# Whose River Land?

Compare how people used land and resources along the Mississippi River.

**4.C.3.2.C** "Explain interactions between American Indians, Spanish explorations, French fur traders, and early European settlers, comparing different perspectives toward land ownership and use of resources."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline two ways American Indian nations used land or resources, and circle two ways newcomers used them. Write a 1 beside a place where those uses could clash.

### Land Along the River

1. Long before Europeans reached the Mississippi River region, American Indian nations lived on and cared for its land. Families grew crops near villages and hunted, fished, and gathered in places their nations knew well. Different nations had their own rules for using land. Many saw land and water as resources a community needed to share and protect, not as empty places waiting for newcomers.

2. In the 1500s, Spanish explorers traveled through the region seeking wealth. Some claimed land for Spain, although Native nations already lived there. Some also took food from Native communities by force, causing fear and fighting. Later, French fur traders traveled the rivers. They traded cloth and metal tools for animal skins. Traders needed Native knowledge of routes and animals, so trade could build partnerships.

3. In the 1700s, some European settlers built farms along the river. They often wanted to mark off land for one family's use. But a farm or fence could block a place Native families used to hunt or gather. French traders wanted access to animals for trade, while settlers wanted fields for crops. Native people could gain goods through trade, yet lose access to places they depended on.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did a Spanish claim to land differ from the way Native nations used land?

2. What did French fur traders and Native people each bring to a trade partnership?

3. Why might a settler's farm cause a problem for Native families?

4. How were some Spanish explorers' actions toward Native communities different from French fur traders' interactions?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence conversation between a Native community member and a settler about a proposed farm near a hunting place. Show each person's view of land use and suggest a way to avoid blocking the hunting place.

**ANSWER KEY**

# Whose River Land?

**GRADE 4 · 4.C.3.2.C**

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ways American Indian nations used land or resources, and circle two ways newcomers used them. Write a 1 beside a place where those uses could clash. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How did a Spanish claim to land differ from the way Native nations used land? | **Some Spanish explorers claimed land for Spain, although Native nations already lived there and had their own rules for using it.** |
| 2 | What did French fur traders and Native people each bring to a trade partnership? | **French traders brought cloth and metal tools. Native people provided animal skins and knowledge of routes and animals.** |
| 3 | Why might a settler's farm cause a problem for Native families? | **A settler might mark off land for a farm or fence that blocked a place Native families used to hunt or gather.** |
| 4 | How were some Spanish explorers' actions toward Native communities different from French fur traders' interactions? | **Some Spanish explorers took food by force, causing fear and fighting. French fur traders exchanged goods with Native people, which could build partnerships.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Native community member: “Our families hunt here, so a fence would block a place we need.” Settler: “I want a field where my family can grow crops, but I understand that you use this land.” Settler: “I will ask your community about a place for my field that would not block your hunting place.”

Accept answers that accurately compare the groups without treating every person in a group as having the same views or actions. The conversation should show both land uses and propose a response to the conflict.