

Name _____

Date _____

Iowa

Iowa is at the center of the American Midwest, and is called one of the Midwestern States. It is surrounded only by other Midwest States: Minnesota to the north; Wisconsin and Illinois to the east; Missouri to the south; and Nebraska and South Dakota to the west. The eastern boundary of Iowa is defined by the Mississippi River and the western boundary is set by the Big Sioux and Missouri Rivers.

Early History

Some of the earliest Native Americans to live in Iowa are identified with the Hopewell culture of the Woodland Period which spanned two thousand years, from 1000 BCE to 1000 CE. The Hopewell culture is dated from 100 BCE to 700 CE and included settlements in the Mississippi Valley. Hopewell settlements contained large mounds that were built by the local people as ceremonial areas as well as for burial. Effigy Mounds National Monument near McGregor, Iowa contains over two hundred mounds. Thirty-one of these mounds are an effigy, an effigy means that it was constructed in the shape of an animal. The largest is Great Bear Mound.

After the Hopewell culture declined, the next culture was that of the Oneota who preferred to live along waterways. These people cultivated crops as well as hunted and fished for food. Oneota people are classified as Plains Village people. Archaeologists speculate that the Oneota are the ancestors of the Native Americans who lived in Iowa when the European explorers arrived.

By the 1600s, the Ioway people occupied most of central Iowa; in fact, the state is named for them. The Ioway people trace their ancestry to the Ho-Chucks of Wisconsin and originally lived near Lake Michigan. However, they adapted to life on the prairies and were known to travel between the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers.

The first European explorers to visit Iowa were Marquette and Joliet, Frenchmen who started out from the Great Lakes in 1673 and traveled south on the Mississippi River. Since their goal was to explore the river, they did not venture into the land of Iowa. In 1682, another French explorer, LaSalle traversed the entire Mississippi River to its mouth at the Gulf of Mexico and claimed the land, including present-day Iowa, for France. Even though French trappers and fur traders ventured into Iowa, they had almost no impact on the Native Americans.

Name _____

Date _____

It wasn't until 1788, after the American Revolution, that a European settlement existed in Iowa. Julien Dubuque, a French Canadian trader, worked with the Meskwaki people living in the northeast corner of today's Iowa to develop the lead mines of the region. Lead was important for making bullets. The city of Dubuque is located in the vicinity of these old mines.

Towards Statehood

In 1803, France sold its lands in North America to the United States; this transaction is called the Louisiana Purchase. With the Louisiana Purchase, Iowa became part of the United States for the first time. President Thomas Jefferson sent Lewis and Clark on a mission to explore the northern areas of the land purchase. They set out from St. Louis, Missouri in 1804 and headed north on the Missouri River; they too did not explore the land of Iowa.

In the same year, the Meskwaki and their allies the Sauk, who lived along the Mississippi River in central Iowa, signed a treaty relinquishing their lands east of the Mississippi. In 1825 and 1830, Native American leaders signed other documents in exchange for lands west of the river. In 1832, the Black Hawk War occurred when a Sauk leader, Black Hawk, tried to claim land east of the Mississippi once again. After the war, Sauk and Meskwakis ceded more land in eastern Iowa to the U.S. under the Black Hawk Purchase. Native Americans of several tribes were forced to move westward in the 1830s as the federal government sold prime land in the Black Hawk Purchase to new settlers and farmers. In fact, Native American groups, including the Ho-Chunk (also known as the Winnebago) and Potawatomi were moved a second time, to Kansas; they had given up land further east and had been previously resettled in western Iowa.

In 1838 Congress established the Iowa Territory which extended from the present southern border of the state, was bounded on the east and west by the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers respectively, up to the Canadian border. Iowa applied for statehood in 1844 and the request was granted at the end of 1846. After it was granted statehood, the population of Iowa increased dramatically. In 1850, there just nearly 200,000 people living in Iowa; by 1900, the population was 2,200,000.

Name _____

Date _____

Circle True or False after analyzing each of the following statements.

1. True False The western boundary of Iowa is defined by the Mississippi River and the eastern boundary is set by the Big Sioux and Missouri Rivers.
2. True False Effigy Mounds National Monument in Iowa preserves significant remnants of the Oneota civilization.
3. True False The Ioway people occupied most of central Iowa; the Ioway people trace their ancestry to the Ho-Chucks of Wisconsin and originally lived near Lake Michigan.
4. True False Even though French explorers, trappers and traders came to Iowa in the late 1600s and early 1700s they had little impact on the Native Americans who were living in the region.
5. True False The first European settlement in Iowa was founded by Julien Dubuque who started the first gristmill along that portion of the Mississippi River.
6. True False The land in present-day Iowa became part of the United States through the Louisiana Purchase, a purchase of land from France.
7. True False Lewis and Clark set out on an expedition to explore the northern areas of the Louisiana Purchase. They started from the Mississippi River, traversed Iowa and then traveled north on the Missouri River.
8. True False Shortly after the Louisiana Purchase the Meskwaki and their allies the Sauk, who lived along the Mississippi River in central Iowa, signed a treaty relinquishing their lands east of the Mississippi to the U.S. government.
9. True False The Black Hawk War was a conflict between the Meskwaki and Sauk Native Americans over territory in western Iowa.
10. True False Even though the state of Iowa lies at the heart of the Midwest, at one time the Iowa Territory extended north to the Canadian border.

Name _____

Date _____

Answers

1. False
2. False
3. True
4. True
5. False
6. True
7. False
8. True
9. False
10. True