Routes and Costs

Read how land deals, reports, and roads changed travel west.

SS24.4.8 "Explain how the Louisiana Purchase and the actions of the Corps of Discovery accelerated westward expansion of the United States. 8a Summarize how the Federal Road increased access to Creek Territory for settlers and enslaved persons..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail in each paragraph that shows how land, information, or a road made travel easier. Circle one detail that shows a cost to Native people.

Opening Routes West

1 In 1803, the United States bought a huge area of land from France. This deal, called the Louisiana Purchase, stretched west from the Mississippi River. The United States claimed control over land where many Native nations already lived and cared for the land. With more land under its control, the government and settlers became more interested in traveling west and building new communities there.

2 President Thomas Jefferson sent the Corps of Discovery, led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, to explore the West. From 1804 to 1806, the group traveled to the Pacific Ocean. Native people shared food, directions, and knowledge that helped the group travel. The Corps made maps and wrote about rivers and land. These reports helped later travelers plan trips west, even though Native nations already knew these places.

3 Another route changed travel farther south. The Federal Road ran from Georgia through Creek Territory toward Mobile, in what is now Alabama. As the road improved, settlers and enslaved people forced to travel with them could move into the area more easily. New farms and towns put pressure on Creek land. Creek communities faced growing conflict and lost land as the United States expanded.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Louisiana Purchase encourage westward expansion, even though Native nations already lived on the land?

2. How did Native people's help and the Corps of Discovery's reports make later trips west easier?

3. How did the improved Federal Road change travel into Creek Territory for settlers and enslaved people?

4. How did easier access to Creek Territory affect Creek communities?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum sign explaining how the Louisiana Purchase, the Corps of Discovery, and the Federal Road each helped westward expansion. Include one way Native people helped the Corps and one effect on Creek communities.

ANSWER KEY

Routes and Costs

GRADE 4 · SS24.4.8

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail in each paragraph that shows how land, information, or a road made travel easier. Circle one detail that shows a cost to Native people. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Louisiana Purchase encourage westward expansion, even though Native nations already lived on the land?	**It put more western land under U.S. control, which increased the interest of the government and settlers in traveling west and building communities.**
2	How did Native people's help and the Corps of Discovery's reports make later trips west easier?	**Native people gave the Corps food, directions, and knowledge. The Corps then made maps and reports that helped later travelers plan trips.**
3	How did the improved Federal Road change travel into Creek Territory for settlers and enslaved people?	**The improved road made it easier for settlers and enslaved people forced to travel with them to enter Creek Territory.**
4	How did easier access to Creek Territory affect Creek communities?	**New farms and towns put pressure on Creek land. Creek communities faced growing conflict and lost land.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Louisiana Purchase put more western land under U.S. control, which encouraged settlers to head west. With help from Native people, the Corps of Discovery made maps and reports that helped later travelers plan trips. Farther south, the Federal Road made travel into Creek Territory easier for settlers and enslaved people forced to go with them. As more newcomers arrived, Creek communities faced pressure on their land and lost land.

Accept answers that connect each event to increased access or interest in moving west. Students should recognize that Native people helped the Corps and that expansion brought land pressure or loss to Creek communities.