Rivers and Forts

Find three French settlements and explain why their locations mattered.

SS24.3.11a "Locate on maps the French settlements in early Alabama, including Mobile (1702), Fort Toulouse (1717), and Fort Condé (1723), and describe their significance."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read the passage. Underline the place clue for each settlement, and circle one reason each place mattered.

Following the Rivers

1. Early Alabama had French settlements near rivers. In 1702, French settlers built Old Mobile on the Mobile River, north of Mobile Bay. The settlement included Fort Louis. Boats carried people and supplies along the river. Old Mobile became a center of French rule in the region. Its spot by the water helped people travel, but floods made life there hard.

2. In 1711, the French moved Mobile south, closer to Mobile Bay, after floods harmed the old settlement. The new town stood by the lower Mobile River, where boats could reach the bay. In 1723, the French built Fort Condé there. Its walls helped protect the town and its port, where boats brought goods. Fort Condé was closer to the bay than Old Mobile.

3. The French also built Fort Toulouse in 1717, far inland near the place where the Coosa and Tallapoosa rivers meet. That place is near present-day Wetumpka. French traders met Creek people there to exchange goods. The fort also helped France keep a presence in the area. On a map, this fort belongs inland, while both Mobile sites are nearer the coast.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Where would you find Old Mobile on a map? Why was its river location useful?

2. Where would you find Fort Toulouse on a map? Why did the French use this place?

3. Where would you find Fort Condé on a map? What did it help protect?

4. Which Mobile site would you mark farther upriver, Old Mobile or Fort Condé? Why did the French leave that site?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

On a map of early Alabama supplied by your teacher, locate and label Old Mobile (1702), Fort Toulouse (1717), and Fort Condé (1723). Then write one sentence about each place that tells where it was and why it mattered.

ANSWER KEY

Rivers and Forts

GRADE 3 · SS24.3.11a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Read the passage. Underline the place clue for each settlement, 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 would you find Old Mobile on a map? Why was its river location useful?	**Old Mobile was on the Mobile River, north of Mobile Bay. Boats could carry people and supplies there.**
2	Where would you find Fort Toulouse on a map? Why did the French use this place?	**It was far inland near where the Coosa and Tallapoosa rivers meet. French traders exchanged goods with Creek people there.**
3	Where would you find Fort Condé on a map? What did it help protect?	**It was by the lower Mobile River, closer to Mobile Bay than Old Mobile. It helped protect the new town and its port.**
4	Which Mobile site would you mark farther upriver, Old Mobile or Fort Condé? Why did the French leave that site?	**Old Mobile was farther upriver. The French moved after floods harmed the old settlement.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Old Mobile was on the Mobile River north of Mobile Bay, where boats brought people and supplies. Fort Toulouse was inland where the Coosa and Tallapoosa rivers meet, and French traders met Creek people there. Fort Condé was by the lower Mobile River, where it helped protect the new town and its port.

Supply an unlabeled Alabama map showing Mobile Bay and the Mobile, Coosa, and Tallapoosa rivers. Accept approximate marks: Old Mobile upriver from Fort Condé, Fort Condé near Mobile Bay, and Fort Toulouse near the meeting of the Coosa and Tallapoosa rivers.