

**Fort Chambly Elementary School Program “Defending History”
In-class Preparatory Activity**

Information for teachers

Prepare your students for their visit by listening to an original song composed especially for the school program “Defending History.” The song tells the story of a young French man who enrolls in France as a soldier in the *troupes de la Marine*. After conducting his service at Fort Chambly, he decides to settle in New France. The artefacts he leaves behind help us understand the way he lived.

Each verse of the song corresponds to an activity offered during the visit. The table on pages 2 and 3 summarizes the connections between these activities and the verses, as well as explanatory notes written by the composers of the song, namely [Corsaire](#).

The proposed activity is focused on learning French words related to the history of Fort Chambly. The main objectives of this in-class activity are to: 1) trigger students’ interest about Fort Chambly and; 2) familiarize them with the fort and relevant vocabulary.

The duration of the activity is approximately 45 minutes. The following sequence of events is proposed:

1. Play the song for the students to hear.
2. Distribute the lyrics sheet (page 4) to the students and play the song again. Students read the lyrics while listening to the song.
3. Students gather in teams of 2 or 3 to complete the activity (page 5).
4. Correction of the activity. Answers are provided on page 3.
5. Have the students learn a chorus!

You will need:

- Dictionaries (the lyrics are in French)
- Internet access to listen to or to download the song from the following site:
www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/qc/fortchambly/activ/edu
- Speakers
- Printer and paper (2 pages per team of 2 or 3 students)

Suggestion for a follow-up activity

Should time and inspiration permit, students are invited to compose their own verse or chorus to the melody of the Fort Chambly song. To develop this activity further, partner up with your school’s music teacher. Scores can be downloaded from the above-cited website.

THANK YOU!

Table 1. Links between the Activities offered and the Fort Chambly Song

Title and Description of Activities	Lyrics	Explanatory Notes from Corsaire
<p>Introduction to the fort Walk around the fort to admire the river and the stone construction. Why were 4 forts built at this location? Learn secrets about the architecture of the stone fort.</p>	<p>Verse 1 À cheval ou en canot Suivre la piste du castor Jusqu'au bord de la rivière Et du bassin aux rapides Au-delà les Iroquois Et un beau p'tit coin d'pays Une haute palissade Et un poste qu'il faut garnir</p>	<p>Beavers represent the main economic driver in New France, as well as the logo of Parks Canada.</p> <p>The fort is located next to a river and a series of rapids, beyond which live Iroquois People.</p>
<p>In the service of the King Allow yourself to be enrolled by a persuasive recruiting sergeant. What does the soldier's uniform reveal about the <i>troupes de la Marine (troops of the Navy)</i>?</p>	<p>Verse 2 La cocarde à mon chapeau Dit : Représentant du roi Au-delà de la grande mer <i>Per mare et terras</i> Le tambour bat l'assemblée Mon pays j'ai dû quitter Pour quelques arpents de neige Une épée comme privilège</p>	<p>A young soldier leaves France to serve his King in New France. A uniform and a sword are handed to him. <i>Per mare et terras</i> is the latin moto of the troupes de la Marine.</p>
<p>Smuggling, Outsmart the Exhibit Play an interactive game about smuggling between Montréal and Albany in the 18th century. Choose your assets wisely and try to outsmart the soldiers of Fort Chambly.</p>	<p>Verse 3 Tout en haut dans l'échauguette Je vois Jean qui en raquettes S'occupe de la surveillance De Chambly à Albany Qui guette la contrebande Des produits dans la colonie Contre les peaux des étoffes Qu'autrement on ne peut s'offrir</p>	<p>This verse underlies smuggling activities between merchants from New France and British colonies. Fort Chambly soldiers were searching for smugglers between Montréal and Albany.</p>
<p>Settling in New France Clear up and develop a <i>censive</i> (tract of land). Compare the trades of the 1750s to those of today. Help a <i>seigneur</i> develop his <i>seigneurie</i>.</p>	<p>Verse 4 Les fusils sont déchargés La fumée sort des cheminées Je troque ma meurtrière Pour la quiétude d'une chaumière À la suite de mon service Une terre à défricher Une femme à épouser Une famille à fonder</p>	<p>Once a soldier's service is over, the King offers to his faithful veterans a tract of land, a cow, a musket, and the possibility to marry and start a family in the colony.</p>

Title and Description of Activities	Lyrics	Explanatory Notes from Corsaire
<p>Archaeology: The past under our feet Manipulate and observe artefacts left behind by different groups of humans who lived or used this site a long time ago. What do those objects tell us about them?</p>	<p>Verse 5 Et quand on sonde la terre En fouille archéologique Des boutons des clous des fers Pointes de flèche, pierres à fusil Nous témoignent d'un quotidien Et du destin préservé Dion conserve les artefacts Sous terre, l'histoire est intacte</p>	<p>Archaeological digs provide valuable information to better understand how people of the past lived where they did. The verse refers to Mr Joseph-Octave Dion, first curator of Fort Chambly.</p>

ANSWERS

1. **Translate into English** some words from the song.
2. Find the **letter** of the corresponding definition or clue.

WORDS FROM THE SONG	1. TRANSLATION	2. LETTERS
raquettes	snowshoes	E
palissade	stockade	L
castor	beaver	A
cocarde	cockade	D
éttoffe	fabric	N
rapides	rapids	I
Louis	Louis	G
tambour	drum	C
épée	sword	H
artefacts	artefacts	B
meurtrière	loophole	Q
<i>Per mare et terras</i>	<i>Per mare et terras</i>	R
arpents	acres	N
boutons + clous	buttons and nails	K
échauguette	watch tower	J
contrebande	smuggling	P
colonie	colony	F
chaumière	cottage	O

**LYRICS OF FORT CHAMBLY SONG
BY CORSAIRE**

Verse 1

À cheval ou en canot
Suivre la piste du castor
Jusqu'au bord de la rivière
Et du bassin aux rapides

Au-delà les Iroquois
Et un beau p'tit coin d'pays
Une haute palissade
Et un poste qu'il faut garnir

Fort de paix comme fort de guerre
Glorieux fort Chambly
Je vois à travers une meurtrière
La cour du roi Louis

Verse 2

La cocarde à mon chapeau
Dit : Représentant du roi
Au-delà de la grande mer
Per mare et terras

Le tambour bat l'assemblée
Mon pays j'ai dû quitter
Pour quelques arpents de neige
Une épée comme privilège

Fort de paix comme fort de guerre
Glorieux fort Chambly
Je vois à travers une meurtrière
Une lueur dans la nuit

Verse 3

Tout en haut dans l'échauguette
Je vois Jean qui en raquettes
S'occupe de la surveillance
De Chambly à Albany

Qui guette la contrebande
Des produits dans la colonie
Contre les peaux des étoffes
Qu'autrement on ne peut s'offrir

Fort de paix comme fort de guerre
Glorieux fort Chambly
Je vois à travers une meurtrière
Défiler toute ma vie

Verse 4

Les fusils sont déchargés
La fumée sort des cheminées
Je troque ma meurtrière
Pour la quiétude d'une chaumière

À la suite de mon service
Une terre à défricher
Une femme à épouser
Une famille à fonder

Fort de paix comme fort de guerre
Glorieux fort Chambly
Je vois à travers une meurtrière
L'avenir qui me sourit

Verse 5

Et quand on sonde la terre
En fouille archéologique
Des boutons des clous des fers
Pointes de flèche, pierres à fusil

Nous témoignent d'un quotidien
Et du destin préservé
Dion conserve les artefacts
Sous terre, l'histoire est intacte

Fort de paix comme fort de guerre
Glorieux fort Chambly
*Par la fenêtre de ma chaumière
Les murs du fort Chambly*

1. **Translate into English** some words from the song.
2. Find the **letter** of the corresponding definition or clue.

Words from the Song	1. Translation	2. Letters	Definitions or Clues
raquettes			<p>A. A valuable animal because of its fur.</p> <p>B. Man-made objects.</p> <p>C. A very important musical instrument in a soldier's daily life.</p> <p>D. Decoration on a military hat.</p> <p>E. Very helpful for traveling on snow.</p> <p>F. A territory administered by another country.</p> <p>G. Name of the King who ordered the construction of 4 forts in Chambly.</p> <p>H. Symbolic piece of equipment on a soldier's uniform.</p> <p>I. Fast-moving white water.</p> <p>J. Small overhanging tower on the wall or at the corner of a fortification.</p> <p>K. The most common artefacts found during the archaeological digs in Fort Chambly.</p> <p>L. Defense system made out of a series of wooden posts.</p> <p>M. Produced by weaving or knitting textile fibers.</p> <p>N. A historical unit of measure corresponding to approximately 58 meters.</p> <p>O. Small country home often equipped with a roof made out of straw.</p> <p>P. To move goods illegally into or out of a country.</p> <p>Q. Thin opening in a fortification wall through which to fire muskets.</p> <p>R. Latin motto of the <i>troupe de la Marine</i> soldiers meaning "By sea and by land."</p>
palissade			
castor			
cocarde			
étoffe			
rapides			
Louis	Louis		
tambour			
épée			
artefacts			
meurtrière			
<i>Per mare et terras</i>	<i>Per mare et terras</i>		
arpents			
boutons + clous			
échauguette			
contrebande			
colonie			
chaumière			