**Examples of Prices of Trade Goods**

These prices would vary from time to time, and place to place. Prices at well-supplied trading posts could be less than the same goods packed to some remote locations. Year to year prices might fluctuate as commodity prices change.

**Trade Value in Buffalo Robes**

60 loads of powder and shot 1 robe

Trade gun 6- 10 robes

2 gallons shelled corn 1 robe

3 to 4 pounds sugar 1 robe

2 pounds coffee 1 robe

Pint of alcohol 1 robe

1 hank (group) of beads 1 robe

1 yard cloth or flannel 1 robe

Blanket 3 to 4 robes

1 Fathom (group) large beads 1 robe

Rifle 12 robes

Fusil (Flintlock musket) 8 robes

Abalone shell 4 to 8 robes

1 gallon kettle 1 robe

3 knives 1 robe

**Trade Value in Dollars**

Gunpowder $1.00 to $2 per pound

Lead $1 to $2 per pound

Shot $1.25 per pound

3 point blanket $9

Scarlet cloth $6 yard

Blue (common) $5 yard

Flannel (common) $1.50 yard

Calico $100 yard

Butcher knives $.74 each

AW Fusil $24 each

Beaver traps $9 each

Sugar $1 per pound

Coffee $1 to $2 per pound

Flour $1.50 per pound

Allspice $1.50 to $2 per pound

Beads, assorted $2.50 per pound

Vermillion $3 per pound

Rum $13.50 gallon

Tea $2 per pound

Tobacco $2 per pound

Beaver Pelts $3-$6 per pound

An example of differences in value: Zenas Leonards wrote in the fall of 1831 that coffee tea, sugar, lead, powder, tobacco, allspice were $2 per pound. Course cloth was $10 per yard, and fine cloth was $20 per yard.

**Note:**

* $1 in the 19th century is about $30 today.
* 60-80 beaver pelts weigh about 100 pounds. Beaver pelts sold by the pound.
* Buffalo robes are valued at $3000 in today’s dollars.
* Bring in modern examples of some of the trade items to show the class and compare the value.
  + If you drink coffee and bring a pound to show, compare how much you paid for it.

**Prices of Trade Goods Worksheet**

Estimate the monetary value of a Buffalo Robe. According to the charts, how much did a Buffalo Robe cost?

If the value had stayed the same from the 19th century cost, what would have been the price today?

If George wants one pound of coffee and one-half pound of sugar, how much would he have to pay? Would he be able to trade one buffalo robe for this amount?

A hatter wants to buy 50 pounds of beaver pelts. How much would this cost? How many pelts would he have?

William wants to buy presents for his wife. He wants to buy 1/3 yard of Scarlet Cloth and ½ pound of assorted beads. How much will he have to pay?

A Cheyenne man wants to trade for 1 hank of beads, 1 gallon kettle, 1 knife and 1 gallon of shelled corn. How many buffalo robes will he trade?