Before Jamestown

Native societies, leadership, and trade in Virginia

5.C.1.1 "Describe the region prior to English settlement as the home to established and self-governing Native societies representing multiple cultures and engaging in vast intertribal trade routes."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details about Native leadership, circle the names of two Native peoples, and write 1 beside where shell beads were made and 2 beside where they traveled. Your marks will help you describe the societies that lived here before English settlement.

Virginia Before English Settlement

1. Before English settlers founded Jamestown in 1607, the land now called Virginia was home to Native peoples with long-established towns, farms, and trade ties. Along the rivers near the Chesapeake Bay lived Powhatan peoples, who grew corn, beans, and squash and fished in nearby waters. Farther inland, Monacan communities farmed near the James River and used the land's forests and streams.

2. These were not towns waiting for someone else to rule them. In Powhatan communities, local leaders called weroances guided their towns. A powerful leader, Wahunsenacawh, linked many of these communities. Monacan towns also had their own leaders. Powhatan and Monacan peoples spoke languages from different language families, and their communities followed their own customs. No single way of life describes every Native society in the region.

3. Trade connected communities across the region and far beyond it. People carried shell beads made near the coast inland, where they could exchange them for goods such as copper. Traders passed goods from one community to another along rivers and land paths. These routes linked people who spoke different languages. Long before Jamestown, Native societies governed themselves and shared goods across wide networks.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the passage show that Powhatan communities had their own leadership before Jamestown?

2. What two details show that Powhatan and Monacan peoples did not share one single culture?

3. How did trade connect people near the coast with people inland?

4. What two details would you use to show that Native societies were established in Virginia before Jamestown?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence museum sign about Virginia before Jamestown. Describe Native leadership, one difference between Native cultures, and how trade connected communities. Use at least two details from the passage without copying a full sentence.

ANSWER KEY

Before Jamestown

GRADE 5 · 5.C.1.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details about Native leadership, circle the names of two Native peoples, and write 1 beside where shell beads were made and 2 beside where they traveled. Your marks will help you describe the societies that lived here before English settlement. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the passage show that Powhatan communities had their own leadership before Jamestown?	**Local leaders called weroances guided towns, and Wahunsenacawh linked many communities.**
2	What two details show that Powhatan and Monacan peoples did not share one single culture?	**They spoke languages from different language families and followed their own customs.**
3	How did trade connect people near the coast with people inland?	**People carried shell beads from the coast inland and could exchange them for goods such as copper.**
4	What two details would you use to show that Native societies were established in Virginia before Jamestown?	**Accept two supported details, such as long-established towns, farms, local leaders, and trade ties.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Native communities in Virginia had their own leaders long before Jamestown was founded. Powhatan and Monacan peoples spoke languages from different language families and followed their own customs. Traders carried coastal shell beads inland, where people could exchange them for goods such as copper.

Accept accurate paraphrases supported by the passage. For the museum sign, look for three original sentences that address leadership, cultural differences, and trade.