

**1/MACKENZIE:** McKay, I'm thinking of returning to our native Scotland.

**2/MCKAY:** Why? You are a partner in North West, a fur trading company, we've just returned from an overland trip to the Pacific, and you are working on a book about your two explorations.

**1/MACKENZIE:** McKay, I'm not content here. I'm frustrated because I can't convince the other people at North West that we need to join with the Hudson Bay Trading Company.

**3/RODERICK:** I agree with you. I've worked for North West too and I think we should join together with Hudson in order to compete against the United States. The United States now controls all the fur trade south of the Great Lakes.

**4/VOYAGEUR 1:** The United States—that country certainly changed my life!

**1/MACKENZIE:** Mine too. We moved from Scotland to New York in 1775 when I was eleven. Of course my father supported the Crown and he knew there would be trouble. He sent me to Canada with two aunts where I was to attend school.

**3/RODERICK:** As I recall, Cousin Alexander, you soon gave up school. At fifteen, you were working for a fur-trading outfit.

**1/MACKENZIE:** Yes, I loved the fur business! I was made a partner at the age of 20 and was sent to Fort Chipewyan on Lake Athabasca.

**5/VOYAGEUR 2:** That's where I met you. You had heard Peter Pond talk about a water route to the West, and you were determined to find it.

**1/MACKENZIE:** Pond had drawn maps and was sure it existed. We had to try it didn't we? Instead, we found the River of Disappointment.

**4/VOYAGEUR 1:** That was some trip. The thing I remember is how long the days were. It was light from 3:00 or 4:00 in the morning until 11:00 at night. We covered lots of miles on that river in one of those long days.

**5/VOYAGEUR 2:** They will probably name that the Mackenzie River some day. It must be the longest river in all of Canada.

**1/MACKENZIE:** Our trip took over a hundred days and we covered over 2,000 miles.

**3/RODERICK:** The mouth of the river was the Arctic Ocean. You are writing about that trip in your book, aren't you cousin?

**1/MACKENZIE:** Yes, that will be in the book. In my notes I wrote that the country is one continual morass where the ground never thaws above five inches from the surface.

**5/VOYAGEUR 2:** It was cold, even though we were there in the summer.