Goods on the Move

Trace how trade routes connected American Indian communities.

3.C.3.1.B "Describe how prior to European exploration of the region, American Indian cultures (e.g., Moundbuilders, Wichita, Caddo) traded goods using well-developed systems of intertribal trade routes."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the land and water routes in the passage. Circle the goods people traded, and number the places goods could pass through.

A Trip Beyond One Village

1. Long before European explorers came to the land that is now Oklahoma, American Indian peoples traded with other groups. Paths across grasslands and forests linked villages and meeting places. Rivers were routes too. Travelers could carry goods on foot or move them by canoe where the water allowed. These routes formed a trade system that reached far beyond one village.

2. Moundbuilding peoples in the region made earthen mounds and took part in wide trade networks. People carried stone, shells, and copper along routes that connected distant places. Shells could come from the Gulf Coast, while copper came from lands near the Great Lakes. A traveler did not have to make the whole trip. Goods could pass from group to group.

3. The Wichita and Caddo also traded with other peoples. Wichita communities hunted bison and grew crops. Caddo communities grew corn and made pottery. At a meeting place, people could exchange things they had for things they needed, such as bison hides for corn. Then travelers could take those goods to the next village. Land paths and rivers helped trade keep moving across the region.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did travelers use both land and water routes to trade?

2. What do the sources of shells and copper tell you about the reach of moundbuilding peoples' trade routes?

3. Describe a possible trade between Wichita and Caddo people using goods named in the passage.

4. How could goods traded at a meeting place reach another village?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence message from a traveler planning a trade trip. Name two peoples in the passage, tell how you would travel by land and river, and describe what you would trade and where the goods might go next.

ANSWER KEY

Goods on the Move

GRADE 3 · 3.C.3.1.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the land and water routes in the passage. Circle the goods people traded, and number the places goods could pass through. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did travelers use both land and water routes to trade?	**They carried goods on foot along paths and used canoes on rivers where the water allowed.**
2	What do the sources of shells and copper tell you about the reach of moundbuilding peoples' trade routes?	**The routes reached distant places. Shells could come from the Gulf Coast and copper from near the Great Lakes.**
3	Describe a possible trade between Wichita and Caddo people using goods named in the passage.	**Wichita people could trade bison hides to Caddo people for corn.**
4	How could goods traded at a meeting place reach another village?	**Travelers could carry the goods along land paths or rivers to the next village.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I will walk a land path from a Wichita village to a meeting place near a river. There I will trade bison hides with Caddo people for corn. I will take the corn by canoe to another village, where it can be traded again.

Accept other plausible trades using goods from the passage. The message should explain how both a land path and a river help goods move between communities.