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THE NATIONAL ATLAS OF CANADA 5th EDITION

CANADA

EXPLORATION 1651-1760

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Scale 1:7 500 000 or 1 centimetre represents 75 kilometres

75 0 75 150 225 300 375 450
kilometres kilometres

Lambert Conformal Conic Projection, Standard Parallels at 49°N and 77°N.
Modified Polyconic Projection, North of Latitude 80°.

SPONSORING COUNTRY OF EXPLORATORY JOURNEY

F France E England R Russia

MOTIVES FOR EXPLORATION

D	Diplomatic mission	RO	Overland route to Hudson Bay
F	Fur trade expansion	NA	Northwest passage to Asia
M	Military expedition	Re	Survey for resources, settlement and mapping
Mi	Missionary activity	T	Staking territorial claims
Mn	Mining exploration	PA	Western passage to Asia

TYPE OF INFORMATION

Br	Brief record	Lr	Longer record
Cr	Cartographic record	C	Conjectural route

JOURNEYS OF EXPLORATION 1651 - 1760

Date	Explorer	Motives for Exploration	Sponsoring Country	Type of Information

THE GREAT LAKES BASIN 1651 - 1670

THE IROQUOIS COUNTRY

1654	Le Moyne	Mi D	F	Lr
1656	Chaumont, Ménard	Mi	F	Br C
1656	Chaumont	Mi	F	Br C

THE GREAT LAKES

1654-56	Des Groseilliers	F	F	Lr C
1659-60	Des Groseilliers, Radisson	F	F	Lr C
1665-67	Allouez	Mi	F	Lr Cr
1669	Allouez	Mi	F	Lr Cr
1669	Perè, A. Jolliet	Mn	F	Br C
1669-70	A. Jolliet; Dollier, Galinée	Mn Mi PA T	F	Lr Cr

PROBING THE RIVERS ON THE NORTH SHORE OF THE ST. LAWRENCE

1651	Buteux, Godefroy	Mi F	F	Lr C
1661	Dablon, Druillettes	Mi RO	F	Lr
1663	Couture, Duquet, Langlois	RO F	F	Br C
1664	Nouvel, Amiot	Mi F	F	Lr

HUDSON BAY AND ACROSS THE DIVIDE FROM THE GREAT LAKES TOWARD THE NORTH AND SOUTHWEST 1671 - 1690

FAMILIARIZATION WITH INADEQUATELY KNOWN AREAS

IN HUDSON BAY AND JAMES BAY

1668-90	Gillam, Des Groseilliers	F T	E	Br C
1670	Bayly, Radisson	F T	E	Br C
1671	Bayly, Radisson	F	E	Br C
1674	Bayly	F	E	Br C
1686	Grimington, Abraham	F	E	Br C
1688-89	Kelsey	F	E	Br C
1689	Kelsey	F	E	Br C

EXPLORATION OF THE RIVERS TO JAMES BAY

1671-72	Albanel, Denys	RO Mi F T	F	Lr
1679	L. Jolliet	F RO T	F	Br Cr
1683-84	Duluhut	F RO D	F	Br Cr C
1684	Perè	RO F	F	Br Cr
1686	De Troyes	M RO T F	F	Lr Cr

EXPLORATION WEST AND SOUTHWEST BEYOND THE GREAT LAKES

1673	L. Jolliet, Marquette	PA Mi T	F	Lr Cr
1675	Nouvel	Mi	F	Br C
1678-79	Duluhut	F D T	F	Br C
1679	La Salle	M F T	F	Lr
1679	Tonty	M F T	F	Lr
1680	La Salle	F	E	Br C
1680	Accault, Auguel, Hennepin	PA F	F	Lr Cr
1680	Duluhut	F D	F	Br
1688	De Noyon	F PA	F	Br C

FRENCH EXPLORATION IN ABEYANCE 1691-1729

EXPLORATION OF THE MISSOURI AND MISSISSIPPI FROM THE SOUTH

1700-1701	Le Sueur	F Re Mn	F	Lr Cr
1714	Bourgmont	PA F D Mn	F	Lr

EARLY PROBES INTO THE WESTERN INTERIOR

1690-92	Kelsey	F D	E	Lr C
1715-16	Stuart	F D Mn	E	Br C

EXPLORATION OF THE MAUMEE-WABASH ROUTE

1696-1704	De Vincennes	F D	F	Br C

PROBES ALONG THE WEST COAST OF HUDSON BAY AND ALONG THE LABRADOR COAST

1694	L. Jolliet	Re F	F	Lr Cr
1704	De Courtemanche	F	F	Br C
1719	Kelsey	Mn F	E	Br C
1722	Scroggs, Norton	Mn NA	E	Br C

THE SEARCH FOR A WESTERN AND NORTHWEST PASSAGE RENEWED 1730 - 1760

THE WESTERN INTERIOR

1731-32	La Jemeraie, J.-B. La Vérendrye	PA F T	F	Br Cr
1732	P. La Vérendrye (father)	PA F T	F	Lr Cr
1733	La Jemeraie, J.-B. La Vérendrye	PA F	F	Br Cr
1734	J.-B. La Vérendrye	PA F T	F	Br Cr
1736	La Vérendrye (two sons)	F	F	Br Cr
1736	P. La Vérendrye (father)	PA F T	F	Lr Cr
1739-40	L.-J. La Vérendrye	PA F T	F	Br Cr C
1739	Mallet	PA D Mn F	F	Lr C
1741	P. La Vérendrye (son)	PA F	F	Br C
1742-43	L.-J. La Vérendrye, F. La Vérendrye	PA T	F	Lr C
1751	De Niverville	PA F T	F	Br C
1754-55	Henday	F D PA	E	Lr
1756-57	Smith, Waggoner	F D	E	Br C

EXPLORATION OF THE OHIO

1739	Le Moyne, Céleron	M	F	Lr Cr
1749	Céleron, Bonnécamps	T M D	F	Lr Cr

THE SEARCH FOR A NORTHWEST PASSAGE AND EXPLORATION OF THE EASTMAIN

1742	Middleton	PA Re	E	Lr Cr
1744	Mitchell, Longland	Re F Mn	E	Lr Cr
1747	Moor, Smith	NA Re	E	Lr Cr
1749	Coats	Re Mn F	E	Lr Cr

EARLY PROBES ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST

1741	Bering	Re T	R	Lr Cr
1741	Chirikov	Re T	R	Br Cr

EXPLORATION OF CANADA 1651-1760

This map depicts the extent of exploration that took place in Canada during the second half of the seventeenth century and the first half of the eighteenth century. The selection of explorers was based on the availability of written and cartographic records. Only those routes which revealed new geographic information are shown.

Exploration during the first half of the seventeenth century came to an abrupt halt during the Iroquois wars (1646-1653). The French-native fur trade was disrupted, the Jesuit missions in the interior were abandoned, and the native groups of the lower Great Lakes were either destroyed, dispersed or absorbed by the victorious Iroquois.

Between 1654 and 1658 a peace with the western Iroquois permitted French explorers to re-enter the lakes and rivers west of Montréal. For most of the remainder of the century, exploration can be divided into two periods. During the first period, the Iroquois country, the lower reaches of some of the major rivers flowing from the north to the St. Lawrence, and the Great Lakes except southern Lake Michigan, became better known. Except for a few trader's agents, missionaries were the principal explorers. The second period was initiated by the re-emergence of the English on James Bay (1668-69) and the return of the intendant Jean Talon (1670) to New France. In order to keep out the English and promote the native fur trade to Montréal, Talon ordered a series of exploring expeditions. In 1681, the French Crown finally legalized the travel of French traders into the lands west of Montréal through a permit (congé) system. Men poured into the interior, consolidating and expanding the geographical knowledge gained during the previous thirty years. The period came to an end in the 1690s when the Crown ordered the closure of most of the interior posts and the return of Frenchmen to the St. Lawrence colonies.

The first half of the eighteenth century can be divided into two major periods. The first was a period of relative inactivity except for some important journeys out of Louisiana to explore the Mississippi and its tributaries, and some forays on Hudson Bay conducted or ordered by Henry Kelsey. The second period was dominated by the rapid thrust of French exploration into the western interior of Canada, followed by British reactions to French competition shortly before the end of the French régime, and the renewed British search for a northwest passage. To the south, French military expeditions explored and mapped the Ohio River, while on the Pacific coast, the first Russian probes reached the Aleutian Islands and the Alaskan mainland.

The geographical names used on this map respect forms in common use circa 1740. Many variants in toponymic form are common in the sources available.

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Cartography by the Geographical Services Division, Canada Centre for Mapping, Energy, Mines and Resources Canada.

SPONSORING COUNTRY OF EXPLORATORY JOURNEY

France
England
Russia

EXTENT OF TERRITORY KNOWN TO EUROPEANS

Explored by 1651
Explored between 1651 and 1760
Areas known through native accounts by 1760
Areas unknown to Europeans

EUROPEAN SETTLEMENTS

French
English

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