

The Louisiana Purchase Worksheet Answer Key

Name _____	Date: _____
Louisiana Purchase	
Background Information: In 1803, France controlled the Louisiana Territory. The United States was concerned about its access to the Mississippi River and the Port of New Orleans. The river was vital for American farmers who lived in what was then the west to ship their goods. The United States sent James Monroe and Robert Livingston to Paris to negotiate purchasing New Orleans. They were authorized to offer up to \$10 million. Napoleon was the emperor of France at the time and involved in very expensive European wars. The French minister who the American diplomats met with asked if the United States would be interested in purchasing the entire Louisiana Territory. France agreed to sell Louisiana to the United States for \$15 million. It nearly doubled the size of the US. It also gave the US full access to the Mississippi River. It is considered to be the greatest real estate deal in history. Each acre of land cost about four cents.	
Jefferson was concerned whether it was constitutional for him as president to purchase land. He believed in a strict construction of the Constitution which means the president only has the powers that are specifically mentioned in the Constitution and the Constitution does not explicitly say the president has the power to purchase land. Jefferson decided that as president he could purchase land as long as it was through a treaty, which the president has the ability to negotiate.	
	

The **Louisiana Purchase worksheet answer key** is an invaluable resource for educators and students alike, providing insights into one of the most significant land acquisitions in American history. The Louisiana Purchase, completed in 1803, doubled the size of the United States and had far-reaching implications for the nation's growth and development. This article will explore the historical context of the Louisiana Purchase, its impact on the United States, and how a worksheet answer key can enhance understanding of this pivotal event.

Historical Context of the Louisiana Purchase

The Louisiana Purchase occurred during a period of significant expansion and exploration in the early 19th century. Several key factors led to this monumental event:

1. French Control and the Napoleonic Wars

In the late 18th century, France regained control of the Louisiana Territory from Spain. However, following the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte and the onset of the Napoleonic Wars, the French interest in maintaining this vast territory waned. The pressures of war and the need for resources led Napoleon to consider selling the land.

2. American Expansionism

At the same time, the United States was experiencing a surge of expansionist sentiment. Many Americans believed in the idea of Manifest Destiny, the notion that the country was destined to expand across the continent. The Mississippi River was vital for trade and transportation, and access to New Orleans was critical for the western territories.

3. Negotiations and Finalization

In 1801, President Thomas Jefferson sent James Monroe and Robert R. Livingston to France with the goal of purchasing New Orleans and the surrounding areas for \$10 million. However, in a surprising turn of events, Napoleon offered the entire Louisiana Territory for \$15 million. The offer was accepted, and on April 30, 1803, the treaty was signed, officially transferring the land to the United States.

Impact of the Louisiana Purchase

The Louisiana Purchase had profound effects on the United States, shaping its future in various ways:

1. Territorial Expansion

The most immediate effect of the Louisiana Purchase was the expansion of the United States territory. The acquisition added approximately 828,000 square miles, stretching from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains. This expansion facilitated westward migration and settlement.

2. Economic Growth

The newly acquired land was rich in resources, which contributed to the economic growth of the nation. Agricultural opportunities flourished, especially in the fertile lands of the Midwest. The control of the Mississippi River and the port of New Orleans also became crucial for trade.

3. Native American Displacement

While the purchase opened new lands for settlers, it also led to the displacement of Native American tribes. As settlers moved westward, many indigenous peoples were forced off their lands, leading to conflicts and significant cultural changes.

4. Lewis and Clark Expedition

To explore and map the newly acquired territory, Jefferson commissioned the famous Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-1806). This expedition provided valuable information about the geography, biology, and native peoples of the region, paving the way for further exploration and settlement.

Educational Resources: The Louisiana Purchase Worksheet

Worksheets are effective tools for reinforcing learning and assessing understanding of historical events. A Louisiana Purchase worksheet typically includes questions and activities that help students engage with the material. The answer key is an essential component for both teachers and students.

1. Structure of a Louisiana Purchase Worksheet

A well-structured worksheet on the Louisiana Purchase might include the following sections:

- **Historical Background:** Questions about the events leading up to the purchase.
- **Key Figures:** Information about significant individuals involved, such as Thomas Jefferson, Napoleon Bonaparte, and Lewis and Clark.
- **Impact and Consequences:** Questions about the effects of the purchase on American society, economy, and indigenous peoples.
- **Map Activities:** Exercises involving maps to identify the new boundaries and geographical features.

2. Sample Questions

Below are examples of questions that might be included in a Louisiana Purchase worksheet:

1. What was the total cost of the Louisiana Purchase?
2. Who were the key figures in negotiating the purchase?
3. What were the main reasons for the United States' interest in acquiring New Orleans?
4. Describe one major impact of the Louisiana Purchase on Native American tribes.
5. What was the significance of the Lewis and Clark Expedition following the purchase?

The Importance of the Answer Key

Having an answer key for the Louisiana Purchase worksheet serves several purposes:

1. Facilitating Learning

An answer key allows students to check their understanding and knowledge. It helps them identify areas where they may need further study or clarification.

2. Supporting Educators

For teachers, the answer key provides a quick reference to assess student responses. It can also guide classroom discussions and reinforce key concepts.

3. Promoting Critical Thinking

By providing correct answers, the answer key encourages students to analyze their responses critically. They can reflect on why their answers may have differed and engage deeper with the material.

Conclusion

The Louisiana Purchase was a landmark event that shaped the course of American history. Understanding its significance through educational resources, such as worksheets and answer keys, is essential for students. The **Louisiana Purchase worksheet answer key** not only enhances the learning experience but also fosters a deeper appreciation for the complexities of history. By studying this pivotal moment, students can gain insights into the themes of expansion, conflict, and change that continue to resonate in American society today.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Louisiana Purchase?

The Louisiana Purchase was a land acquisition made by the United States from France in 1803, which doubled the size of the nation.

Why is the Louisiana Purchase significant in American history?

The Louisiana Purchase is significant because it provided the U.S. with vast territories for expansion and exploration, influencing its growth and development.

How did the Louisiana Purchase affect the Native American tribes?

The Louisiana Purchase led to increased westward expansion, which often resulted in the displacement and suffering of Native American tribes living in those territories.

What was the impact of the Louisiana Purchase on U.S. relations with France?

The Louisiana Purchase improved U.S. relations with France, as it resolved tensions over land disputes and established a sense of cooperation between the two nations.

What role did Thomas Jefferson play in the Louisiana Purchase?

Thomas Jefferson, as President, was instrumental in negotiating the Louisiana Purchase, believing it was crucial for the nation's agrarian economy and expansion.

What are some key outcomes of the Louisiana Purchase that are covered in worksheets?

Key outcomes include the exploration of the new territory by Lewis and Clark, the establishment of new states, and the rise of debates over slavery in the newly acquired lands.

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