



Settlement

Common Core Anchor Reading Standard 1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

Settlers came to this area to build farms. It was hard to plant. It was hard to dig in the ground because there were thick grass roots. There were few trees. When settlers came, they traded with the Native Americans to get food and animal skins. After a while, the Native Americans were forced to move as more settlers came.

Here is what one woman wrote about her trip to live in Illinois.

I have walked for such a long time. I hope everything will be good when I get there. On Friday evening, after we got to Paris, Illinois, we kept going into the prairie. We drove for 14 miles. The sun was setting, but it was still hot. It was good for most of the way. We slipped a couple of times. The doctor got stuck. The oxen had to draw him out twice. The prairies are so beautiful. There are so many different kinds of flowers that grow on them. I also love the prairie hens. One of the men shot a hen yesterday. We ate it for dinner. Eliza looks sick still. She says she feels like helping me prepare dinner. I think it will still be hard when we get there. On Saturday, the 15th, we traveled in both the prairie and forest. We got lost. We took the wrong road. We were lost in the prairie grass for a long time. Sometimes the grass comes up as high as the horses' backs. We cut some of the grass when the sun went down. Then, we pitched our tents. We tried to make ourselves comfortable. Though, there were many mosquitoes.

Here is what one woman's life was like after settling.

The woman makes the thread and then sews all of the clothes for her family. She sews with the thread she makes. She uses the cotton and wool that she weaves. She also knits all of the socks. Her husband makes shoes. He is not a shoemaker, but he learned how to make shoes. She makes the soap and the candles that they use. She also makes sugar from the sugar-trees on their farm. All that she wants to buy is coffee and tea. They make money when she sells her butter in the market. She sells chickens too. They don't grow wheat. They also don't sell any of their corn. It seemed like they had a lot of corn. But, she said they need a lot of it to make bread and cakes. They also use it to feed their animals in the winter.

*Here are some **problems** these settlers faced in each season.*

Fall: There was a constant threat of fire. When the prairie grass became very dry, a spark could start a fire that would burn the prairie and sometimes their cabins.

Winter: The freezing cold and deep snow were problems. People got lost in the drifts or out on the prairie when the trails were covered.

Spring: The rains and the melted snow were problems. The prairie became swampy when the snow melted and the rains started and people would get stuck on the muddy tracks.

Summer: Some days were very hot. There were few trees for shade. There were so many insects that some horses died from many stings.

Support the Main Idea

What is the main idea of this passage?

Underline five sentences in the passage that support that idea.