Homes Before Contact

Explore how three North American communities lived before Europeans arrived.

5.H.1 "Identify and describe early cultures and settlements that existed in North America prior to contact with Europeans."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the names of three cultures or peoples, then circle one detail about each group's homes, food, or shared spaces to show how they lived before Europeans arrived.

Three Places, Three Communities

1. Long before Europeans arrived, North America was home to many different communities. In the Southwest, Ancestral Pueblo people lived in places such as Chaco Canyon, in what is now New Mexico. They built large buildings with many stone rooms. Families grew corn, beans, and squash in the dry region. Their buildings and farms show how people made homes and raised food in a challenging climate.

2. Near the Mississippi River, in what is now Illinois, the city of Cahokia grew into a major center of Mississippian culture. Its people built huge earthen mounds. Some mounds supported important buildings, and open spaces nearby held gatherings. Farmers raised corn in the surrounding area. Cahokia's mounds and gathering places show that many people worked together to build and use a large settlement.

3. Along the Pacific Northwest coast, Tlingit communities lived near forests and waterways. Families built houses from cedar planks and traveled in wooden canoes. They caught salmon and dried some of it to store for later. These choices used materials and food available nearby. The Tlingit people still live in the region today, and descendants of Ancestral Pueblo and Mississippian peoples also live today.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which culture lived at Chaco Canyon, and what kind of buildings did its people make?

2. Which culture built Cahokia, and how were its mounds used?

3. Which people lived along the Pacific Northwest coast, and how did they travel?

4. How did buildings at Chaco Canyon differ from Tlingit houses?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label comparing food in two communities from the passage. Name both cultures or peoples, describe how each got or saved food, and explain one way their food practices were alike or different.

ANSWER KEY

Homes Before Contact

GRADE 5 · 5.H.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the names of three cultures or peoples, then circle one detail about each group's homes, food, or shared spaces to show how they lived before Europeans arrived. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which culture lived at Chaco Canyon, and what kind of buildings did its people make?	**Ancestral Pueblo people lived there and built large buildings with many stone rooms.**
2	Which culture built Cahokia, and how were its mounds used?	**People of Mississippian culture built Cahokia. Some mounds supported important buildings.**
3	Which people lived along the Pacific Northwest coast, and how did they travel?	**Tlingit people lived there and traveled in wooden canoes.**
4	How did buildings at Chaco Canyon differ from Tlingit houses?	**At Chaco Canyon, Ancestral Pueblo people built buildings with stone rooms. Tlingit families built houses from cedar planks.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At Chaco Canyon, Ancestral Pueblo families grew corn, beans, and squash. Along the Pacific Northwest coast, Tlingit people caught salmon and dried some for later. Both communities found ways to feed their families. One group farmed while the other fished, using food available in each region.

Accept any accurate passage-based detail that meets the question. For the museum label, look for two correctly named peoples or cultures, accurate food practices for each, and a clear comparison.