A Purchase, New Paths

How the Louisiana Purchase changed westward expansion

5.C.7.3.A "the purchase of Louisiana Territory and its effect on westward expansion"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show how the purchase helped the United States expand west. Circle one detail that shows how westward expansion affected Native nations.

A River, a Purchase, and New Neighbors

1. In 1803, a farmer near the Mississippi River had a big question: Who would control the river route to the sea? Farmers sent crops down the river to the port of New Orleans. That year, the United States bought Louisiana Territory from France for $15 million. The purchase included New Orleans and a huge area west of the Mississippi River. It nearly doubled the land claimed by the United States.

2. Control of the river and New Orleans gave American farmers a more secure way to ship goods to other places. The new land also gave the United States room to expand west. In 1804, President Thomas Jefferson sent Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to explore parts of the new territory and land beyond it. Their group recorded rivers, plants, animals, and information shared by Native peoples.

3. The land was not empty. Many Native nations had lived there for generations, with their own homes, trade routes, and governments. The purchase was a deal between France and the United States, not an agreement with those nations. As more Americans moved west, settlers built farms and towns on land the United States now claimed. This growth brought conflict and loss of land for many Native peoples.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did gaining control of New Orleans help farmers who lived along the Mississippi River?

2. Why did the purchase give the United States more room to expand west?

3. How did Jefferson's decision after the purchase help people learn about western lands?

4. Why could westward expansion after the purchase lead to conflict with Native nations?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a letter of 3 or 4 sentences from someone living near the Mississippi River in 1803 to a relative far away. Predict how the purchase might change life for both farmers and Native nations, using at least two details from the reading.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 5 · 5.C.7.3.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show how the purchase helped the United States expand west. Circle one detail that shows how westward expansion affected Native nations. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did gaining control of New Orleans help farmers who lived along the Mississippi River?	**It gave them a more secure way to ship crops down the river to the port and beyond.**
2	Why did the purchase give the United States more room to expand west?	**It added a huge area west of the Mississippi River and nearly doubled the land the United States claimed.**
3	How did Jefferson's decision after the purchase help people learn about western lands?	**He sent Lewis and Clark to explore. Their group recorded features of the land and information shared by Native peoples.**
4	Why could westward expansion after the purchase lead to conflict with Native nations?	**Native nations already lived on the land but were not part of the purchase agreement. As settlers moved in, many Native peoples lost land.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Dear Aunt, the United States has bought Louisiana Territory from France, including New Orleans. I hope farmers here will have a more secure way to send crops down the Mississippi River. Native nations have lived on the land to the west for generations. I worry that as settlers move there, those nations may lose their land.

For the marking job, accept details about river shipping, the added land, or exploration as reasons expansion became possible. For the letter, accept other reasonable predictions supported by two accurate passage details.