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Group of People Studying: Les Filles du Roi



Who were the filles du roi:

The filles du roi, meaning king's daughters were unmarried women, who were sponsored and sent by the king to go to New France from 1663-1673. There were about 800 women.

Predominant WorldView Prior:

There were not a lot of rights for women, and land and money were very important because a lot of people were poor, but the ones who weren't were very fortunate.

What was there job:

The French government and religious communities wanted to fix the gender imbalance. King Louis the XIV set up a program to send the filles du roi on ships to New France. They were also incentive for male workers who had finished their contract. They needed more women in New France, but also just more people in general.

	Conditions in Home Country	Conditions in New Country
Reasons To Stay	<p style="text-align: center;">Retain</p> <p>France was the filles du rois only known home. Canada was an unsure culture for them.</p> <p>They had also probably built a little bit of a home and maybe had t leave some family behind.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Repulse</p> <p>The journey to Canada was quite unknown to the filles du roi they didn't know what there future held.</p> <p>There ship had bad hygiene and about 10% of them died. There fears were basically confirmed.</p>
Reasons to Move	<p style="text-align: center;">Push</p> <p>Their living situation was poor for most of the filles du roi. Some of them were even widowed.</p> <p>Their reputation was important to them, it was harder in that time to be a women. Most of them were looked down on as a lower class or even peasants.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Pull</p> <p>The filles du roi received each an allowance of 100 pounds: 10 pounds in recruitment fees, 30 pounds to gather a modest trousseau and 60 pounds for each woman's passage fee. They also received a chest containing personal accessories: a comb, a belt, a pair of hose, a pair of shoes, a pair of gloves, a bonnet, shoelaces, and four sets of laces.</p> <p>Choice of who to marry and a likeliness of having a family was a benefit for them. Although there husband got money for marrying a filles du roi.</p>

Expectation for what Canada would be like:

The filles du roi did kind expect that Canada was going to be hard, because they were unsure about there future. It was hard on them to leave behind France and travel to New France they left behind everything they knew. There was a lack of proper hygiene and likeliness for sickness. They also faced possible death on the very ship taking them to new opportunities.

Reality of what Canada was like for them at first:

Many of the filles du roi were unprepared for the hard life in Canada. But they decided to rise to the challenge, because of the job they were assigned and the wealth their husbands were provided to do it, they were able to have many children, and fulfill their job.

Lasting Impact to Canada:

The number at the time before the filles du roi wasn't enough to reproduce to fulfill the needs of the colony. The filles du roi made the colony bigger and created gender balance. About 737 out of 800 married and the population explosion made the colony successful.

Impact to local community (Colonizers):

The colonizers benefited from this because they got French wives and the ability to have children, also they could colonize more land with more people. The filles du roi were a packaged deal. If a colonizer married a fille du roi they received money to help start their family.

Impact to local community: (Indigenous)

The indigenous were only impacted by the fact that there were now more people on their land. And maybe they even married some of the filles du roi.

Changes in Worldview:

The world view was still kinda the same, women don't have a lot of rights and it's all about money and wealth. They probably had a little more power over the household.

