Roots of Africatown

How people built a community after the Civil War

SS24.4.15c "Explain how Africatown was established, describing the challenges its founders overcame and the ways they built community."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the ship's arrival, the people's freedom, and the land purchase 1 to 3. Underline two challenges and circle two ways the founders built community, so you can explain how Africatown began.

Building Africatown

1. In 1860, a ship called the Clotilda brought African people to Alabama. Bringing them into the United States to sell as slaves was illegal, but the people who planned the trip broke that law. The people were forced into slavery in Alabama, including near Mobile. Five years later, the Civil War ended, and they were free. Many wanted to return to Africa, the home they had been taken from.

2. The freed people could not afford the trip across the ocean. Instead, some of them saved money and bought land near Mobile. There they began Africatown, a place where they could live near people who understood their past. Starting over was hard. They had little money, and they faced unfair treatment from some white neighbors. Still, they worked to make a home together.

3. Families built houses and grew food on their land. Neighbors shared work and helped care for one another. They started a church and a school, places where people could gather, learn, and pass on what mattered to them. They also kept parts of their African languages and traditions alive. These choices turned a group of homes into a community, one built through hard work and ties to Africa.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Clotilda's arrival and the end of the Civil War lead to Africatown's founding?

2. Why did some freed people begin Africatown near Mobile instead of returning to Africa?

3. Name two challenges the founders faced. How did they respond to one of them?

4. How did sharing work and keeping African traditions help make Africatown a community?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a museum sign of 4 to 5 sentences explaining how Africatown began. Describe a hardship the founders faced, then connect two different choices they made to building a community despite that hardship.

ANSWER KEY

Roots of Africatown

GRADE 4 · SS24.4.15c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number the ship's arrival, the people's freedom, and the land purchase 1 to 3. Underline two challenges and circle two ways the founders built community, so you can explain how Africatown began. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Clotilda's arrival and the end of the Civil War lead to Africatown's founding?	**The Clotilda brought African people to Alabama, where they were enslaved. After the war, they were free, and some bought land near Mobile and began Africatown.**
2	Why did some freed people begin Africatown near Mobile instead of returning to Africa?	**They could not afford the trip to Africa, so some saved money and bought land near Mobile.**
3	Name two challenges the founders faced. How did they respond to one of them?	**They had little money and faced unfair treatment from some white neighbors. Despite having little money, some saved enough to buy land.**
4	How did sharing work and keeping African traditions help make Africatown a community?	**Sharing work helped neighbors care for one another. Keeping traditions alive helped them stay connected to Africa and each other.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After the Clotilda brought African people to Alabama, they were enslaved until they gained freedom in 1865. Some could not afford to return to Africa, so they bought land near Mobile and began Africatown. The founders had little money and faced unfair treatment. Sharing work helped neighbors support one another when money was scarce. Starting a church gave them a place to gather and stay connected despite unfair treatment.

Accept other passage-supported challenges and community-building choices. For the museum sign, look for an accurate account of Africatown's beginnings and an explanation of how two choices helped the founders build community despite hardship.