

A Nation Grows

Trace why the United States bought Louisiana and what changed afterward.

SS.5.A.6.1 "Describe the causes and effects of the Louisiana Purchase."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two causes of the Louisiana Purchase. Circle three effects of the purchase, then number the effects 1, 2, and 3.

The Louisiana Purchase

- ① In 1803, the United States bought the Louisiana Territory from France for \$15 million. President Thomas Jefferson wanted control of the port of New Orleans and the Mississippi River. Farmers in the West used the river to ship crops. When France controlled the area, Americans worried that France might limit their trade or close the port.
- ② The purchase doubled the size of the United States and gave the nation land west of the Mississippi River. It opened room for settlers to move west, although this movement harmed many Native American nations already living there. Jefferson sent the Lewis and Clark expedition to learn about parts of the new territory and to seek a route to the Pacific Ocean.
- ③ Not everyone agreed with the purchase. Jefferson had often supported a strict reading of the Constitution, and the Constitution did not clearly say that a president could buy foreign land. Still, he completed the deal because he believed it would protect trade and strengthen the country. Later, arguments over slavery grew as people considered whether slavery would spread into western lands.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What trade concern helped cause the United States to buy the Louisiana Territory?

2 How did the Louisiana Purchase change the size and land area of the United States?

3 What was one effect of settlers moving west after the purchase?

4 Why did Jefferson complete the purchase even though he had constitutional doubts?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three or four sentences that explain one cause and two effects of the Louisiana Purchase. Use a cause-and-effect word or phrase, such as because, so, or as a result.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two causes of the Louisiana Purchase. Circle three effects of the purchase, then number the effects 1, 2, and 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What trade concern helped cause the United States to buy the Louisiana Territory?	Americans feared that France might limit trade on the Mississippi River or close the port of New Orleans.
2	How did the Louisiana Purchase change the size and land area of the United States?	It doubled the size of the United States and gave the nation land west of the Mississippi River.
3	What was one effect of settlers moving west after the purchase?	The movement harmed many Native American nations already living there.
4	Why did Jefferson complete the purchase even though he had constitutional doubts?	He believed the purchase would protect trade and strengthen the country.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The United States bought the Louisiana Territory because leaders wanted to protect trade on the Mississippi River. As a result, the nation doubled in size. More settlers moved west, which harmed Native American nations already living on the land. The purchase also led to arguments about whether slavery would spread west.

Accept any accurate cause and effects from the passage. In the open response, look for one clear cause, two accurate effects, and a word or phrase that connects cause and effect.