

Champlain's Dream (Le rêve de Champlain) the series and web site

Adapted from the book *Champlain's Dream* by David Hackett Fischer, this French language docu-fiction series tells the story of Samuel de Champlain through fiction and the words of specialists and correspondents who retrace Champlain's journey from Brouage to Georgain Bay.

The docu-fiction series was produced by *Slalom Productions*, 2015. <http://slalomprod.tv/home.html>
The series has yet to be translated into English, but Tfo has developed a web site with **English language videos and activities** at : <http://revedechamplain.com/en>

Le rêve de Champlain: Activities and more

English language activities and videos for the primary and secondary levels are available on Tfo's website at: <http://revedechamplain.com/en>

Website's Menu: Home-Watch-Play-Follow-Learn More About the Series

HOME: All links to contents are presented by an image or by squares that are in no particular order.

WATCH:

This section features four types of videos

- Did you know that... 12 videos, 50 seconds each
- A bit of history: 12 videos, 1 min 30 sec to 2 min 15 sec, that relate certain aspects of Champlain's story
- Behind the scenes: 12 videos, 2 to 3 minutes, that present historical and technical aspects of the film shoot
- Interview : 4 videos with historian Hackett Fischer

Did you know that... twelve amusing 50 second videos

1. Indians taught the French settlers how to play team sports.

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/92-Indians-Taught-The-French-Settlers-How-To-Play-Team-Sports>

First Nations played team sports contrary to the French who competed one person against another.

2. Champlain never suffered from scurvy

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/48-Champlain-Never-Suffered-From-Scurvy>

Champlain never suffered from scurvy because he drank wine.

3. Champlain did not have royal blood

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/91-Champlain-Did-Not-Have-Royal-Blood>

Not being a nobleman, Champlain had to work hard to succeed.

4. The Indians were faster hunters than the French

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/95-The-Indians-Were-Faster-Hunters-Than-The-French>
Aboriginals didn't need guns to hunt efficiently.

5. As a child, Champlain was fascinated by the New World

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/94-As-A-Child-Champlain-Was-Fascinated-By-The-New-World>
Life in Brouage influenced the young Champlain.

6. Champlain noticed the first overfishing problem

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/93-Champlain-Noticed-The-First-Overfishing-Problem>
Champlain takes note of the decline of marine resources (pearl fishing) in the Caribbean.

7. Champlain spoke six languages

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/52-Champlain-Spoke-Six-Languages>
Champlain probably learned many languages with the contact of seamen of different countries.

8. Champlain could not swim

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/49-Champlain-Could-Not-Swim>
Like many sailors of the time, Champlain did not know how to swim. This didn't discourage him from shooting the Lachine Rapids in a canoe.

9. The Vikings were the first to set foot on Canadian soil

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/51-The-Vikings-Were-The-First-To-Set-Foot-On-Canadian-Soil>
Vikings and Basque fishermen, not Cartier, were the first white people to come to Canada.

10. Champlain knew that success was synonymous with respect

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/96-Champlain-Knew-That-Success-Was-Synonymous-With-Respect>
How does one successfully establish a permanent colony? Before travelling to New-France, Champlain did some research. He retained 5 lessons: better acquaint himself with the territory before settling there, ensure law and order, feed the troops well to avoid mutiny, impose Catholicism but tolerate Protestants, and finally, treat aboriginal people with respect.

11. Champlain never had kids

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/50-Champlain-Never-Had-Kids>
Champlain never had children with H el ene Boull e, but he did take care of three native girls given to him by the Montagnais. He baptized them: Faith, Hope and Charity. The girls went back to live with the Montagnais when the English occupied Qu ebec.

12. Champlain was once lost in the woods for 3 days

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/47-Champlain-Was-Once-Lost-In-The-Woods-For-3-Days>
Champlain, a cartographer with many qualities got lost for 3 days while on a hunting party in Ontario.

A bit of history (12 videos, mostly in French with English sub-titles)**1. A long journey** (in French with English sub-titles) (1min 51 sec)

Primary/secondary

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/55-A-Long-Journey>

Fraught with strong winds, treacherous tides and villainous pirates, crossing the Atlantic was no pleasure cruise in Champlain's time!

2. Surviving the cold (2 min 02 sec)

Primary/secondary

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/54-Surviving-The-Cold>

The Canadian winter was a big challenge for the first French colonists! Faces with scurvy and unbearable cold, Champlain and his men proved resilient.

3. Questionable comfort (1 min 52 sec)

Primary/secondary

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/57-Questionable-Comfort>

Life on ships that crossed the Atlantic did not resemble that on a modern cruise ship. Most of the crew were not spoiled in first class, but rather lived in poor conditions.

4. From one God to another (1min 54 sec)

Secondary

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/64-From-One-God-To-Another>

Faced with serious tensions between Catholics and Protestants, Champlain and Henri IV adopted an attitude of tolerance and even changed their religion on a number of occasions.

5. World-class dreams (1 min 58 sec)

Secondary

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/62-World-Class-Dreams>

King Henri IV dreamed of changing the world and employed experts from all backgrounds, including the geographer Champlain. Their creative minds came up with the plan to settle the New World.

6. Food in the New World (1 min 34 sec)

Primary/secondary

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/61-Food-In-The-New-World>

The first settlers preferred French food, but still ate New World plants and animals, including seal, which was a favourite of Champlain's.

7. The intermediaries (2 min 16 sec)

Primary/secondary

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/58-The-Intermediaries>

The French interpreters, called truchements in old French, were key players in the fur trade. Champlain sent them to live with the First Nations people so that they could learn their languages and customs

8. Change of tactics (1 min 54 sec)

Primary/secondary

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/56-Change-Of-Tactics>

The arrival of French firearms completely changed the way the Indians waged war. Since wooden armour was no longer effective, they switched to guerrilla tactics.

9. Strategic thinking is key (2 min 03 sec)<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/53-Strategic-Thinking-Is-Key>

Primary/secondary

From the Spanish galleon to the Aboriginal canoe, Champlain had to strategically choose the type of vessel best suited to crossing the Atlantic and to traveling along the raging Canadian rivers.

10. Health in the New World (1 min 50 sec)

Primary/secondary

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/59-Health-In-The-New-World>

It was not doctors, but surgeons who provided health care in the New World. Although skilled in healing wounds, they were powerless against serious epidemics.

11. A history of conquest (1min 37 sec)

Secondary

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/63-A-History-Of-Conquest>

From the alliance with Champlain, to their assimilation and the conquest of their lands 200 years later, relations between the Indians and the Europeans changed a great deal.

12. Women (2 min 05 sec)

Primary/secondary

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/60-Women>

Mothers, administrators, teachers, nuns and much more, women in the New World were catalysts for change.

Behind the scenes (12 videos mostly in French with English sub-titles)**1. Armaments and strategy (3 min 12 sec)**

Secondary/postsecondary

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/79-Armaments-And-Strategy>

Day 1

Peter Twist, historical consultant for the series, describes (in English) his role. He also explains how the introduction of firearms changed First Nation military tactics. Actor Maxime Le Flaguais demonstrates how to use his arquebuse.

2. From A Native Perspective (3 min 24 sec)

Secondary

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/73-From-A-Native-Perspective>

Day 4

Four Aboriginal extras present their point of view regarding Champlain.

René Rousseau, Innu from Mashteuiaatsh, Québec.

Steve Butler, Algonquin from Mattawa, Ontario (in English)

Akienda Lainé, Wendat from Wendaké, Québec

Christian Pilon, Métis, Ontario

3. Making Champlain come to life (3 min 45 sec)

Cinema studies

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/73-From-A-Native-Perspective>

Director Martin Cadotte explains his methods and objectives.

4. Period settings (2 min 46 sec)

Film studies

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/72-Period-Settings>

Day 5

Philippe Grondin, director of photography, and props person Virginia Leurent-Bonnevie explain their work on the set.

5. Sainte-Marie among the Hurons (2 min 25 sec)

Secondary

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/70-Sainte-Marie-Among-The-Hurons>

Mary Mandley, marketing and visitor services manager at Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, briefly explains the history of the Jesuit mission built in 1639.

Director Martin Cadotte explains what makes Sainte-Marie an exceptional site for shooting an historical film.

6. Birch Bark canoes (3 min 12 sec)

Primary/secondary

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/80-Bark-Canoes>

Canoe builders, Marcel Labelle and Christian Pilon, talk about their art and the canoe.

7. Documentary vs fiction (2 min 49 sec)

Film studies

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/78-Documentary-Vs-Fiction>

Director Martin Cadotte and director of photography Philippe Grondin described how they filmed the series.

8. Playing Champlain (2 min 53 sec)

Cinema studies

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/77-Playing-Champlain>

Actor, Maxime Le Flaguais, describes his experience while on the shoot.

9. Special effects (2 min 51 sec)

Film studies

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/76-Special-Effects>

Mathieu Lacombe, special effects assistant, and Jean-Mathieu Bérubé, special effects supervisor, show some of the special effects used.

10. Period costumes and makeup (3 min 10 sec)

Cinema studies

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/75-Period-Costumes-And-Makeup>

Costume designer, Claire Nadon, and main make-up specialist Samantha Caldwell (in English), describe the challenges of their work.

11. Period vessels (2 min 53 sec)

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/71-Period-Vessels>

12. Filming at night (1 min 57 sec)

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/74-Filming-At-Night>

Play

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/play>

- **Le petit Champlain**

Tablet app for 5 to 8 years old

Sail the seas with Petit Champlain! Children will learn about Champlain's life through a series of activities, including six mini-games and a graphic novel (in French with English captions).

- **Champlain: portrait of a Nation**

Fun web application.

Students can add their face to a costumed image and see the different faces of the participants. Sign in through Facebook, take a picture and submit

Learn more about the series

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/series>

The series has yet to be produced in English.

Here is a synopsis, a summary of the episodes, and a biography of author David Hackett Fischer as presented on the TFO website.

Synopsis

Navigator, cartographer, writer, ethnologist, botanist and explorer, Samuel de Champlain influenced Canadian history through his humanism and vision. The Champlain's Dream series, consisting of documentary discussions and historical re-enactments, introduces viewers to the explorer's thrilling life and to a world full of challenges and discoveries.

Episode one: Dreamer 1570-1601

Champlain's youth was fundamental in shaping the man and his greatest dream: to build a better world in the virgin territories of North America. But how did he develop his humanist conscience, his courage and the skills that pushed him to risk his life for such an ideal? We visit Brouage in France, where the young Samuel grew up and learned to navigate, draw and fight. We then meet another key player in the drama: King Henri IV. Together, Champlain and the king lay the groundwork for New France.

Episode two: Explorer 1602-1604

Royal geographer Champlain must convince the court that establishing New France in North America is feasible. Champlain succeeds and a new expedition is organized. We visit the old port of Honfleur, from which many of Champlain's voyages to New France were launched. It was from here that he prepared to set off for America for the first time, under the command of Pont-Gravé.

Episode three: Founder 1604-1609

Our correspondent returns to Sainte-Croix Island, the first French settlement in Acadia and Champlain's first failure owing to the consequences of a devastating disease: scurvy. The settlement on Sainte-Croix Island moves to a more promising site: Port-Royal. In 1608 Champlain is given a new mission: to found a permanent settlement in the St Lawrence valley. The approaching winter worries Champlain and he makes the settlers work tirelessly. This proves too much for them by the end of the summer. They begin to grumble and to conspire against him.

Episode four: Iroquoia 1608-1616

In the spring of 1608, after facing a tough winter, Champlain wages a military campaign against the Iroquois, enemies of his own Indian allies. On returning to France in late 1610, Champlain learns some terrible news. His most powerful defender, King Henri IV, has been assassinated. From now on, Champlain must work behind the scenes to advance his plan. He manages to leave for New France again in March 1611. He goes up the Ottawa River, where he meets Tessouat, a chief whose reputation rivals his own in the St Lawrence valley.

Episode five: Huronia 1614-1628

Seriously wounded in battle in the heart of Central Iroquoia, Champlain is forced to spend the entire winter in Huronia. He uses this as an opportunity to carefully study Huron customs and visit the many Algonquin nations. We return to France, where young Louis XIII, exasperated by his mother, retakes control of the kingdom and surrounds himself with the old advisors of his father, Henri IV. Champlain again takes up his position as lieutenant in New France. In the spring of 1620, Champlain takes his wife to Quebec and builds a small farm at Cap Tourmente.

Episode six: Legacy 1627-1635

Charles I sends the Kirke brothers, a family of mercenaries, to seize French settlements in America. Champlain is forced to give up the colony without resisting. Quebec now belongs to England. In 1633, Champlain returns triumphantly to the habitation. He works tirelessly to rebuild and settle New France. On the evening of Christmas Day 1635, he passes away at the age of 65. David Hackett Fischer, together with Martin Dufour, Chief of the Essipit Montagnais Band Council, help us trace the legacy left by Champlain.

Biography of the author

David Hackett Fischer is an American historian, University Professor and Warren Professor of History at Brandeis University in Massachusetts, specializing in American history. He is the recipient of many prizes for his teaching and writing. He has published several major works, including *Albion's Seed: Four British Folkways in America*, and *Washington's Crossing*, for which he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for History. In *Champlain's Dream*, Hackett Fischer draws on extensive research to shine a new light on Samuel de Champlain, uncovering many diverse aspects of his personality.

Two interview clips with David Hackett Fischer:

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/110-PROMOTING-NEW-FRANCE> (1' min 21 sec)

<http://revedechamplain.com/en/home/watch/112-CHAMPLAIN-IN-NEW-SPAIN> (1 min 31 sec)

A section on the cast and crew