Goods on the Move

Caddo and Wichita production and trade before European contact

OKH.C.1.4 "Describe the Caddo and Wichita cultures, once active in the production and trading of goods using extensive transcontinental, intertribal trade routes prior to European contact."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline goods produced by the Caddo and Wichita. Circle two details that show how trade connected distant communities.

From River Towns to Plains Villages

1 Before Europeans arrived, Caddo communities lived along river valleys in what are now eastern Oklahoma and neighboring parts of Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana. Farmers raised corn, beans, and squash near towns with houses and public gathering places; some Caddo centers included earthen mounds. Skilled makers shaped clay into decorated pots and fashioned tools and ornaments. Rivers, nearby forests, and fields supplied materials, but Caddo people also valued objects from far away. Shells from coastal waters, for example, reached inland communities through exchanges among Native peoples. An object could travel much farther than the person who made it.

2 To the west and north, Wichita communities lived in parts of today's Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas. They grew corn, beans, and squash in villages with large grass-covered houses. Wichita hunters also pursued bison on the plains, making use of meat, hides, and bones. Farming and hunting supplied goods that could be shared or exchanged with other peoples. Wichita and Caddo communities had different homelands and building traditions, yet both combined local production with wider relationships. Neither culture can be described only as a group of wandering traders or only as an isolated farming village.

3 Before European contact, intertribal trade connected communities across North America. Routes were not a single road from one coast to another; many exchanges linked neighboring groups into networks that reached across the continent. A Caddo pot might move outward through several communities, while coastal shell might move inland by the same kind of relay. Wichita people could exchange products of their fields or bison hunts along connections reaching beyond the plains. These networks carried goods and helped people maintain relationships, but an object's distant origin does not prove that its maker traveled its entire route or that Caddo and Wichita traders met face to face.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the passage connect Caddo production with trade that reached beyond Caddo communities?

2. What goods could Wichita communities share or exchange from farming and hunting?

3. How did Caddo and Wichita ways of producing goods differ, and what did they have in common?

4. How could a good cross the continent through trade without its maker traveling the whole route?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A visitor says, "The Caddo and Wichita lived the same way, and their trade was limited to nearby neighbors." Write a 75 to 95 word exhibit response that corrects both claims. Use details about each culture and explain how goods could cross the continent without one trader making the entire trip.

ANSWER KEY

Goods on the Move

HIGH SCHOOL · OKH.C.1.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline goods produced by the Caddo and Wichita. Circle two details that show how trade connected distant communities. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the passage connect Caddo production with trade that reached beyond Caddo communities?	**Caddo makers produced goods such as decorated pots, which could move outward through exchanges. Coastal shells also reached inland communities through trade.**
2	What goods could Wichita communities share or exchange from farming and hunting?	**They grew corn, beans, and squash and used bison meat, hides, and bones. Goods from their fields and bison hunts could be shared or exchanged.**
3	How did Caddo and Wichita ways of producing goods differ, and what did they have in common?	**Caddo makers shaped decorated pottery, while Wichita hunters used materials from bison. Both peoples farmed and had goods they could share or exchange.**
4	How could a good cross the continent through trade without its maker traveling the whole route?	**Neighboring communities could exchange the good in a series of trades, passing it from group to group across a wider network.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Caddo farmed near river towns and made decorated pottery; some of their centers had earthen mounds. Wichita communities also farmed, but their villages included grass-covered houses, and hunters used bison meat, hides, and bones. These differences show that the groups did not live exactly alike. Their exchanges were not limited to nearby neighbors, either. A shell from coastal waters could reach an inland community through a series of trades. Each group might trade with another group, allowing goods to travel across the continent even if no single trader completed the whole journey.

Accept other passage-supported comparisons of Caddo and Wichita production and settlement. Students should describe a network of exchanges without claiming that one person traveled the entire route or that the two peoples necessarily traded face to face.