



# FORT CHAMBLY

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA



## Educational Toolkit



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Illustration : C. Courcy

To help you get the most out of your field trip, we have prepared this instructional toolkit for you to use in the classroom. The toolkit covers several activities serving to acquaint Elementary Cycle Two and Three pupils with Canadian Society in New France around 1745.

These activities, which can be used to prepare pupils ahead of their visit or as part of projects once they are back in the classroom, bring into play various competencies such as observation, logical inference, argumentation, analysis and reflective thinking.

We hope these activities will provide your students with a series of learning opportunities that are as fun as they are rewarding.

The Guide-Interpreter Team



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Illustration : C. Courcy

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# Timeline

Below is a brief chronology outlining important events in the site's history since 1609, the year Samuel de Champlain went up the **Rivière des Iroquois**, today called Richelieu River. This date stands out from the others, because the expedition led by Champlain against the Iroquois was to have serious consequences for Canada, as it ultimately led on to a century of war.

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## 1665

Some 1200 soldiers of the Carignan-Salières Regiment arrived in New France. Their mission was to put an end to the war against the Iroquois. Construction of Fort Saint-Louis was begun by Jacques de Chambly at the foot of the **Rivière des Iroquois** rapids.

## 1667

A peace treaty was signed between the French and the Iroquois.

## 1668

Most of the soldiers in the Regiment Carignan-Salières went back to France. The other soldiers (400) settled in New France.

## 1672

Jacques de Chambly received a seigneurie, or estate, and in turn granted lands from it to some 10 habitants, or peasant settlers, who occupied land around the Chambly basin.

## 1683

A new war erupted between the French and the Iroquois.

## 1685

Soldiers from the Compagnies franches de la Marine arrived in Chambly.

## 1687-1693

Fort Saint-Louis was rebuilt.

## 1701

The Great Peace of Montreal was signed between the French and 38 Aboriginal nations.

## 1702

Fort Saint-Louis was destroyed by accidental fire. A third wooden fort was built on the same location.

## 1709

The wooden fort was replaced by a stone structure completed in 1711. It was christened "Fort

Pontchartrain" in honour of the French Minister of the Marine – i.e., the Minister responsible for colonial affairs and naval administration.

## 1720

Alterations were made to the stone fort to improve its defence capacity.

## 1760

On September 1, at the close of the **Seven Years' War**, Fort Chambly surrendered to the British. On September 8th, the Governor of New France signed the **terms of capitulation**, thereby relinquishing control of the colony. The British thereupon occupied the fort.

## 1775

Fort Chambly was taken by rebel troops during the American Revolution.

## 1776

The British took back the fort from the Americans.

## 1812

War broke out between England and the United States. A British military camp was established in the vicinity of the fort.

## 1869

The Chambly military camp was closed down.

## 1886-1916

Joseph-Octave Dion, a reporter as well as a resident of the town of Chambly, first began conservation work at Fort Chambly.

## 1967-1978

Numerous archaeological digs were conducted and supervised by Parks Canada.

## 1980-1983

The fort was restored in line with a plan dating from 1750. Work was completed building an interpretation centre focussing on the subject of Chambly during the French Regime, 1665-1760.



# The Grand Boulevards of New France

For Aboriginal peoples, a river was first and foremost a “road that walks”. It was certainly the quickest means of travelling great distances in heavily forested lands.

In New France, a vast territory crisscrossed with rivers, there were very few overland roads worthy of the name. One of the oldest, the Chemin de Chambly, was begun in 1665 by the King’s soldiers.

Thanks to the Chemin de Chambly, it took only four good hours to walk from Fort Chambly to Longueuil! Despite being given the name of chemin, the road was actually just a modest path through the woods. It was certainly not the kind of thoroughfare that would allow the French to travel to the furthest reaches of the New World!

In 1608, Samuel de Champlain crossed the Atlantic Ocean in a tall-masted ship and sailed up the biggest aquatic boulevard in Canada – the St. Lawrence River. At one point, the river becomes narrower and shallower. Unable to navigate any further with such a big vessel, Champlain put ashore and founded Quebec City.

The following year, Champlain used smaller vessels to pursue his explorations. He was travelling

by canoe when he reached the mouth of another boulevard – the Richelieu River. Champlain explored it until reaching its source, where he discovered an immense lake that he named after himself.

This almost unending river network allowed the French to make their way into the heart of the continent. For instance, the colony of Louisiana, was explored starting from Great Lakes and then down the Mississippi, a majestic river named “father of the waters” by the Aboriginal peoples.

However, in 1760 things went badly for the French. During the **Seven Years’ War**, the British invaded Canada. The English flotilla reached Montreal via the following boulevards: Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River, the Hudson River, Lake Champlain and the Richelieu River.

Thus the boulevards represented by North America’s network of waterways paved the way to both the glory and the downfall of New France!



# Exercise 1

## Navigating French America



**A) Locate the Grands Boulevards of New France : Mark the numbers corresponding with their names (below) in the circles on the map.**

- |                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Lake Ontario    | 2. St. Lawrence River |
| 3. Richelieu River | 4. Lake Champlain     |
| 5. Hudson River    |                       |

**B) Write the name of the waterway on which Fort Chambly is located.**

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Illustration : C. Courcy

## Did you know that...

Circa 1750, New France was inhabited by approximately 60 000 settlers, whereas the British colonies already numbered more than one million in habitants!

# Private Jean-Baptiste Lefort "dit Laforest" writes to his Mother



Chambly, September 22, 1752

Dear Mother,

I am very happy to send this letter today. My captain, Jacques Pierre Daneau de Muy has been kind enough to write it for me, because as you know, like most of my fellow soldiers, I never learned to read or write.

I received news from you on the last ship from France. I am glad to hear that you are in good health and to hear news of all my loved ones. I am very well myself, despite the difficult winter we had. It even snowed in early April. The climate here is very different from the mild weather in sweet France. I miss you, dear mother, and my friends and the beautiful town of La Rochelle where I was born in 1732.

It seems so long ago now that I enlisted. I remember my meeting with the Captain at the inn on October 15, 1748. I was so impressed by his smart grey and blue uniform, his hat and his weapons. I told myself that I could be wearing a uniform just like his. When I signed up to become a soldier, I was only just old enough to join Compagnie franche de la Marine.

The Atlantic crossing took us a month and a half. What impressed me the most was arriving in Québec City at the beginning of the summer. What a magnificent town! From atop Cap Diamant, her fortified walls remind me of a town in Old France.

I am garrisoned at Fort Chambly. I receive the sum of 9 livres every month. I'm trying to save some money so that I can settle here when my period of enlistment ends in 1754.

Captain de Muy, who is also a seigneur, has promised me a tract of his land. I think that he would very much like to have me as one of his tenants. I also have another reason for wanting to stay on in New France – I've met a young girl from Chambly named Marie, the daughter of Jean Bessette. I know you would like her. This land is in great need of men like myself and I am inclined to stay. I hope you and all the family are well and I look forward to receiving news from you on the next ship.

J. Baptiste Lefort.

Your loving son,



## Exercise 2

### Questions about the letter written by Private Jean-Baptiste Le Fort dit Laforest to his mother.

Answer the following questions after reading Jean-Baptiste's letter:

**Circle the correct answer:**

1. Jean-Baptiste Le Fort dit Laforest never learned to read and write. TRUE FALSE
2. Jean-Baptiste was born in the city called La Rochelle. TRUE FALSE
3. It took Jean-Baptiste 10 weeks to cross the ocean. TRUE FALSE
4. What means of transportation did Jean-Baptiste use to come to New France?  
STEAMBOAT TALL-MASTED SHIP CANOE
5. What was the name of the city in New France where Jean-Baptiste landed?  
CHAMBLY QUEBEC CITY TROIS-RIVIÈRES



Illustration : C. Courcy

### Did you know?

The word "soldier" comes from "solde", a French word still used to refer to a soldier's pay.

**Write in the correct answer:**

6. When Jean-Baptiste enrolled in October 1748, he met the age requirement for soldiers. How old was he at the time? (A mathematical operation will provide you with the answer.)  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. A *solde* was the pay a soldier received. Today in Canada, the monetary unit is the dollar. In Jean-Baptiste's time, it was the *livre*. Calculate the *solde* that Jean-Baptiste received for a whole year:  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. A soldier would enrol in the Compagnies franches de la Marine for a period of several years. What was the length of Jean-Baptiste's contract? (A mathematical operation will provide you with the answer.)  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Jean-Baptiste wrote to tell his mother that he would like to stay in New France once his contract had ended.  
Name four lines of work he could pursue to make a living:

1- \_\_\_\_\_ 2- \_\_\_\_\_

3- \_\_\_\_\_ 4- \_\_\_\_\_



# Archaeologists: Detectives who investigate times gone by

Buried objects provide archaeologists many of the clues with which they are able to partially reconstruct human activities of the past. An archaeological dig involves conducting an investigation in time. An archaeologist is a kind of detective who aims to reconstruct the lives of people who inhabited a particular place a long long time ago.

To be an archaeologist, it takes patience and extreme care, a keen sense of observation, and curiosity. Like a detective, an archaeologist asks questions and looks for answers. All in all, archaeology amounts to conducting a full inquiry into whatever information may be gotten out of the ground.

During the dig, archaeologists carefully gather all the clues that were previously concealed in the earth and that they have brought to light. In general, old objects are buried more deeply than newer ones.

Once the dig has ended, archaeologists bring the **artifacts** and **ecofacts** to the laboratory, where they are cleaned, sorted and classified. Next, as though an investigation were under way, these objects are used as “evidence” with which reconstitute a portion of the history of the excavated site.



*Fort Chambly during the archeological digs, between 1976 and 1978.*



## Would you make a good Archaeologist?

The objects uncovered by archaeologists often consist of materials that keep for a long time in the ground, such as glass or earthenware. In contrast, objects made of leather or wood deteriorate rapidly because of the damp and humidity.

**A) On the following list of "Artifacts", circle the ones that could be found during an archaeological dig several centuries from now.**

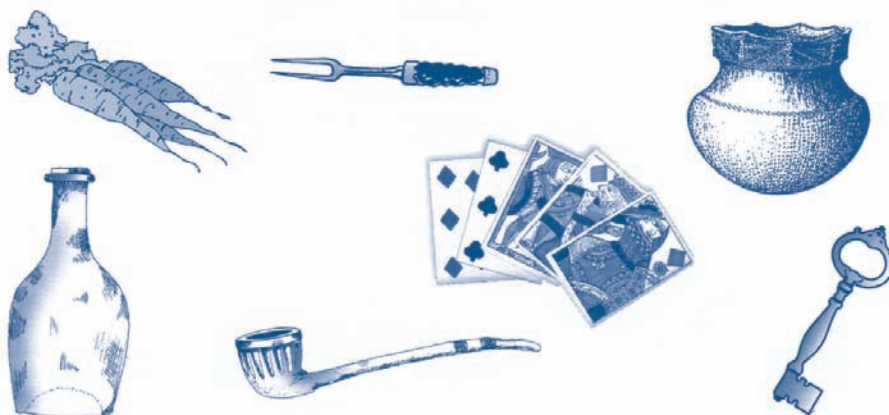


Illustration : C. Courcy

### Did you know that?

which you find an artifact. The ground under our feet is made up of many layers of soil. Whenever an **artifact** is found in one particular layer of soil or another, you can tell which historical period it belongs to.

To date the finds of archaeological dig, you need to take into account the depth at

**B) Read the following questions and circle the correct answer. More than one choice is possible.**

**1- You found a black bear's thigh-bone. What does this mean?**

- a) A soldier hunted a black bear;
- b) There was a circus near Fort Chambly;
- c) There used to be black bears in the Fort Chambly area;
- d) All of the above.

**2- You found fragments of an earthenware plate. What can you deduce from this ?**

- a) The soldiers ate on earthenware plates;
- b) The soldiers had dishware designed for table use;
- c) Neither of the above.

**3- You found bone dice in the ground. What hypotheses can you make ?**

- a) The soldiers played Monopoly;
- b) The soldiers did not have leisure activities;
- c) The soldiers played games of dice for fun;
- d) The soldiers could make dice from animal bones.

**4- What luck ! You found a stone arrowhead. This might mean that:**

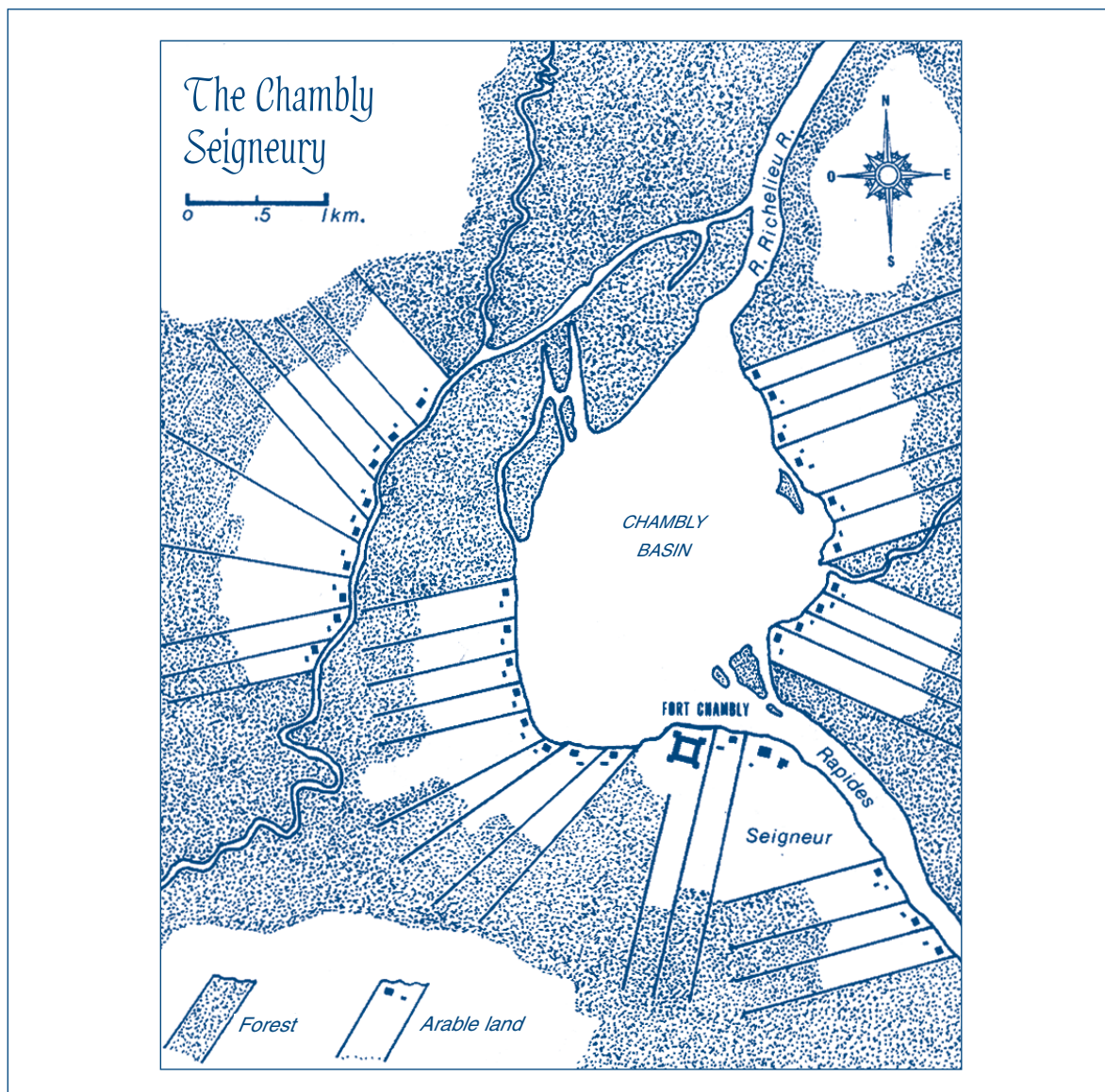
- a) Aboriginal peoples spent some time near the fort;
- b) While hunting, a soldier broke his bow;
- c) Before the Europeans arrived, the Aboriginal peoples camped in the area;
- d) All of the above.

# Settling the huge land known as Canada

In New France, the seigneurial system, a system of land tenure, was instituted by the King in order to populate and develop the colony. Louis XIV offered his worthiest subjects vast tracts of land called seigneuries, or estates. The seigneurs – that is, the lords or the large landowners – were usually chosen from among the army officers who were on good terms with the King. They often received a seigneurie as a reward for the loyal performance of service.

The seigneur's most important duty was to grant

lands to colonists wishing to settle in Canada. For his part, a colonist who was granted a **concession** (title to a tract of land) also pledged to carry out certain duties. The main ones were to clear and cultivate his land and to pay the **cens** (an obligatory token payment in cash, like dues) and **rent** (a payment in the form of money or farm products). In return, he also acquired a number of rights, such as the guarantee of access to the *communal mill* (a mill built and maintained by the seigneur) where he could grind his grain.



On October 29, 1672, King's Army captain Jacques de Chambly was granted a seigneurie located on the banks of the Richelieu River. This marked the start of settlement of the earliest "habitants" (as the peasant occupants were referred to), on the lands surrounding the Chambly Basin. On the seigneurie, land was divided into long, narrow strips stretching from the riverfront as far as the foothills behind it. This enabled more *censitaires* (in other words, the tenant landholders, or habitants) to enjoy direct access to the river, the only so-called road then in existence! It would take a number of stints of compulsory labour, called *corvées*, carried out over a period of several years, before overland roads called *rangs* (roads running parallel to the river) and *montées* (roads running perpendicular to the *rangs*, thus perpendicular to the river) would crisscross the seigneurie.





Illustration : C. Courcy

## Did you know?

In acknowledgement of his submission to the King of France, a seigneur had to make a declaration of fealty and homage. Each year, in order to meet this duty, the seigneur had to travel to the governor's residence in Quebec City. Facing the Intendant (or the head colonial administrator, second in rank to the Governor), the seigneur would doff his hat, lay down his arms, kneel, and declare himself to be the king's vassal.

## Living on a Seigneurie

Indicate beside the following words the letter matching the correct definition.

- |                  |     |          |  |
|------------------|-----|----------|--|
| 1. Seigneur      | ( ) | <b>A</b> | Settler living on a seigneurie   |
| 2. Communal mill | ( ) | <b>B</b> | Overland road running perpendicular to the river                                       |
| 3. Corvée        | ( ) | <b>C</b> | The mill built and operated by the seigneur for grinding the <i>censitaire's</i> grain |
| 4. Rent          | ( ) | <b>D</b> | Overland road running parallel to the river  |
| 5. Cens          | ( ) | <b>E</b> | Rent paid by a habitant to his <i>seigneur</i> .                                       |
| 6. Tenant        | ( ) | <b>F</b> | Token dues paid once a year to the <i>seigneur</i>                                     |
| 7. Montée        | ( ) | <b>G</b> | Owner of a large tract of land in Canada   |
| 8. Rang          | ( ) | <b>H</b> | Compulsory unpaid work performed by <i>censitaires</i>                                 |





# Fort Chambly comes to the defence of Montréal!

In 1709, as part of their plans for protecting Montreal from attack, the French constructed a stone fort at Chambly at the foot of the rapids of the Richelieu River. The fort was designed to defend this great waterway, through which the British intended to advance an invasion force into Canada.

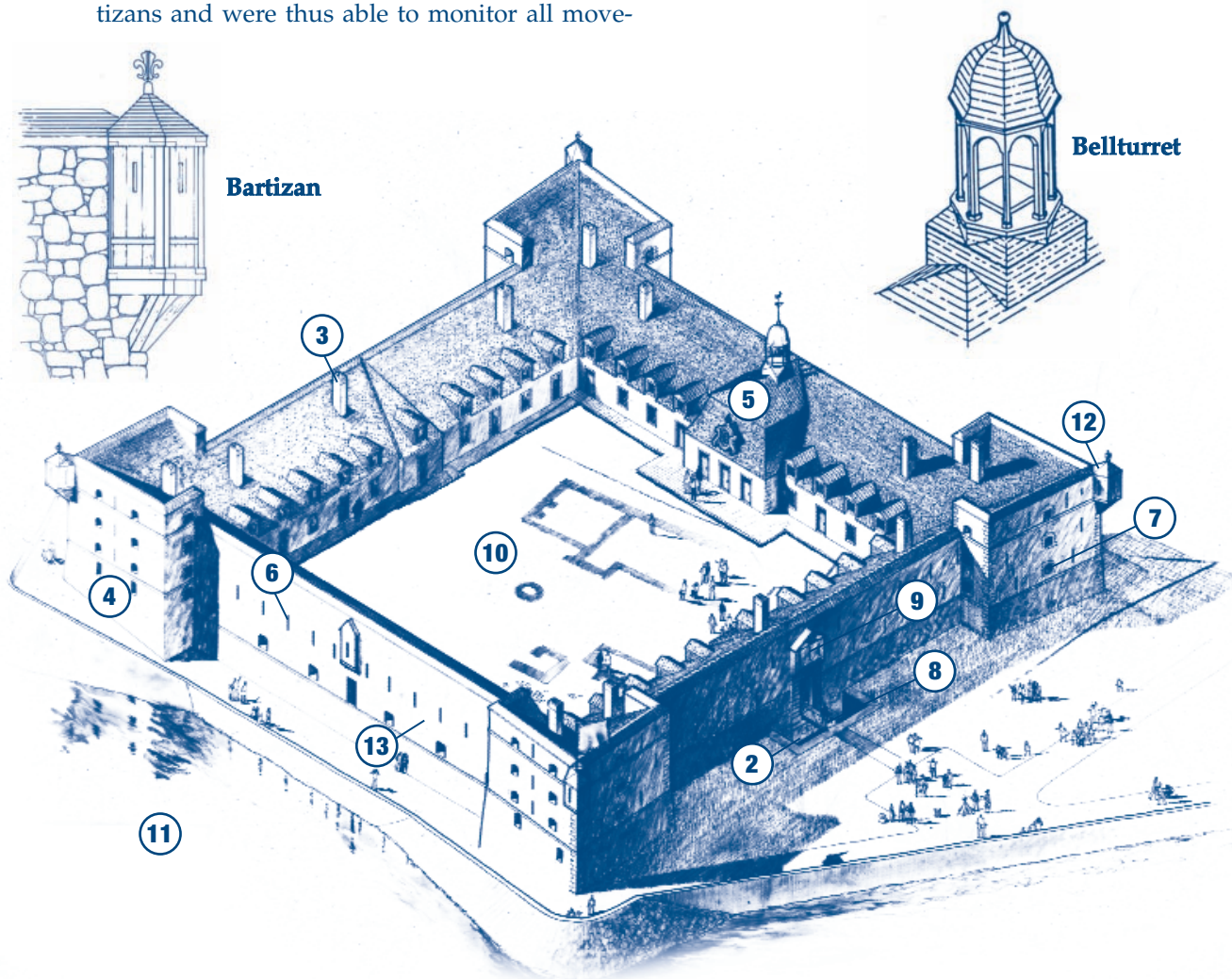
The fort was built around a huge square, at the centre of which was an interior courtyard known as the *place d'armes* – a parade-ground used for muster and drills. The corners of the fort consisted of four large square towers called bastions. Long, thick walls running from one bastion to another were called courtines or curtainwalls. Along the fort's outer walls, which were a good metre thick, there were two types of openings: **musket loopholes** and **embrasures**.

Some improvements were made to the fort around 1720. For instance, small sentry boxes called bartizans were added to the top of the bastions. Soldiers stood watch at each of the bartizans and were thus able to monitor all move-

ments in the fort's surroundings. A fosse (or moat) and a drawbridge were also built in front of the gate to protect the fort's entrance from a surprise attack.

Five hundred (500) soldiers could be sheltered from enemy cannon inside the fort's walls. The Marquis de Vaudreuil, then serving as the Governor of New France, went so far as to claim that in the event of an attack, the interior courtyard could accommodate an additional 500 people – in other words, the entire population of the seigneurie!

The fort complex was also home to a chapel, atop which a pretty bellturret rose skyward. The remaining architectural components of Fort Chambly include a **powder magazine**, **latrines**, a bread oven and a well, all of which can still be seen today. On your visit here, be sure to admire the magnificent **coat of arms of the King of France** gracing the pediment directly over the fort's front gate.



# Circle-the-Word Game

Find all the hidden words and discover the name given to the stone fort in 1711, in honour of the French “Minister of the Marine.” To make your task easier, use the text and the numbered illustration of the fort from the previous page.

- 1) Substance stored in a powder magazine.
- 2) Deep ditch in front of the fort that protects the main entrance.
- 3) Smoke outlets for the fort’s many fireplaces.
- 4) Name for the square stone towers at the four corners of the fort.
- 5) Soldiers of fort Chambly as well as habitants of the seigneurie came here to pray.
- 6) Narrow vertical slit through which muskets are fired.
- 7) Square opening in the wall through which cannons are fired.
- 8) Walkway over the moat that turns into a double door once lifted.
- 9) The King of France **Coat of Arms** are hung above the main entrance, on the ...
- 10) Name for the open area in the fort, where soldiers gathered for military exercises ( two words)
- 11) They prevented boats from sailing the Richelieu River between St-Jean and Chambly
- 12) Lookout on the corners of each bastion.
- 13) Fort’s wall that connects two bastions ( two words).

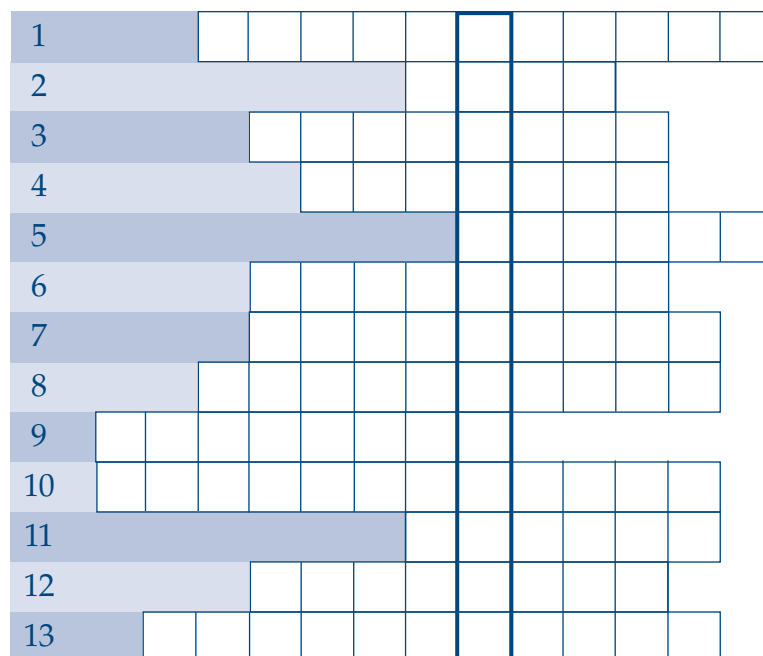


Illustration : C. Courcy

## Did you know?

Before the construction of the stone fort, 3 wooden forts were erected on the same location. Soldiers of Carignan-Salières Regiment built the first one in 1665 to protect the colony from Iroquois’ attacks. Abandoned during almost 20 years, this wooden palisade was rebuilt on 2 different occasions, one around 1690 and again in 1702.

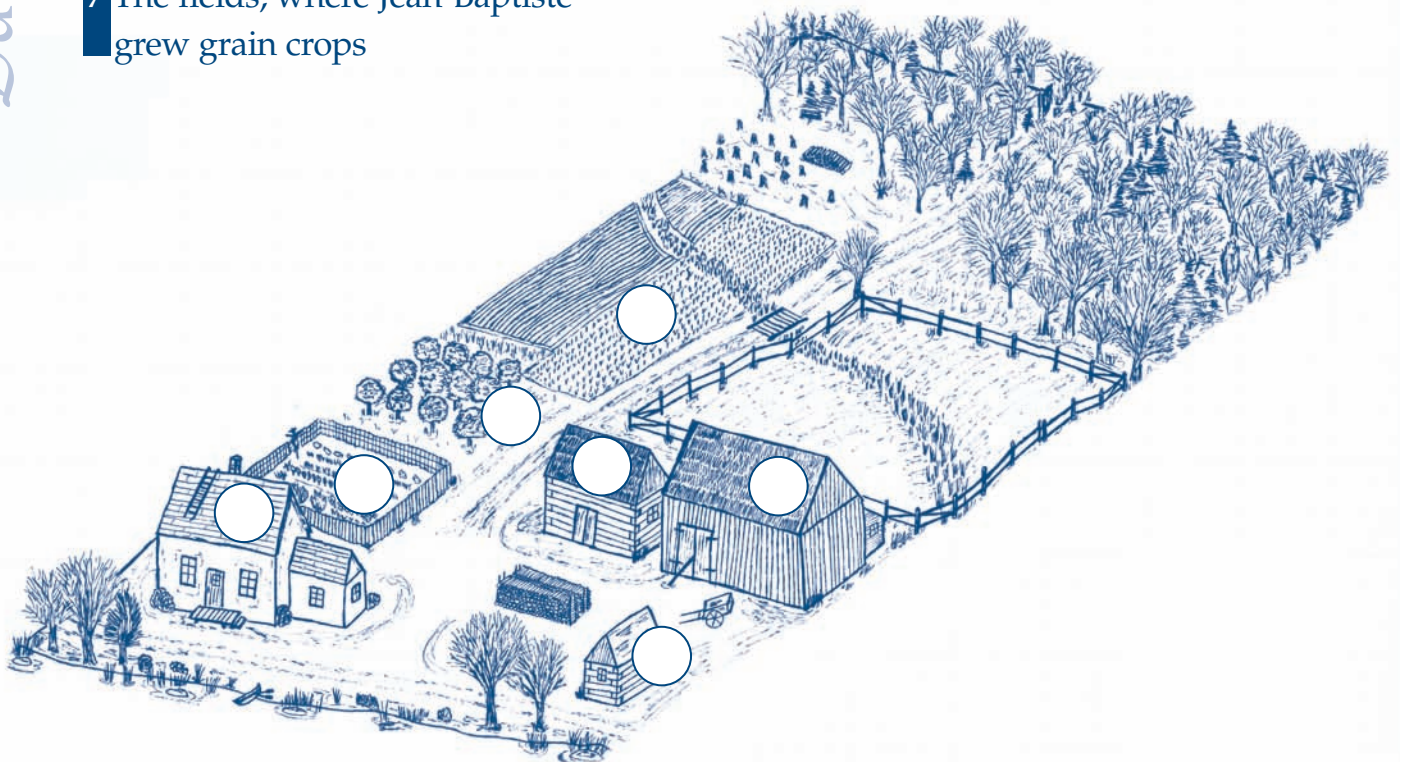


Illustration : C. Courcy

## Jean-Baptiste Lefort dit Laforest's land

Over the years, Jean-Baptiste constructed a number of buildings on his land. Try to identify them by writing the matching number in the appropriate circle.

- 1 Jean-Baptiste's house
- 2 The chicken coop
- 3 The barn for storing the harvest
- 4 The livestock stable
- 5 The vegetable garden, where beets, turnips, radishes, cabbage, onions and carrots were grown
- 6 The orchard
- 7 The fields, where Jean-Baptiste grew grain crops





# The life of a soldier at Fort Chambly

Using what you learned during your visit to the fort, fill out the following table:

What qualifications did a candidate have to meet in order to be recruited into the King's army?	List a soldier's leisure activities:
What kinds of food were served to a soldier?	What things differentiated a soldier from an officer?
What did the King's ration consist of?	What did a soldier's daily tasks consist of?

**Artifact** : Object bearing witness to the past, generally unearthed from the ground. Artifacts are often made of materials such as stone, wood, glass, pottery or metal.

**Cens** : Symbolic tax paid in coins or farm produce to the seigneur every November 11 (St. Martin's Day). The tenant paid his dues as a recognition of his dependence on the seigneur.

**Coat of Arms of the King of France** : The colored emblem of the King that is hanging on the pediment of the fort's entrance.

**Concession** : A tract of land granted to a tenant in New France.

**Ecofact** : Ecofacts are animal or vegetable remains found in the ground during an archaeological dig. For example, at the Fort Chambly site, archaeologists discovered thousands of animal bones left over from meals of its former inhabitants.

**Embrasure** : An opening with sides flaring outward in a wall or parapet of a fortification usually for allowing the firing of cannon.

**Latrines** : Rudimentary toilets beneath the north curtain wall of Fort Chambly.

**Musket loopholes** : Narrow oblong holes made in the wall of a fortification to fire through with small arms.

**Palisade** : Square structure of wooden stakes designed to protect against attacks.

**Powder magazine** : An area within a fort used to stock barrels of blackpowder. Generally well protected from enemy cannon fire.

**Rent** : Flat amount paid each year on St. Martin's Day by habitants as laid out in their concession-holder's contract. This amount was higher than the "cens."

**Rivière des Iroquois** : Name given by Samuel de Champlain to the Richelieu River when he first explored the area in the early 17th Century.

**Saint Martin's Day** : Every November 11, the habitants would go to the seigneur's manor house to pay their annual dues (rent and cens). Payment would be made either in coins or in farm produce. On the same occasion, the seigneur would arrange the next year's corvées.

**Seigneuries** : Vast expanse of land allotted to a seigneur by the King of France as a way of encouraging development and colonization of New France.

**Seven Years' War** : War that lasted from 1756 to 1763, pitting France against England and their respective allies. Also referred to as the Conquest War.

**Tenant** : Person who occupies and cultivates a tract of land conceded by a seigneur. In New France a tenant was named "censitaire" from the word "cens".

**Terms of capitulation** : Action of laying down arms. The terms of capitulation of Fort Chambly to the British, for example, took place on September 1, 1760.



## EXERCISE 2

### Letter from Soldier Jean-Baptiste Lefort " dit Laforest "

1. True
2. True
3. False
4. By tall masted-ship
5. In Québec City
6. At the age of 16, the minimum required age for enlistment (Enlistment date in 1748 minus his birthdate 1732)
7. 108 livres (9 livres X 12 months). The livre was a French monetary unit. One livre was worth 20 sols, and one sol was worth 12 deniers.
8. His term of service lasted 6 years. (His contract ended in 1754 and he enlisted in 1748)
9. Habitant, blacksmith, carpenter or miller, for example.

## EXERCISE 3

### Would you make a good archaeologist ?

- A) Recoverable objects :  
Fork- pipe- key- bottle-Amerindian pottery
- B) 1- a and c  
2- a and b  
3- c and d  
4- a and c

## EXERCISE 4

### Living on a seigneurie

- 1- Seigneur (G)
- 2- Communal mill (C)
- 3- Corvée (H)
- 4- Rent (E)
- 5- Cens (F)
- 6- Tenant (A)
- 7- Montée (B)
- 8- Rang (D)

## EXERCISE 5

### Circle-the-word game

Pontchartrain : Minister of the French Navy and Head of the King's colonies from 1699 to 1715

1		B	L	A	C	K	P	O	W	D	E	R
2							M	O	A	T		
3			C	H	I	M	N	E	Y	S		
4				B	A	S	T	I	O	N		
5							C	H	A	P	E	L
6				L	O	O	P	H	O	L	E	
7				E	M	B	R	A	S	U	R	E
8				D	R	A	W	B	R	I	D	G
9	P	E	D	I	M	E	N	T				
10	P	A	R	A	D	E	G	R	O	U	N	D
11							R	A	P	I	D	S
12				B	A	R	T	I	Z	A	N	
13	C	U	R	T	A	I	N	W	A	L	L	

For more information, consult these websites:

[www.pc.gc.ca/fortchambly](http://www.pc.gc.ca/fortchambly) [www.pc.gc.ca/education](http://www.pc.gc.ca/education)

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