

The city you know is only about 150 years old. Long ago, before it was a city, people lived in this area. They were Native Americans. They figured out how to live in Chicago before it had this name.

They actually named it. They called it Checagou. That is a word that means wild onions. Every year, it was hard to live here in winter. It was snowy. It was cold. There were no plants to pick. Then the first plant that grew was the wild onion. In early spring the Native Americans ate it. So this was the place of the wild onion. No one planted it. It grew naturally.

There were grassland and forests. There were many animals. The people lived by hunting. They fished, too. And in summer they grew food. They planted vegetables. In summer they would prepare for winter. They knew it would be cold and snowy. They would be able to track rabbits then. And there would be deer. But they would not have as much food. There would be no plants growing in winter.

In summer, the families would move to a village. They would build homes. They would build the homes together. They were large. A family could have many people in one home. The families would fish and grow food. People in the village helped each other.

Then in winter they would leave the village. They would build homes in the woods. Each family would build its own home. They would take animal skins with them to help make their homes. They would use branches to make a kind of tent. Then they would cover the walls with those skins to keep them warm. They were skilled at building those homes.

They would hunt for food. Sometimes they would move their home in winter. They would move to where they could find more animals to hunt. It was hard to get the food they needed. So when they found the wild onions they knew it soon would be better weather. They would have more food. They would be able to join their friends and family at the summer village.

*Directions: Choose the best answer for each question*

1. What kinds of animals lived in Checagou?

- a. lions and tigers
- b. rabbits and fish
- c. many big elephants
- d. many snakes

2. What are two ways the Native Americans got food?

- a. meat and vegetables
- b. hunting and fishing
- c. growing vegetables
- d. farming and trading

3. Which of these is a kind of plant?

- a. animal skins
- b. rabbits
- c. nature
- d. onion

4. Which of these is a way the families helped each other?

- a. building summer homes
- b. building winter homes
- c. finding food in winter
- d. hunting rabbits in winter

5. *Write your own answer to this question.*

*What are two things the families used to make winter homes?*

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**TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking**

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

**Answers:** *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	b	b	d	a

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

5. Tree branches Animal skins. Skills.

It was early spring. The settler family had a hard time all winter. They had brought food with them. But it was mostly gone. They had hunted. But they were not good hunters. They knew how to farm. They did not know how to follow animal tracks. So they never got any rabbits when they hunted. Still, they had set traps and caught some rabbits. They had some potatoes they had gotten at the trading post. But they were tired of potatoes.

It was March. The weather was cool. The snow had melted. So they left to look for food. They looked for animal tracks. They saw rabbit tracks in the mud. It was slippery, but they rushed after them. But they did not find any rabbits. They just got muddy.

Then they saw a Native American family. They had bows and arrows. They had big sticks. The family was worried. What would they say? What would they do?

The two families did not talk the same language. They could not talk with each other. But they waved. They smiled. They were not so worried. "They are using the bow and arrow to hunt," said the mother. "They are looking for food, just like us."

The Native American family pointed. The settler family looked where they had pointed. There were green plants. There might be something to eat.

"It's food!" the mother shouted. They rushed to where it was. It was onions. They were growing wild.

The family picked the onions. They brushed off the dirt. They ate them. It was great to have fresh food.

"Let's go home and look for my seeds," the mother said. "It is going to be time to plant soon. We will have food. It is going to be a good spring. We should give some of our seeds to our new friends."

*Directions: Choose the best answer for each question*

6. What are two kinds of food the settlers had in winter?

- a. vegetables and rabbits
- b. potatoes and rabbits
- c. corn and meat
- d. onions and potatoes

7. How did the Native Americans use the bow and arrow?

- a. as a tool for hunting
- b. for fun as a game
- c. to trap rabbits
- d. to scare people

8. What is one way both families got food?

- a. picking onions
- b. hunting rabbits
- c. trapping rabbits
- d. planting vegetables

9. What does it mean that the family has seeds?

- a. They are hunters.
- b. They have potatoes.
- c. They eat onions.
- d. They are farmers.

10. *Write your own answer to this question.*  
What is one way the two families are alike?

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**Answers:** *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	6	7	8	9
Answer	b	a	a	d

Question 10 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

10. They are both hungry; they both hunt for rabbits; they both eat onions.