

Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable came to Chicago more than 220 years ago when it was very small. He faced many problems. It must have been hard to live in Chicago then, because winters were snowy, and then spring the ground was muddy. There were no stores or streets, and people had to make what they needed. People had to get their own food and build their own homes. DuSable still came.

Building a Trading Post

DuSable chose to come here because he had an idea that it would be a good place for a business. He would build a trading post. A trading post is a kind of business. People get things they need there by trading. They trade things they have for things they need.

DuSable built his trading post himself. To do that, he had plan how big it would be, and then he had to get the wood to build it. Building that trading post was a lot of hard work, but he never gave up.

DuSable chose a good location for the trading post at a place where the river and the lake met. That way people could get to it by boat as well as on land. In those days, people in the area traveled by foot on pathways or by boat.

DuSable traded with the Potawatomi. They are Native Americans who had lived in the area for many years. He traded tools to them for furs they got by hunting animals. They were glad he had started his business.

Helping Chicago Grow

DuSable traded with settlers, too. A settler is a person who moves to a place and builds a home. Settlers bring some things with them, but they need many things to set up their homes. They needed furniture and food. DuSable made furniture and sold food that he got by trading. Settlers found what they needed at the trading post, so his business was very important. It helped people get started and helped them when they ran out of things they needed. If there were no trading post, it would have been very hard to stay here.

DuSable must have known that Chicago was going to grow. He saw more settlers moving here every year. His business was an important place to everyone who came to live here. It was essential.

A Chicago Legacy

DuSable left Chicago in 1800. He sold the trading post. So the business he started was still open. People could get what they needed to live in Chicago. That business was the most important place in Chicago. It was a very small town. But it would grow. A legacy is what someone leaves to other people. DuSable's legacy is important. His trading post started Chicago's progress. His choice to come here made a big difference. He helped people come here to stay. 1968 Chicago called him the "Father of Chicago". Today there is a museum named for him. There is a DuSable Park, too. People remember what he did. He was the most important person in Chicago's history.

COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT: Non-Fiction 5-6

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 5-6

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; similar topics.

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. 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 should identify this opinion.

He was the most important person in 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.
- 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.