

What Do You Mean?

- How Language Changes Over Time -

Archaeologists sometimes use historical documents such as personal journals, maps, letters or correspondence, and business records to learn more about the history of an archaeological site or the people who lived there. These can be very useful for understanding events in the past. However, the person reading these documents has to also be familiar with the language or lexicon in order to interpret the proper meaning.

These are some words used in the journals from South Branch House, a Hudson's Bay Company trading post that operated along the South Saskatchewan River from 1786-1794. What do you think they mean?

Words used at South Branch House in 1786-1794:	What do <u>YOU</u> think these words mean?
ye	
made beaver	
ice driving	
pitch/gum	
&c	
e/y	
beat meat	
viz	
flinshing	
derst	
red deer	
shoal	
ribbands	
He meat	
Instant	

Choose three of these words or phrases and write a sentence for each.

Teacher's Answer Sheet

Words used at South Branch House in 1786-1794:	What do <u>YOU</u> think these words mean?
ye	the
made beaver	a well processed beaver hide in good condition and also a term used for trading currency
ice driving	ice break-up with a canoe or other boat
pitch/gum	tar from pine trees used to seal birch bark canoes and other items
&c	etcetera (etc)
e/y	the
beat meat	pemmican
viz	“namely” or “that is”
flinshing	flinching – fleshing a game animal
derst	dare
red deer	elk/wapiti
shoal	shallow
ribbands	cross reinforcements of a stockade wall
He meat	bull/male meat
Instant	of this month