

Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable

G3-4

Before there was a city of Chicago, a man came here to start a business. It was very hard to live here then. There were no stores. There were no streets. It was very cold in the winter and hot in the summer. There was a lot of snow in winter, too. So, it was hard to travel then. In spring, there was a lot of rain and mud, which made it hard to travel as well.

Building a Trading Post

Then Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable came to this place. He is a really great African American hero who lived here long ago. DuSable built a cabin on the Chicago River. He started a business by trading with Native Americans. He opened a trading post here in the late 1770s. A trading post is a place where people bring things they have and trade them for things they need. At first, it was just a small home. But he stayed for more than 20 years. He added to it. It grew. So did his business.

Getting things to Chicago was hard. Chicago was many miles away from any city. At first, DuSable traded only with the Native Americans and explorers. He would give them tools and other goods and he would get back things that they grew, hunted, or made. Point du Sable's trading post helped explorers to keep going. They could buy supplies at his post. This would let them travel further.

Helping Chicago Grow

That trading post helped start Chicago as a city. When families moved to Chicago, they could get what they needed at the trading post. People who come to a new place and build homes are settlers. To live in this area, settlers needed his business. As more settlers moved here, the trading post became more important.

Settlers got many things from the trading post to start their homes. DuSable sold blankets, butter, furs, knives, cloth, and guns. Settlers and Native Americans traded or paid money for those things. The settlers still needed supplies, so they kept coming to the trading post.

Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable left Chicago in 1800 and moved to another place. He sold his trading post so it stayed open. It was an important place in Chicago. Many people needed it.

Leaving a Legacy

DuSable left a legacy. A legacy is something that lasts. His trading post helped people settle in Chicago and stay here, too. That is why Chicago called him the "father" of the city. He made it possible for the city to start.

Today there is a harbor named for DuSable. There is a park too. That park is near where he started the first Chicago business. His trading post was the starting point for making the town that became today's big city. So his trading post is the most important business in Chicago's history. Chicago is a wonderful city. DuSable is a very important part of Chicago's history.

COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT: **Non-Fiction** 3-4

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. **Identify Important Information:** What is a very important fact in the passage?

Why do you think it is 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: Answer Key Non-Fiction 3-4

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: DuSable's life or DuSable's trading post or similar answer emphasizing that it is about DuSable.

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

Appropriate responses: It was difficult to live in Chicago; long ago living in Chicago was hard.

3. Identify Important Information: What is a very important fact in the passage?

Answers should include important information such as, DuSable set up a trading post; people needed the trading post; the trading post helped Chicago grow.

Why do you think it is important? Students should explain that the fact helps support the main idea or helps them understand the reading.

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

Students may identify any of these opinions:

He is a really great African American hero

His trading post is the most important business in Chicago's history.

Chicago is a wonderful city.

DuSable is a very important part of Chicago's history.

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.

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.