Rivers and Forts

Read how French settlements grew in early Alabama.

SS24.3.11 "Describe French expeditions and colonization of Alabama, including the efforts of the LeMoyne brothers (Iberville and Bienville), establishment of forts, relationships with Indigenous peoples, and fur trade..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline place clues for Mobile, Fort Condé, and Fort Toulouse, and circle one reason each place mattered.

French Settlements in Alabama

1. French ships sailed along the Gulf Coast, looking for places to settle and trade. Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville led French trips to this coast in 1699. His younger brother, Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville, helped start a settlement called Mobile in 1702. It stood beside the Mobile River, north of Mobile Bay. The river gave people a way to travel inland.

2. French settlers later moved Mobile closer to Mobile Bay. In 1723, they built Fort Condé there to help guard the town and its port. Farther inland, French soldiers built Fort Toulouse in 1717. It stood near the place where the Coosa and Tallapoosa rivers meet. The fort helped France trade and keep ties with nearby Creek people. Rivers linked these places.

3. A fort was more than a wall. French traders came to meet Indigenous people, including Creek people, who already lived in the region. They exchanged cloth and metal goods for animal skins and furs. French leaders also sought friendships and agreements with Indigenous leaders, but the two groups did not always agree. Trade and travel on the rivers made these relationships important to the French settlements.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Where did Bienville help start Mobile in 1702, and why was the river useful?

2. Where was Fort Toulouse, and how did it help France work with nearby Creek people?

3. Why did the French build Fort Condé at Mobile after the town moved?

4. How did Iberville and Bienville each help France settle along the Gulf Coast?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are a French trader in 1723 traveling from the coast toward inland rivers. In four sentences, name Mobile and both forts, give the location of each fort, and explain how you would trade with Indigenous people.

ANSWER KEY

Rivers and Forts

GRADE 3 · SS24.3.11

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline place clues for Mobile, Fort Condé, and Fort Toulouse, and circle one reason each place mattered. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Where did Bienville help start Mobile in 1702, and why was the river useful?	**Mobile stood beside the Mobile River, north of Mobile Bay. The river helped people travel inland.**
2	Where was Fort Toulouse, and how did it help France work with nearby Creek people?	**It stood near where the Coosa and Tallapoosa rivers meet. It helped France trade and keep ties with Creek people.**
3	Why did the French build Fort Condé at Mobile after the town moved?	**They built it to help guard Mobile and its port.**
4	How did Iberville and Bienville each help France settle along the Gulf Coast?	**Iberville led trips to the coast. Bienville helped start Mobile.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In 1723, I begin my trip in Mobile near Mobile Bay. I see Fort Condé in the town, where it helps guard the port. I travel inland toward Fort Toulouse, near the meeting of the Coosa and Tallapoosa rivers. There, I hope to trade cloth and metal goods with Creek people for animal skins and furs.

Accept clear paraphrases. For the open task, check for four sentences, all three place names, accurate locations for both forts, and an exchange with Indigenous people.