

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

MOUNTAIN MAN MATH

To the mountain men, trapping was a business. Some worked for fur companies for money. Others worked for themselves. The trappers traded the animal skins for things they needed to live. Here is a list that shows what some of the skins were worth during the early 1800s:

large blanket
gun
beaver trap
fathom (2 yards) of cloth
bag of flour

50 muskrat pelts or 2 beaver pelts
100 muskrat pelts or 4 beaver pelts
30 muskrat pelts or 2 beaver pelts
3 beaver pelts
2 beaver pelts

1. Trapper Mark has 75 muskrat pelts and 4 beaver pelts. How many blankets can he buy?
2. Trapper Pete has 6 beaver pelts and 100 muskrat pelts. How many beaver traps can he buy?
3. Trapper Jim and his wife have 50 muskrat pelts and 20 beaver pelts. How many beaver traps can they buy?
4. Trapper Paul bought 12 bags of flour, 4 guns, and 4 blankets. How many beaver pelts did it cost him?
5. Trapper Joe traded all his muskrat pelts for beaver pelts. He got 1 beaver pelt for every 25 muskrat pelts. If he traded 300 muskrat pelts, how many beaver pelts did it cost him?



When we think about mountain men, we often see them as brave, strong, self-reliant outdoorsmen. We tend to forget the everyday business of trapping and all the things the trappers had to do to stay alive, as well as the people they depended on.



Some facts about mountain men:

- Almost all the men were married. Many of them married Indian women.
- They had an average of four children. Most of their families traveled with them.
- Most hunted for 15 years and then became ranchers or farmers.
- They traveled by horse, mule, and canoe.
- Most died from old age at 64 years. They lived longer than most Americans at the time.
- They made money trapping.