One Line, Two Treaties

How two agreements shaped the border near Alabama

SS24.4.6d "Explain how the Treaty of Paris (1783) and Pinckney's Treaty helped set the boundaries of the United States, including the area that would become Alabama."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the southern border named in the 1783 treaty and circle the border Spain accepted in 1795. Put a 1 beside the sentence that describes the disagreement and a 2 beside the sentence that says it was settled.

Where Was the Border?

1. Picture two neighbors arguing about where a fence belongs. Countries can disagree about borders, too. After the American Revolution, Britain and the United States signed the Treaty of Paris in 1783. Britain recognized the United States as independent. The treaty described its western border as the Mississippi River and much of its southern border as a line at 31 degrees north latitude. That line crosses land that is now Alabama.

2. Spain controlled Florida after the war. Spain claimed that West Florida reached farther north than the 31-degree line. That meant Spain and the United States did not agree on the border near today's Alabama. Native nations, including the Creek, also lived on and governed land there. A treaty between countries did not erase their homes or rights.

3. In 1795, the United States and Spain signed Pinckney's Treaty. Spain agreed that the border between the United States and Spanish Florida would follow the 31-degree line in the west. This settled their disagreement about that stretch of border. Today, the line runs through southern Alabama. Land north of it was claimed by the United States, while land south of it remained Spanish Florida at that time.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What southern border did the Treaty of Paris describe, and where does it cross land that is now Alabama?

2. Why did Spain and the United States disagree about the border near today's Alabama after 1783?

3. How did Pinckney's Treaty settle the disagreement about that stretch of border?

4. After Pinckney's Treaty, which country claimed land north of the line, and which held land south of it?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a two-sentence sign for an exhibit called “One Line, Two Treaties.” First, explain why it would be wrong to say Spain agreed to the border in 1783. Then explain how the 1795 treaty helped settle the border near today's Alabama.

ANSWER KEY

One Line, Two Treaties

GRADE 4 · SS24.4.6d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the southern border named in the 1783 treaty and circle the border Spain accepted in 1795. Put a 1 beside the sentence that describes the disagreement and a 2 beside the sentence that says it was settled. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What southern border did the Treaty of Paris describe, and where does it cross land that is now Alabama?	**It described a border at 31 degrees north latitude, a line that crosses land in southern Alabama.**
2	Why did Spain and the United States disagree about the border near today's Alabama after 1783?	**Spain claimed that West Florida reached farther north than the 31-degree line named in the Treaty of Paris.**
3	How did Pinckney's Treaty settle the disagreement about that stretch of border?	**Spain agreed that the border with the United States would follow the 31-degree line in the west.**
4	After Pinckney's Treaty, which country claimed land north of the line, and which held land south of it?	**The United States claimed land north of the line. Land south of it remained Spanish Florida.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Spain did not agree to the 31-degree border in 1783, even though the Treaty of Paris named that line as part of the United States' southern border. In 1795, Pinckney's Treaty got Spain to accept the line as the border with Spanish Florida near today's Alabama.

Accept answers that distinguish the border described in 1783 from Spain's agreement to it in 1795. Students may say “31 degrees north” or “the 31-degree line.”