Systems That Connected

How societies organized people and resources before Europeans arrived

6.C.3.5.A "Explain that various complex societies, economic, and political systems developed on the North and South American continents, each known for unique achievements and contributions prior to the arrival of Europeans."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail about how each society organized people or resources, and circle one result of that organization in each paragraph so you can explain how its system supported an achievement.

Three Ways to Build a Society

1. Imagine a busy day in Cahokia, a large city near the Mississippi River around 1100 CE. Workers carry baskets of earth to build huge flat-topped mounds. Leaders likely planned public spaces and organized the work, while some mounds held important buildings. Farmers raised corn nearby, and traders brought materials such as stone and shells from distant places. These exchanges connected Cahokia to other communities. Its mounds show how a city could use organized labor and far-reaching trade to support a large population.

2. Before Europeans arrived in their homelands, Haudenosaunee nations formed a confederacy in what is now the northeastern United States and southeastern Canada. Each nation governed many of its own affairs, but representatives met in a council to discuss shared concerns. Clan mothers selected council leaders and could remove them. Families grew corn, beans, and squash, often called the Three Sisters. Their farming supported communities, while the council helped separate nations act together without giving up their own governments.

3. High in the Andes of South America, the Inca ruled a vast empire before Europeans arrived. Officials directed labor owed to the state, which helped build roads, bridges, and hillside terraces for farming. Workers also filled state storehouses with food and supplies. Runners carried messages along the roads, and officials used knotted cords called quipus to keep records, including counts of goods. These tools helped leaders move supplies across mountains and govern distant regions. Unlike Cahokia's city or the Haudenosaunee council of nations, the Inca empire had a central ruler.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did organized work and trade help Cahokia support a large city? Include one achievement.

2. How did the Haudenosaunee council help nations act together without giving up their own governments?

3. Explain how two Inca systems helped leaders govern distant regions.

4. What was one difference between Haudenosaunee and Inca political systems? Explain how each system organized people.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine several towns must share food after a poor harvest. In four sentences, design a plan using one historically accurate idea from each of two societies in the passage, and explain how each idea would help the towns.

ANSWER KEY

Systems That Connected

GRADE 6 · 6.C.3.5.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail about how each society organized people or resources, and circle one result of that organization in each paragraph so you can explain how its system supported an achievement. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did organized work and trade help Cahokia support a large city? Include one achievement.	**Leaders organized workers to build mounds, while trade brought materials from distant places and connected Cahokia to other communities.**
2	How did the Haudenosaunee council help nations act together without giving up their own governments?	**Representatives discussed shared concerns in the council, while each nation governed many of its own affairs.**
3	Explain how two Inca systems helped leaders govern distant regions.	**Roads let runners carry messages and helped move supplies across mountains. Quipus helped officials keep records of goods.**
4	What was one difference between Haudenosaunee and Inca political systems? Explain how each system organized people.	**Haudenosaunee nations sent representatives to a shared council but kept their own governments. The Inca had a central ruler and officials who directed work across an empire.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would ask each town to send representatives to a shared council, like the Haudenosaunee nations did. The council could decide which towns need food first while each town still manages its own affairs. I would also set up shared storehouses, as the Inca did. Workers could bring supplies to the storehouses so food is ready to send when a town's harvest fails.

Accept other accurate links between a society's system and its achievements. For Part 3, look for two different named societies, one accurate feature from each, and an explanation of how both features would help the imagined towns.