

Name Ailey

Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 2 The First Americans

### Lesson 4 Peoples of the Plains

#### Vocabulary

Lodge

is a home that Plains Indians made using bark, earth and grass

Nomad

is a person who moves around and does not live in one place

Travois

was similar to a sled.

#### Main Ideas

Why were the Eastern Plains Indians able to farm their lands and stay in one place?

Rainfall made it possible for the Eastern Plains Indians to farm. They settled in villages near rivers.

Why were the Comanche considered a wealthy tribe?

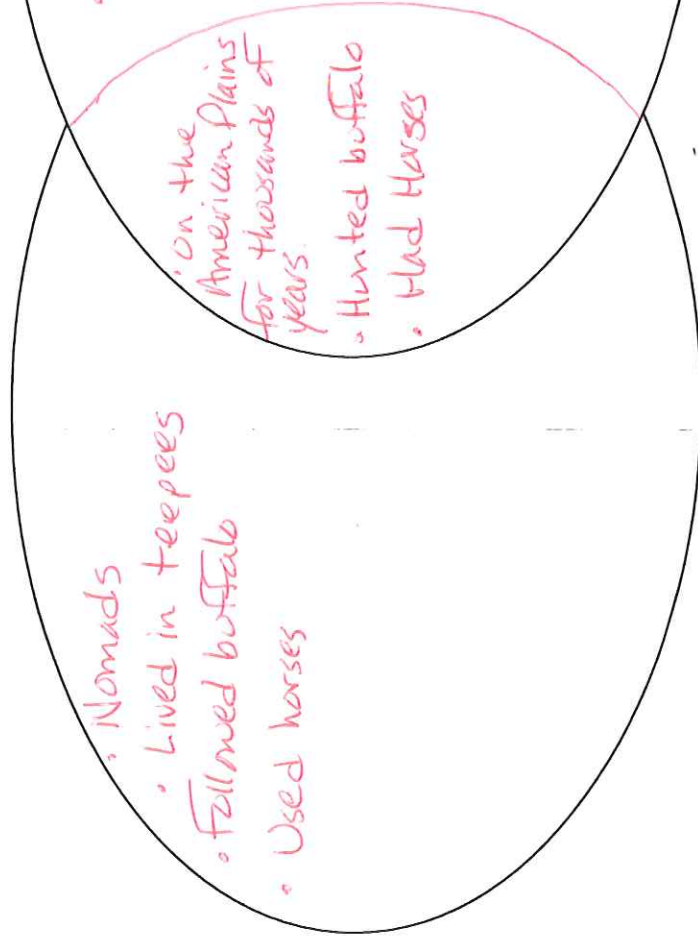
Plains Indians valued horses so highly that wealth was measured by how many horses a person owned. They had a lot of horses

Why did the Western Plains Indians live in teepees?

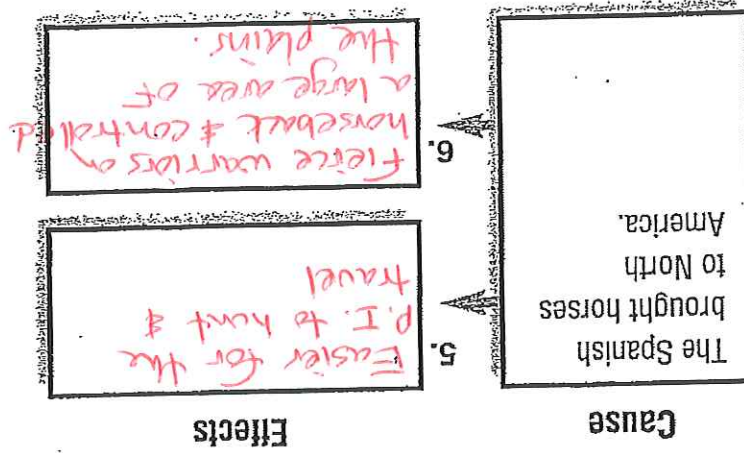
They were easy to set up and take down

Compare and Contrast (Use the Venn Diagram on page 63 to fill in)

Western Plain Natives



Eastern Plains Natives



Read "The Comanche." Then fill in the cause-and-effects chart below.

4. How did the Western Plains people use resources from buffalo to meet their needs? *shelters, blankets, clothing, drums and shields*
3. Why were Eastern Plains people able to farm more successfully than Western Plains people? *Plenty of rainfall*

Read "The Great Plains." Then answer the questions.

Study Guide

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. <i>lodge</i><br><i>farmer</i> | 2. <i>teepee</i><br><i>nomad</i><br><i>travels</i> |
| Eastern Plains                   | Western Plains                                     |

- lodge ✓  
teepee ✓  
nomad ✓  
travels ✓  
farmer ✓

Write each vocabulary word in the correct column.

Vocabulary

Name \_\_\_\_\_

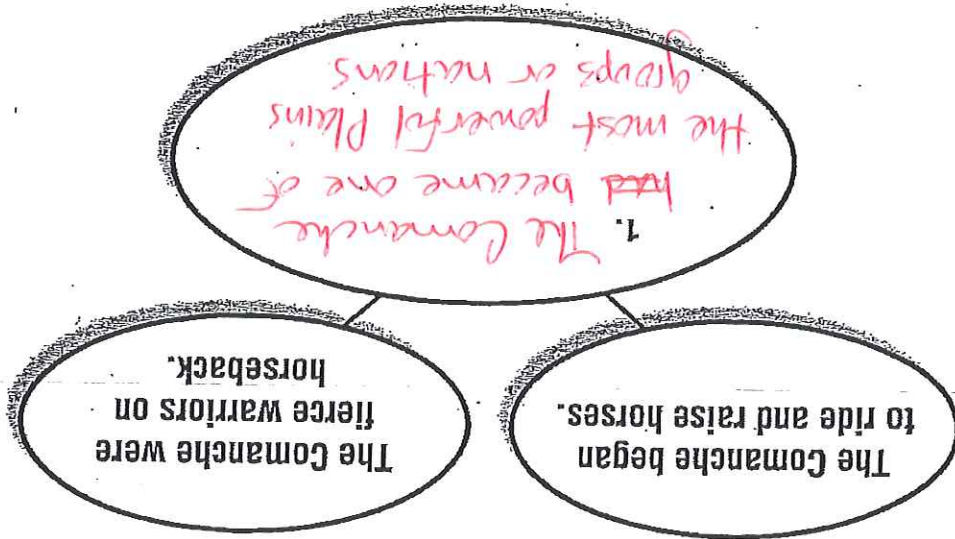
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# Reading Skill and Strategy

## Reading Skill: Draw Conclusions

This skill allows you to think about what might happen, based on what you have read.

Read "The Comanche." Then fill in the conclusion chart below. Read the fact about the Comanche. Then draw a conclusion about how horses helped the Comanche become powerful.



## Reading Strategy: Question

2. Read "The Great Plains." Then complete the answer to the question.

Question: How did the Eastern Plains Indians spend their time during each season?

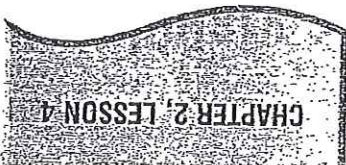
Answer: During the spring and fall, they stayed in their villages, and

*did the farming (planting/harvesting)*

3. Read "The Comanche." Then write a question to share with a partner.

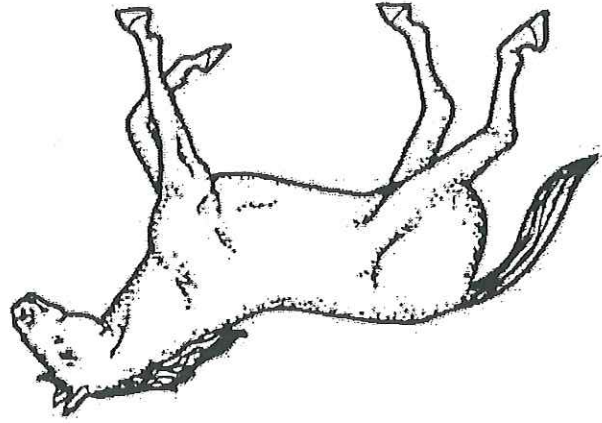
*Which comes first, the planting or the*

*harvesting?*



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_





Challenge:

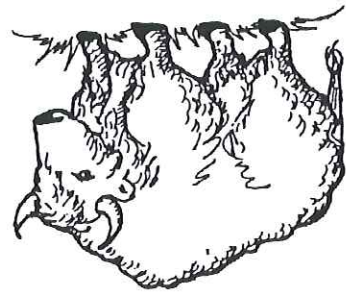
You are a newspaper reporter. Use your answers to the six questions above to write a news story about the Native American and horses.

- Read the paragraphs above. Then answer the questions.
1. Who brought the first horses to America? Spaniards
  2. What was the Native American name for horses? big dog
  3. Where in America were horses first introduced? Southwest N. America
  4. When was the horse first brought to America? 16<sup>th</sup> century
  5. Why were horses important to Native Americans? Travel faster, carry heavier loads, hunt more easily
  6. How did Native Americans first acquire horses? Raiding Spanish settlements

Native Americans did not always have horses. It wasn't until the sixteenth century that the Spaniards brought horses to America. At that time, Native Americans still used dogs to carry their packs while hunting. When the Native Americans first saw horses, they called them "big dogs" since they had no word for this new animal in their vocabulary. Southwest Native Americans acquired horses by raiding Spanish settlements. Gradually, they were introduced to the Northern Plains tribes as well. Horses greatly changed the Native American way of life. Now they could travel faster, carry heavier loads, and hunt more easily. War parties rode horses into battle to raid and fight; escape could be made quickly. In time, the horse became a status symbol. The bridegroom's family gave horses to the parents of the bride. Also, wealth was measured by the number of horses owned.

# Native Americans and Horses

# The Buffalo



Buffaloes played an important role in the lives of the Plains tribes. Their meat provided food and their hides were used for clothing and shelter. Bowstrings and sewing equipment were made from buffalo sinew. Bones were crafted into cooking utensils and toys for the children. Rawhide was made into lacings, moccasins and parfleches. (Parfleches were skin pouches that were used to carry small utensils and dried meat.)

Hunting for buffalo was no easy task. At first the Native Americans hunted on foot and shot the animals with a bow and arrow. Sometimes hunters would wear a buffalo or wolf skin to mask their human scent so they could get closer to the buffaloes to shoot them. Scouts were sent out to find the herds. Then the hunters lined up in two columns and waved blankets to force the herd toward the edge of a cliff. Other times, buffalo were driven into a corral where they were shot with arrows or clubbed to death.

When Native Americans acquired horses and guns, hunting buffalo became easier. They developed their skills as riders and marksmen. They also became more wasteful and would kill buffalo for sport following in the ways of the white man.

After you have read the paragraph above, write the answers to the clues below. The letters in the boxes will then spell out another name for the American bison.

1. These were made from sinew.

o w s t r i n g s

2. They were sent to find the herd.

s c o u t s

3. Skin pouches used to carry meat.

p a r f l e c h e s

4. It was worn to hide human scent.

w o l f s k i n

5. These are shot from bows.

a r r o w s

6. They were waved to scare buffaloes.

b l a n k e t s

7. Buffaloes were driven here to be shot.

c l i f f

Answer:

b u f f a l o



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# Native American State Names

The young people of the Cherokee National Youth Choir in Oklahoma recognize the importance of saving their native language. Many U.S. states got their names from Native American languages. A total of 10 states whose names are based on Native American languages are listed in the chart. After each name is the Native American language it comes from and its translation in English.

| Name of State | Native Language | Translation of State Name |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Arizona       | Pima            | "little spring place"     |
| Arkansas      | Sioux           | "downstream people"       |
| Connecticut   | Mahican         | "long river place"        |
| Kansas        | Sioux           | "south wind people"       |
| Michigan      | Chippewa        | "great water"             |
| Minnesota     | Omaha           | "sky-tinted water"        |
| Nebraska      | Iroquois        | "flat water"              |
| Ohio          | Iroquois        | "good river"              |
| Utah          | Ute             | "people of the mountains" |
| Wisconsin     | Chippewa        | "grassy place"            |

Sources: State Web sites and www.statesymbolsusa.org

1. From which Native American language did Ohio get its name? *Iroquois*
  2. What does Nebraska mean? *"Flat water"*
  3. What does Connecticut mean? *"Long river place"*
  4. Which state's name is the Chippewa word for "great water"? *Michigan*
  5. How many Southern states listed in this chart got their names from the Sioux? *2*
- What is/are the English translation(s)? *"Southern people", "downstream people"*

READING A CHART

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



