Across the Prairies

Why travelers came and what they noticed

3.C.3.1.C "Examine reasons for early explorations (e.g., Coronado, Washington Irving, George Catlin) into present-day Oklahoma and summarize observations regarding the land, people, and resources."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline why each traveler came to the area that is now Oklahoma. Circle what each traveler noticed about the land, people, or resources.

Three Travelers, Three Trips

1. In 1541, Francisco Coronado led a Spanish group across part of what is now Oklahoma. He was searching for rich cities he had heard about. He did not find the gold he hoped for. Instead, he saw wide grasslands and huge herds of bison. Native people already lived on this land and knew how to use its resources. Bison could provide food and hides.

2. Nearly 300 years later, Washington Irving rode onto the prairies of what is now Oklahoma. He wanted to see the land for himself and write about his trip. He traveled with a group from Fort Gibson, near the Arkansas River. Irving saw open grass, bison, and trees beside streams. He also met Osage people, whose home was in the region.

3. In 1834, artist George Catlin visited what is now Oklahoma. He wanted to paint Native people and learn about their lives. Catlin made pictures of people he met, including members of the Comanche nation. He also saw bison on the plains. For people living there, bison were a useful resource. Their meat was food, and their hides could become clothing or shelter.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How was what Coronado found different from what he was looking for?

2. Why did Irving travel there, and what did he notice about the land?

3. Why did Catlin visit, and what did he observe about the people there?

4. What resource did Coronado and Catlin both see? How could people use it?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence note for a museum about two of the travelers. Explain why each came, then tell what their observations together show about the land, people, and resources of present-day Oklahoma.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline why each traveler came to the area that is now Oklahoma. Circle what each traveler noticed about the land, people, or resources. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How was what Coronado found different from what he was looking for?	**He looked for rich cities and gold, but he found grasslands and herds of bison.**
2	Why did Irving travel there, and what did he notice about the land?	**He wanted to see the land and write about his trip. He noticed open grass and trees beside streams.**
3	Why did Catlin visit, and what did he observe about the people there?	**He wanted to paint Native people and learn about their lives. He met and painted people, including members of the Comanche nation.**
4	What resource did Coronado and Catlin both see? How could people use it?	**Both saw bison. People could use their meat for food and their hides for clothing or shelter.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Coronado came hoping to find rich cities, but Irving came to see the prairies and write about his trip. Coronado saw wide grasslands and bison, while Irving met Osage people and saw trees beside streams. Together, their observations show a land with grass and water where Native people lived and bison provided food and hides.

Accept any two travelers if the note gives an accurate reason for each trip and uses passage details to summarize observations about land, people, and resources.