Where Chicago Began

People, place, and the growth of a town

3.H.2 "Explain why and how the local community was established, and identify its founders and early settlers."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the names of Chicago's founder and two other early settlers. Underline two ways the river and lake helped the settlement grow.

From Trading Post to Town

1. Long before Chicago had streets, Potawatomi people lived near Lake Michigan. They fished, grew food, and traveled on rivers and paths. The Chicago River met the lake, so people could move between waterways and share goods. This useful place drew traders. Yet the land was already home to Native people. The story of Chicago's beginning includes them.

2. Around 1780, Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, a Black trader, settled beside the Chicago River with his wife, Kitihawa, who was Potawatomi. They built a home and ran a trading post there. Du Sable traded with Native people and other travelers. The river helped carry goods, and the lake connected the post to places farther away. Many people call du Sable Chicago's founder.

3. In 1804, John Kinzie and his family moved to the area. Kinzie also traded goods near the river. Over time, other families arrived to build homes and shops. In 1833, residents made Chicago an official town. The water routes brought travelers and supplies, while early settlers built places to live and work. That is how a small trading place grew into a town.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why was the place where the river met the lake useful for a new settlement?

2. How did du Sable and Kitihawa help establish the settlement?

3. Who is called Chicago's founder? Name two other early settlers in the passage.

4. How did the trading place become an official town? Give two steps from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you arrive near the Chicago River after du Sable and Kitihawa. Write three sentences explaining why you would settle there and what new thing you would do to help the settlement grow. Use one detail from the reading and one sensible idea of your own.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 3 · 3.H.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the names of Chicago's founder and two other early settlers. Underline two ways the river and lake helped the settlement grow. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why was the place where the river met the lake useful for a new settlement?	**People could travel between waterways and carry goods to and from other places.**
2	How did du Sable and Kitihawa help establish the settlement?	**They built a home and ran a trading post beside the Chicago River.**
3	Who is called Chicago's founder? Name two other early settlers in the passage.	**Jean Baptiste Point du Sable is called the founder. Kitihawa and John Kinzie were also early settlers.**
4	How did the trading place become an official town? Give two steps from the passage.	**More families built homes and shops. In 1833, residents made Chicago an official town.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would settle near the Chicago River because boats could bring goods we need. I would open a boat repair shop to help traders travel safely. My shop could bring more workers and families to the settlement.

Accept answers that connect the river or lake to travel and trade and distinguish the named founder from other early settlers. For Part 3, look for a plausible new idea, not just a repeated fact from the passage.