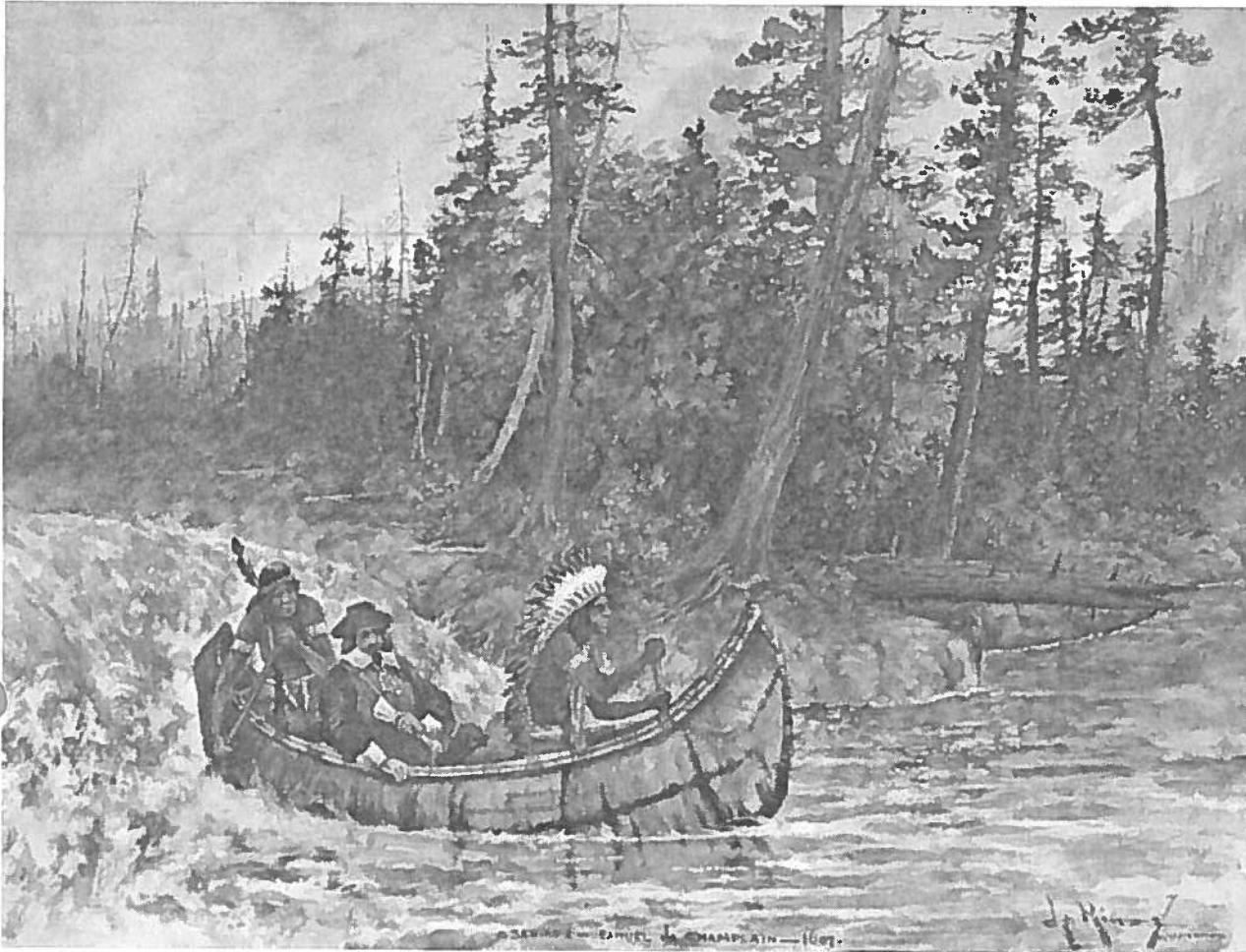


The Creation of New France



Artistic representation of Samuel de Champlain in a canoe with First Nations people going down the rapids.

Pre-Reading Discussion Questions:

1. Describe the transportation method used by Samuel de Champlain and the First Nations people to explore New France. Why do you think they used this method? What other methods were available?
2. What natural resources do you see in this picture? What uses would the First Nations and early settlers find for these resources?
3. How does this picture portray the relationship of the First Nations people and the explorers?
4. Do you feel that the artistic interpretation of the First Nations people is historically accurate in this picture? Why or Why not?

The Creation of New France

From 1500 - 1700 living conditions in Europe were declining, and land was becoming scarce. People were being forced off their land due high tax rates, strict land ownership policies and population growth.

During this time period in Europe, there was a huge gap between the rich and the poor. Most people were born into their social and economic status. This status remained with them for life regardless of their effort and hard work. The majority of Europeans lived in rural areas, and relied on land owners buying their crops as their main income source.

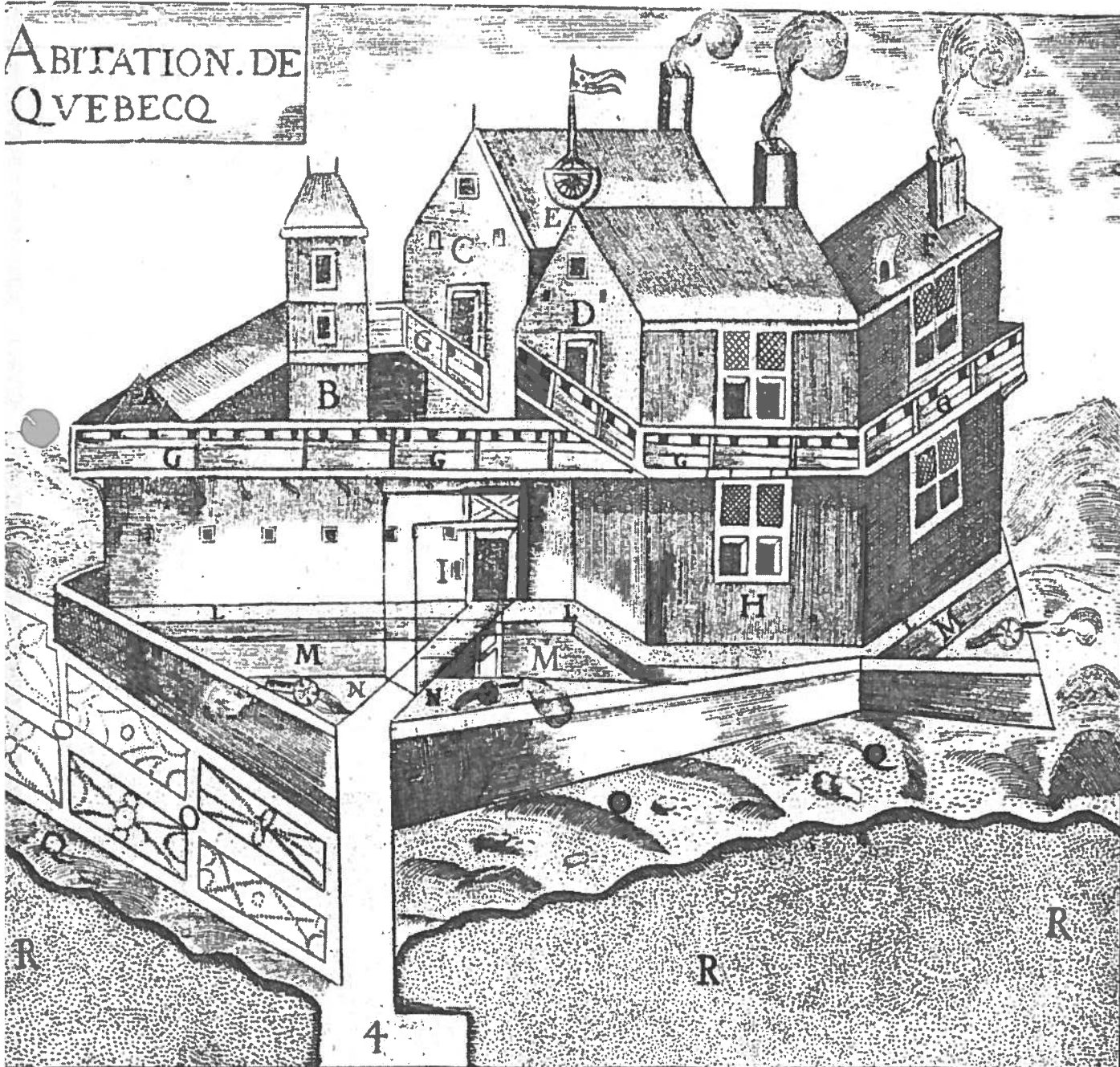
These living conditions, in addition to a desire for adventure and wealth, encouraged explorers to set off and explore the new lands discovered by John Cabot and Jacques Cartier years earlier.

Once the explorers got to the "New World" they saw how abundant the natural resources were, and wanted to bring them back to Europe where natural resources were in sharp decline due to over fishing and hunting. Beaver fur was especially in high demand due to the fashion trends of Europe at the time. Once the natural resources made it back to Europe, they were made into products in Europe and sold for the profit of the Kings.

On July 3, 1608, Samuel de Champlain, a French citizen, establishes a new French settlement named New France in Québec City.

Samuel de Champlain's Québec Settlement

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Samuel de Champlain's Quebec Settlement

- A. The Warehouse
- B. Pigeon-loft
- C. Weapons storage and workmen housing
- D. Workmen building
- E. Sun-dial
- F. Workmen housing
- G. Galleries
- H. Samuel de Champlain's house
- I. Settlement door with a draw-bridge
- L. 10 Feet Wide Promenade
- M. Moat around the settlement
- O. Samuel de Champlain's Garden
- P. The Kitchen
- Q. Shore of the River
- R. St. Lawrence River

Thinking Questions:

1. Why do you think Samuel de Champlain had his own private living space and the workmen had to share their living spaces?
2. What types of security features did this settlement have?
3. Why was Québec City a good location to develop a settlement? Think about its geographic location and natural resources availability.