

Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable

G7-8

Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable came to Chicago more than 220 years ago. Chicago was a very small place then, living here was a struggle--it was a time of great challenge. The environment was challenging—each season brought problems. Winters were harsh, spring was a time of rain and mud, and summer was hot and full of mosquitoes. There were no stores or really any pathways you could use to move about easily. So it was difficult to get everything you needed to survive. DuSable must have been a visionary, someone who sees possibilities even when there are problems.

Building a Trading Post

He had come from a distant land, Haiti, and traveled a long way to this place. DuSable chose to come here because it was a place where he could start a business that would prosper. He would build a trading post that he expected would be a very successful business. There was no other trading post here at that time. He thought it was a place of great possibility, that many people would move here, and they all would need a trading post. His trading post was the starting point for Chicago's progress. This entrepreneur made it possible to expand the community that would become the city in which millions live today.

DuSable built his trading post himself using his own labor and abilities, using local resources to construct it from wood. First he chose a strategic location, a place where the river and lake converged. That enabled people to reach the post more easily by water. Probably it was easier to get there by water than by land, since it was so muddy in spring and in winter there were deep snows. But in winter the river would be frozen, making it impassable. So it still was a struggle, in every season.

DuSable traded with the Potawatomi, Native Americans who had lived in this area for many years before the first settlements by pioneers from Europe and other places. He traded tools to them for furs they got by hunting animals, using spears, arrows, and traps until they were able to get guns and other metal tools. With the trading post came new technologies that would make it easier to hunt and live in the area.

From Vision to Legacy

DuSable traded with settlers who were moving to this area and brought hopes but also many needs. His business enabled them to stay here, so that's why his idea is most important to Chicago's growth. They moved here without all the tools and supplies they would need to build homes and survive in the challenging environment. Soon after DuSable opened his business, more and more pioneers moved to this location to settle. DuSable's vision was correct—Chicago was becoming a destination that would keep growing. He saw more settlers moving here every year; the post was an important place to all of them.

DuSable sold the trading post and moved on in 1800. He left a legacy, however. The trading post had been a kind of anchor of the growing community. In 1968 Chicago declared DuSable the "Father of Chicago". I think that is a well-deserved tribute. DuSable is responsible for Chicago's start, so he enabled it to make progress. Chicago became the greatest city of the United States, where world's fairs would take place. Without his vision, would Chicago be the great city it is today? Review the facts and come to your own conclusion.

COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT: Non-Fiction 7-8

This assessment can be used with any nonfiction.. It emphasizes CCSSR1, Read Closely, then make logical inferences with evidence, and CCSSR2, Determine theme and summarize supporting details and ideas.

1. **What is the topic?** _____

The topic is not the title. What is the topic that the passage explains?

2. **Infer the main idea of a paragraph:** What is the main idea of the first paragraph?

Why do you think that is the main idea of the first paragraph?

3. **Evaluate the Importance of Information:** What are the two most important facts?

Why is each one important? _____

4. **Classify Fact and Opinion:** What is an opinion in the passage?

Explain: How do you know it is an opinion?

5. **Infer the main idea of a passage.** What is the main idea of the whole passage?

What is the idea the writer wants you to understand about the topic?

Support your answer. Explain why you think that is the main idea.

COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT: Non-Fiction 7-8 KEY

This assessment can be used with any nonfiction.. It emphasizes CCSSR1, Read Closely, then make logical inferences with evidence, and CCSSR2, Determine theme and summarize supporting details and ideas.

1. What is the topic?

The topic is not the title. What is the topic that the passage explains?

Appropriate responses include: How DuSable changed Chicago; How DuSable helped people live in Chicago; DuSable's Life

2. Infer the main idea of a paragraph: What is the main idea of the first paragraph? Underline information in the paragraph that supports it.

Appropriate responses: it was difficult to live in Chicago or DuSable faced many problems. Students should underline information that identifies problems or challenges.

3 Evaluate the Importance of Information: What are the two most important facts? Answers should include important information such as, DuSable set up a trading post; people needed the trading post; the trading post helped Chicago grow; DuSable faced great challenges.

Why do you think each one important? Students should explain that the facts help support the main idea of the passage or helps them understand the situation. The purpose of this question is to determine if students can identify information that is relatively more important than other facts in nonfiction.

4. Classify Fact and Opinion: What is an opinion in the passage?

Students should identify one of these opinions.

That is a well-deserved tribute

Chicago is the greatest city of the United States

Explain: How do you know it is an opinion? Students should respond that it is not a fact.

5. Infer the main idea of a passage. What is the main idea of the whole passage?

What is the idea the writer wants you to understand about the topic?

Students may identify these ideas or similar ideas:

- *One person can make a big difference.*
- *DuSable met many challenges.*
- *DuSable helped many people.*
- *DuSable's legacy is most important to Chicago's progress.*

Support your answer. Explain why you think that is the main idea. Use facts from the reading.

Students should identify at least two facts that directly support the idea they identify.

Note: If students have difficulty responding to this question, you could use a graphic organizer to have them identify the main idea of one paragraph and then note information that supports it.

Then they can do the same activity with information from several paragraphs that support one idea of the whole passage.