

Reasons for Trading

Indigenous peoples adopted items of European manufacture because the technology often was convenient. For example, flintlock muskets, iron axes and knives and brass kettles were considered more efficient than the bows and arrows, stone tools and birchbark baskets they replaced.

Trade goods, however, were not limited to practical objects. A pipe of tobacco may not have made a trapper more efficient, but it did make him more serene. Similarly, Indigenous women could have tied back their hair with strips of skin, as had their ancestors for countless generations, but they found a brightly coloured ribbon offered by the Europeans attractive.

For Europeans, their purpose for trading was to gain valuable furs. During periods of contact, some Europeans, like the voyageurs, adopted Indigenous technologies and clothing as well. This includes, for example, moccasins, types of buckskin clothing and snowshoes.

(excerpt from [Trade Goods of the Fur Trade](#), Canadian Encyclopedia)

	First Peoples	Europeans
Why did they want to trade?		
What goods they get?		
What new knowledge did they get?		