. His ships were known for their strength, speed & beauty

-Kearney was also a well-respected citizen who was elected to the House of Assembly in 1865

**Other Occupations**

There were other jobs outside of the fishery as Newfoundland moved into the 1900s. They included teaching, mechanics, lawyers, doctors, factory workers. Men moved away from the fishery and into mining, forestry and the construction of roads and buildings.