

Name _____

Class _____

Date _____

Chapter 2 The First Americans
Lesson 4 Peoples of the Plains

Vocabulary

Lodge

Nomad

Travois

Main Ideas

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

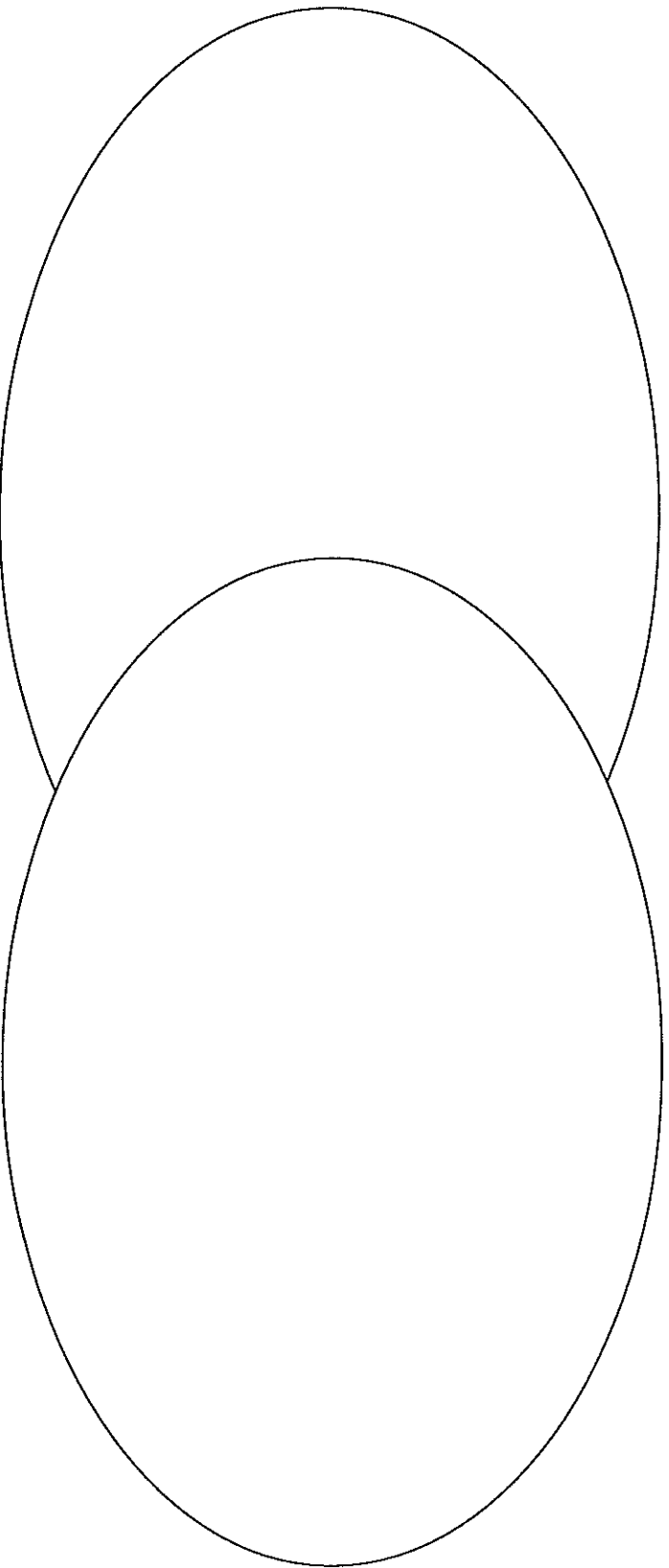
Why were the Comanche considered a wealthy tribe?

Why did the Western Plains Indians live in teepees?

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

Western Plain Natives

Eastern Plains Natives



Vocabulary

Write each vocabulary word in the correct column.

lodge teepee nomad travois farmer

Eastern Plains	Western Plains
1.	2.

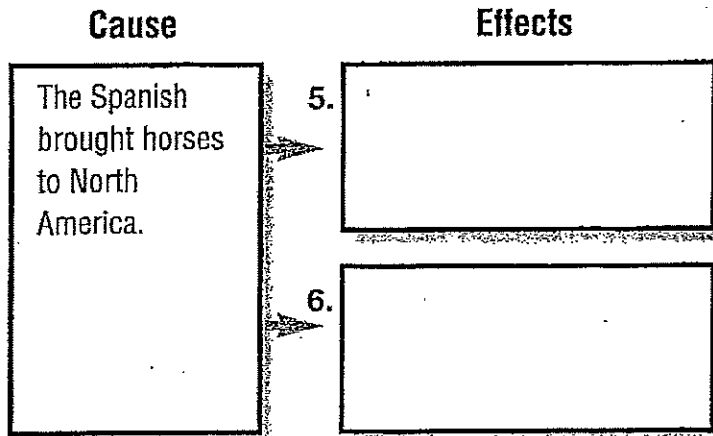
Study Guide

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

3. Why were Eastern Plains people able to farm more successfully than Western Plains people? _____

4. How did the Western Plains people use resources from buffalo to meet their needs? _____

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

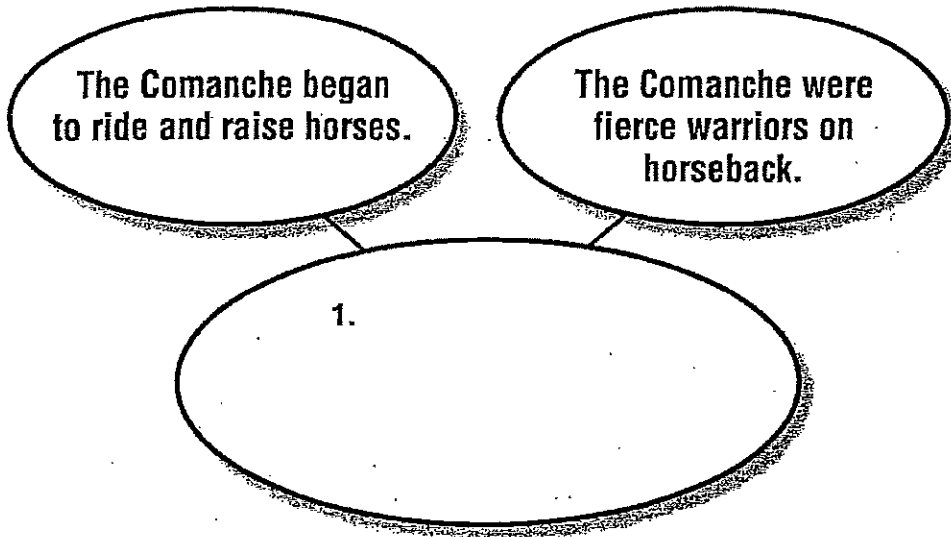


Reading Skill and Strategy

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

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

Native Americans and Horses

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.

Read the paragraphs above. Then answer the questions.

1. Who brought the first horses to America? _____

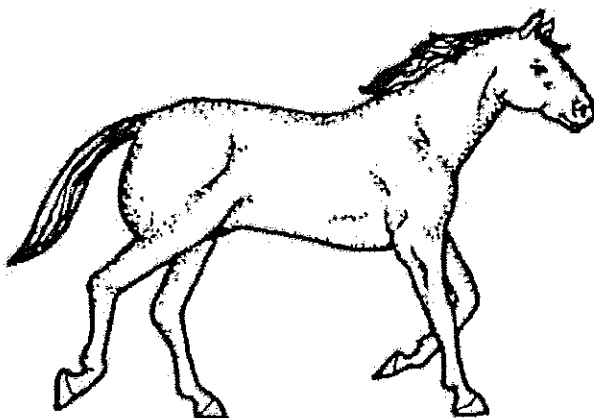
2. What was the Native American name for horses? _____

3. Where in America were horses first introduced? _____

4. When was the horse first brought to America? _____

5. Why were horses important to Native Americans? _____

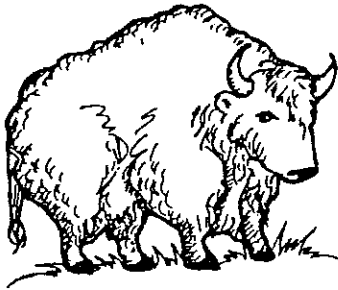
6. How did Native Americans first acquire horses? _____



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.

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, moccasin soles 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.

2. They were sent to find the herd.

3. Skin pouches used to carry meat.

4. It was worn to hide human scent.

5. These are shot from bows.

6. They were waved to scare buffaloes.

7. Buffaloes were driven here to be shot.

Answer: _____



Name: _____

REPRODUCIBLE SKILLS PAGE

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.statesymbols.us

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

