Who Holds Power?

How a war changed trade and land claims in Alabama

SS24.4.5a "Explain how the French and Indian War affected power, trade, and claims to lands in Alabama for both Native Americans and European nations."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two changes in European power or land claims, circle two phrases about changes in trade, and write 1 beside a sentence that shows a choice Native nations still had.

After the War in Alabama

1. Picture a boat bringing cloth and metal tools to Mobile in the 1750s. French traders exchanged these goods with Native people, including Choctaw and Creek communities, who lived in the land now called Alabama. French soldiers held posts at Mobile and Fort Toulouse, near Creek towns. Native leaders made their own choices about trade and alliances. France claimed land there, but Native nations lived on and governed much of it.

2. The French and Indian War ended in 1763. Britain defeated France, and France gave Britain its claims to much of the land east of the Mississippi River, including land in today's Alabama. Britain took control of Mobile and other French posts. France lost its posts and much of its trading power there. British traders now had more chances to trade with Native communities, but they needed Native people to agree.

3. The treaty changed European claims, not who lived on the land. Creek and Choctaw nations still held their own towns and lands. With French posts gone, their leaders had fewer European trading partners to choose from nearby. They could bargain with British traders for supplies, yet Britain's new claim could lead to conflict over who controlled Native lands. A treaty between European nations did not erase Native nations' power to make choices.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the war change the power France and Britain had at Mobile?

2. How did the war change trading chances for French and British traders in Alabama?

3. How did the loss of French posts affect Native nations' trading choices? What could their leaders still do?

4. Britain gained a claim to land in Alabama. Why did that not mean Native nations had lost their lands?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are a Creek leader speaking to a British trader in 1764. Write three sentences explaining how the war changed your trading choices and land claims, and one choice your community can still make.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 4 · SS24.4.5a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two changes in European power or land claims, circle two phrases about changes in trade, and write 1 beside a sentence that shows a choice Native nations still had. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the war change the power France and Britain had at Mobile?	**Britain took control of Mobile, while France lost its post there.**
2	How did the war change trading chances for French and British traders in Alabama?	**France lost much of its trading power when its posts were gone. British traders had more chances to trade with Native communities.**
3	How did the loss of French posts affect Native nations' trading choices? What could their leaders still do?	**They had fewer nearby European trading partners, but their leaders could still bargain with British traders.**
4	Britain gained a claim to land in Alabama. Why did that not mean Native nations had lost their lands?	**The treaty changed European claims, but Creek and Choctaw nations still held their towns and lands.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Before the war ended, we traded with French people at their posts, but now we have fewer nearby trading partners. Britain claims this land, but our Creek towns and lands are still ours. We can decide whether to trade with you and bargain for the supplies we need.

Accept answers that distinguish Britain's new claim from Native nations' continued hold on their lands. Students may describe Native leaders choosing whether to trade or bargaining over supplies.