Whose Land Was It?

How different views of land strained relations at Jamestown

5.C.1.5.D "deteriorating relationships with the Powhatan, characterized by differing views on land ownership."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail about Powhatan ties to land, circle one detail about English control of land, and number two ways their disagreement hurt relations.

A Dispute Over Land

1. In 1607, English settlers built Jamestown beside the James River, in the homeland of Powhatan peoples. At first, the newcomers needed food, and some Powhatan communities traded corn with them. Both groups depended on nearby fields, forests, and waterways. As more English settlers arrived, they wanted room to plant crops and raise animals. Land that supported Powhatan communities now drew settlers' attention.

2. Powhatan communities had their own ties and rights to land. Families planted fields and used nearby woods and rivers, while leaders guided how communities used these places. The English often thought they could gain lasting control of a piece of land through a purchase or a grant. They cleared ground and sometimes fenced it. A fence could block a path or keep Powhatan families from land they had used.

3. Imagine a Powhatan family returning to a riverside place where they had gathered food. English settlers might see that same place as part of a farm they now controlled. What one group saw as continued use, the other might treat as trespassing. Disputes over land added to problems over food and power. Trade grew harder, and at times fighting broke out. The relationship between the English settlers and Powhatan peoples worsened.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Powhatan communities use land, and how did English settlers try to control it?

2. How could an English fence cause a dispute with Powhatan families?

3. Why might the two groups disagree about a Powhatan family returning to the riverside place?

4. According to the passage, how did land disputes affect relations between the groups?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine settlers claim a meadow where a Powhatan community gathers plants. In three sentences, explain each group's view of the meadow and predict how their disagreement could hurt relations.

ANSWER KEY

Whose Land Was It?

GRADE 5 · 5.C.1.5.D

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail about Powhatan ties to land, circle one detail about English control of land, and number two ways their disagreement hurt relations. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Powhatan communities use land, and how did English settlers try to control it?	**Powhatan families planted fields and used woods and rivers, with leaders guiding that use. English settlers sought lasting control through purchases or grants and sometimes fenced land.**
2	How could an English fence cause a dispute with Powhatan families?	**A fence could block a path or keep families from land they had used.**
3	Why might the two groups disagree about a Powhatan family returning to the riverside place?	**The family might see its visit as continued use of the place, while settlers might see it as trespassing on their farm.**
4	According to the passage, how did land disputes affect relations between the groups?	**Land disputes added to other problems. Trade grew harder, and fighting sometimes broke out.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Settlers might believe a grant gives them lasting control of the meadow. Powhatan families might believe they should still be able to gather plants there because their community has long used it. If settlers keep them out, the dispute could weaken trust and lead to fighting.

Accept answers that explain Powhatan communities' established use and rights to land without claiming they had no concept of land rights. The prediction should connect a disagreement over access or control to worsening relations.