

Potawatomi people lived in the Chicago area long ago. The following paragraphs tell what their life might have been like.

**Summer**

We will set up a large house in the big village now. We use long poles to build its structure. The roof covers the cooking area, so that it is even bigger than the floor. I sow our food with my mother. We dig in the ground with a shoulder bone from a deer to turn the soil. It is difficult work to dig and to plant. After we harvest, we will have a lot of food. It is always a great time for everyone because we see our friends and extended family. My sister's favorite season is summer because there are so many things to see and do. My mother likes it too because she likes to be with our big family. There is a lot of work to do, but everyone helps and there is company.

**Autumn**

We have a lot of food. We have lots of corn. Every day, I gather more beans. We're drying the big gourds to save for the winter. My father got salt from a salt spring and we are using it to dry the meat. Soon we will move to our winter camp. I search for nuts and berries from the forest. Sometimes, I eat them when I find them, but I bring most of them home.

**Winter**

We saw deer and raccoons and knew this would be a good place for hunting. Therefore, we set up a wigwam, which we made from the branches of trees. We stuck one end in the ground and then tied them together in the middle. We left a gap for the smoke from the fire to get out. We pasted bark on the outside of the wigwam to keep the inside warm. Today, it is cold and it just snowed. My father says it is a good day to track for elk. He will be able to see the tracks in the snow, so he will soon go to hunt. My mother says that afterwards we will have lots of food, but also plenty of work. If we don't have enough food in this place, we may have to move our camp to another place, with more animals. We will look for a place with more animal tracks.

**Spring**

We can find my favorite food now. We get it by making a hole in a tree and then the sweet juice comes out of the tree. My father is going fishing with a net he made from deer sinew. He throws it in the stream and then it sinks down. He tied shells to the bottom of the net, so when they fill with water, it descends to the bottom of the stream. This summer, my brother will get to fish, too. He has a line and hook, which he uses to catch the fish in the lake. We get fish in the winter only when we cut through the ice to get to them. So fishing is mostly a spring and summer job. My father likes the spring best. He says it is a time of hope. He hears the birds sing and sees the plants start to grow again. I like spring, too because soon we will see the flowers.

## Compare and Contrast Historical Fiction

Questions developed by Center for Urban Education for use by Chicago Public Schools 2008-2009.

*Choose the best answer for each question.*

1. How is the Potawatomi family's life different in winter from autumn?

- a. They travel more in autumn.
- b. They have less food in autumn.
- c. They work harder in winter.
- d. They build a home in winter.

2. How is the Potawatomi village in summer like a neighborhood?

- a. They share things with others.
- b. They hunt deer together.
- c. They make fishing nets.
- d. They are one big family.

3. What does it mean to compare two things?

- a. You tell how they are different.
- b. You tell how they are alike.
- c. You ask questions.
- d. You make a list.

4. What does it mean to contrast two things?

- a. You tell how they are different.
- b. You tell how they are alike.
- c. You make a guess.
- d. You look at what happened.

5. *Write your own answer to this question. How is the Potawatomi village different from your neighborhood?*

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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	a	d	b	a

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

Answers will vary but should be based on the passage and may include that the Potawatomi got all their own food while Chicagoans buy most of their food.