Pelts to Prospects

How trade and mining changed Idaho

4.SS.1.4 "Describe the historic role of fur trading and the discovery of gold and silver in Idaho."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one effect of fur trading, circle one effect of a gold discovery, and draw a box around one effect of a silver discovery. These marks will help you explain how each activity changed Idaho.

Changes Across Idaho

1. Long before miners arrived, Native peoples lived and traded across the land now called Idaho. In the early 1800s, fur traders came to trap beavers for their thick pelts. Traders also exchanged goods with Native communities. Beaver pelts were sold for hats in distant markets. Trading posts, including Fort Hall, became places to exchange supplies. The fur trade brought more newcomers and connected Idaho to trade far beyond the region.

2. In 1860, prospectors found gold near present-day Pierce in northern Idaho. News of the find spread, and people traveled there hoping to earn money. More gold finds, including those in the Boise Basin, drew even larger crowds. Mining camps grew into towns as workers opened stores and built roads. The rush increased the number of settlers, but it also put pressure on Native peoples' lands.

3. Silver also shaped Idaho's history. In the 1860s, miners found silver in the Owyhee Mountains in southwestern Idaho. Camps such as Silver City grew near the mines. People needed food, tools, and places to sleep, so businesses opened. Gold and silver mining helped Idaho's towns and trade grow, while mining damaged land and water and brought more conflict over land with Native communities.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the fur trade connect Idaho to places far away?

2. How did fur trading change places in Idaho?

3. How did the gold discoveries change Idaho's communities?

4. How did silver mining affect towns and the land?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are leading a three-stop museum tour about Idaho's past. Write four sentences: welcome visitors, then explain one change caused by fur trading, one caused by gold discoveries, and one caused by silver discoveries. Include one cost of these changes.

ANSWER KEY

Pelts to Prospects

GRADE 4 · 4.SS.1.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one effect of fur trading, circle one effect of a gold discovery, and draw a box around one effect of a silver discovery. These marks will help you explain how each activity changed Idaho. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the fur trade connect Idaho to places far away?	**Traders sold beaver pelts for hats in distant markets.**
2	How did fur trading change places in Idaho?	**Trading posts such as Fort Hall became places to exchange supplies, and more newcomers arrived.**
3	How did the gold discoveries change Idaho's communities?	**They drew crowds, and mining camps grew into towns with stores and roads.**
4	How did silver mining affect towns and the land?	**Camps such as Silver City grew and businesses opened, but mining damaged land and water.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Welcome to our tour of Idaho's changing communities. At our fur trade stop, trading posts connected people in Idaho with distant buyers. At our gold stop, new finds drew crowds, and mining camps grew into towns. At our silver stop, businesses opened near the mines, but mining also damaged land and water.

Accept other passage-supported effects, including increased settlement or pressure on Native peoples' lands. The museum response should distinguish fur trading, gold, and silver and name a cost.