**1. Identify:**

(a) Manuel Lisa; A Spanish American born in Cuba that built the first fur post in present-day Montana.

(b) William Ashley; an American miner, land speculator, manufacturer, territorial militia officer, politician, frontiersman, trapper, fur trader, entrepreneur, and hunter.

(c) John Jacob Astor; established a pattern that would shape Montana’s economy into the future.

(d) Alexander Culbertson; a fur trader and diplomat.

(e) Pierre-Jean de Smet; intended to become a missionary to Native Americans. Black Rope Priest.

**2. Define:**

(a) Monopoly; exclusive control over the fur trade of the Upper Missouri

(b) Rendezvous; a French word that means a meeting arranged in advance

(c) Brucellosis; an infectious animal disease

(d) Capitalism an economic system in which privately owned businesses carry on trade for profit

3. What is the post-and-brigade system? A system of hierarchy found in restaurants and hotels employing extensive staff.

4. What role did the Métis play in the fur trade? The Metis played a vital role. They were buffalo hunters and also rose appreciate both Native and European cultures.

5. What is a free trapper? They would get stuff and sell it for their own profit.

6. What role did women play in the fur trade? The roles that women played were varied. Helped communicate between trappers and tribes and also taught the trappers survival skills.

7. Why did fur traders turn from beaver to bison? The beaver started to become extinct. There were more bison around and they had a lot more fur.

8. How did the fur trade spread smallpox? Traders with smallpox would travel through the river so when others would get onto a boat, they would get infected with the disease.

**3. Critical Thinking**

1. Why do you think Indians participated in the fur trade? How do you think the fur trade benefited the tribes? How do you think it harmed them? Do you think the benefits outweighed the harm? They tried to contain use of the land. I don’t think the benefits outweighed the harm.

2. Although most Plains Indian tribes played roles in the fur trade, the Métis were especially important. What factors explain their importance? They were born into the business into trapping and fur trading. People saw them as white Indian and the government did not recognize them.

3. Think about the kind of man who would want to be a free trapper. Describe his characteristics. Mountain men were young, physically fit, mentally tough, and willing to take risks to make money.

4. John Jacob Astor strongly influenced the history of this region, but there is no evidence that he ever traveled here. Do you think that matters? Would history be different if he spent time there? it would’ve been different if he stayed there.

5. Both smallpox and the destruction of the bison were devastating to Plains Indians. Which of these two tragedies do you think had the greater long-term effect? Bison because the small pox were soon cured which caused the bison to survive.

6. Why do you think the missionaries to Montana had limited success among Indians during the fur trade? What, if anything, do you think they could have done differently? A desire to respect the Indians.

**4. Past to Present:**

1. There is still controversy about the management of bison, particularly in the Yellowstone Park area. Investigate the issues and concerns today. Yellowstone has a primary issue with bison and has a spread of Brucellosis.

2. Research modern trapping on the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Web site and the Web sites of fur trapping organizations. Compare the trapping practices of today to the fur trade of the 1800s. Today’s tracking Is more exclusive yet similar to tracking back then.

**5. Make It Local:**

1. How, if at all, do you think the fur trade affected your area? Does any evidence of the fur trade remain? Fur traders brought small pox to our area which infected the people originally from here. Where we are now did have an effect because of Jim Bridger.