FORT ORANGE Student worksheet

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INSTRUCTIONS:

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FORT ORANGE – LESSON 2 WORKSHEET Trade at Fort Orange

SETTING THE STAGE: Making Observations – Compare and Contrast

Observe these two paintings illustrating early Dutch settlements along the Hudson River.



Castle Island, 1645 by Len Tantillo



The Trading House, by Len Tantillo

1. Using your observations of the two paintings, describe what the beginning of Dutch presence in North America was like.

FORT ORANGE LESSON 2 ANSWER KEY (1)

ACTIVITY 1: Assessment of Featured Trade Items



2. Pick one of the trade items above and learn more about it using the description from *Before Albany*. Imagine you are in need of a beaver pelt to make a coat for the upcoming winter. Would your item be a fair trade? Why or why not?



FORT ORANGE LESSON 2 ANSWER KEY (2)

ACTIVITY 2: Documenting the Trade Exchange

This *Official Inventory of Peiter Pietersz Wijncoop's Pelts* is an example of an accounting system and inventory of beaver furs and shows the ways the pelts were assigned a quality level.



TRANSLATION:

Official Inventory of Pieter Pietersz Wijncoop's Pelts On this date, the 3rd of July, 1646, the [] members [of the court] of this colony [of Rensselaerswijck], have tallied the beaver [pelts] in [Wijncoop's] possession, and [packed them into] trunks [and] nailed [the trunks shut]. [What] we found [is] as follows:

Summer [beaver] pelts	11 items	
Inferior [beaver] pelts	29	
Good, whole [beaver pelts]	103	
Half [beaver pelts]	50	
Pieces [of beaver pelts]	14	
Otter [pelts]	20	
	In total:	227 items

In addition, Wijncoop will show his accounts to us this coming Thursday or Friday, [so we can see] what still remains, and act further in the interests of our masters.

In the name of all, A. de Hooges

3. What did the Dutch gain from trade with the Mohawks and Mohicans, and what system was developed as a result?



4. Imagine you are one of the first Europeans to arrive at the site of Fort Orange. Write a persuasive letter or create an advertisement encouraging people to come to the area and build the fort for trade with the Native Americans. Be sure to include information about the items Native Americans prefer in trade and the abundance of resources.