



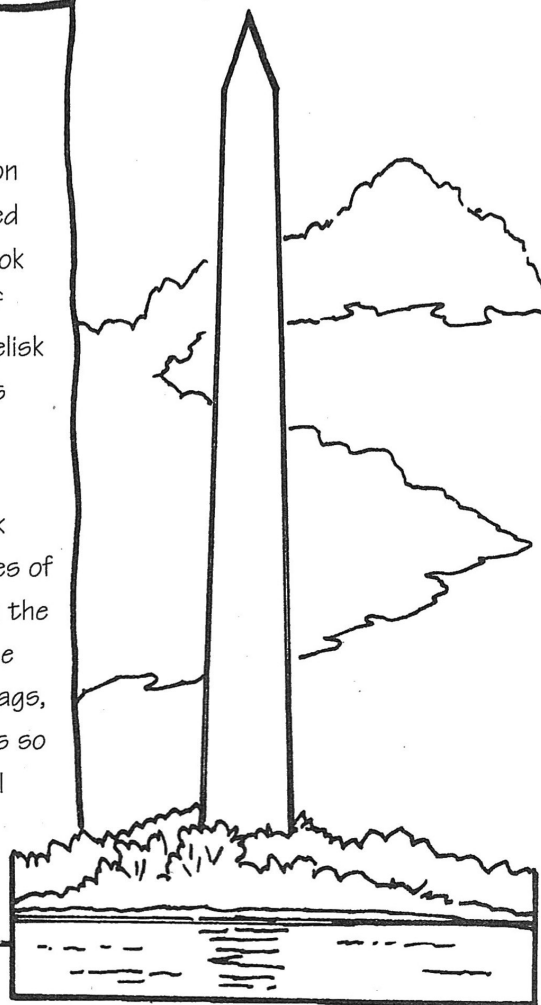
Dear Kelly,

We are having a great time in Washington, D.C. Today we visited two monuments.

I am sure you have seen pictures of the famous Washington Monument. It is a huge obelisk, over 55 feet in height and covered in white marble. The monument weighs over 90,000 tons! We took an elevator to the top of the monument and had a great view of the whole city of Washington. In the lobby at the base of the obelisk is a large statue of our first president, George Washington. This spectacular monument honors him.

Next, we visited a very different monument, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. This monument is two walls of polished black granite arranged in a V-shape. On the walls are carved the names of more than 58,000 men and women who were killed or missing in the Vietnam War. Visitors walk very quietly and respectfully along the granite walls. All along the base of the monument are flowers, flags, and small memorials left by friends and family members. There is so much more we have to see here in Washington, D.C. I'll tell you all about our trip when I get home.

See you soon,
Megan



1. Paragraph 2:

- a. The Washington Monument honors our nation's first president.
- b. The Washington Monument must have taken a long time to build.
- c. The Washington Monument is a massive, impressive structure.

2. Paragraph 3:

- a. Visitors to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial often leave gifts along the granite walls.
- b. A visit to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is a very moving experience.
- c. The Vietnam Memorial consists of two granite walls arranged in a V-shape.

3. What is the main idea Megan makes about her visit to these two monuments?

- a. The two visits to the monuments were very different experiences for her.
- b. Visiting monuments helps her learn about our nation's history.
- a. She is impressed by the different ways monuments are constructed.

Greatest Deal in History

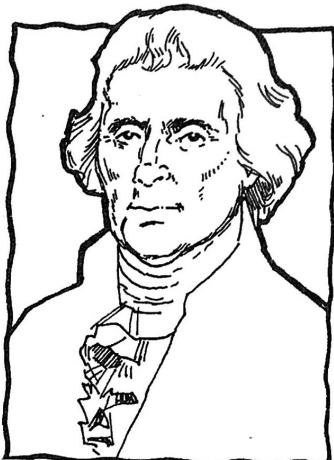
How would you like to buy land at four cents an acre? That is what the United States paid France for the Louisiana Territory in 1803. Many consider this purchase one of the greatest real estate deals in history.

When Thomas Jefferson became president of the United States in 1801, Spain owned the Louisiana Territory and the Floridas. The two countries had treaties that allowed American farmers and

merchants to use the shipping ports in these areas. The port of New Orleans was especially important to the American settlers who shipped their products down the rivers that flowed into the Gulf of Mexico. When Jefferson learned that Spain had turned over control of the Louisiana Territory to France, he took action to protect the United States' access to New Orleans. There was also the danger that the French dictator, Napoleon Bonaparte, might try to build an empire in America that would threaten the United States. Jefferson sent diplomats to France to negotiate the purchase of New Orleans.

At first Napoleon refused to sell any land to the United States because he did have dreams of expanding his empire. However, the diplomats did not give up, and soon events turned in their favor. French troops in the West Indies had been unable to stop a slave revolt, which forced them to return in defeat to France instead of going on to the Louisiana Territory. Napoleon was also planning a war against Great Britain. Unable to defend the Louisiana Territory and rather than risk losing it to Great Britain or the United States, Napoleon offered to sell the entire territory to the U.S. He could then use the money from the sale to finance his European conquests. On April 30, 1803, a "Treaty of Purchase between the United States and the French Republic" was made by French and U.S. diplomats. The United States acquired nearly 600 million acres of land for \$15 million dollars which calculated to about four cents an acre. While most countries had acquired land through war, the United States achieved its greatest expansion through peaceful negotiations.

Jefferson was rightfully proud of what has become known as the Louisiana Purchase. Acquiring the Louisiana Territory almost doubled the area of the United States. It greatly increased the economic resources in our country and united much of what is now the United States. This bargain buy created all or parts of fifteen states including Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Wyoming, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Colorado, and Montana. With such expanded land and resources, the United States was poised to become a world power.



Name _____

Finding the main idea



Circle the main idea of each paragraph.

1. Paragraph 2:

- a. Spain owned two major territories in North America.
- b. The United States was threatened by French control of the Louisiana Territory.
- c. Thomas Jefferson wanted to purchase only New Orleans.

2. Paragraph 3:

- a. Napoleon would do anything to get money to finance his wars.
- b. U. S. diplomats took two years to negotiate a treaty.
- c. Favorable events and patient diplomacy led to the greatest expansion in United States history.

3. Paragraph 4:

- a. The United States doubled its size with the purchase of the Louisiana Territory.
- b. Thomas Jefferson was proud of the accomplishments of his presidency.
- c. The United States gained many benefits from the Louisiana Purchase.

4. Circle another title for this story.

What a Great Buy!
Land for Sale—Cheap, Cheap!

Napoleon Is Doomed in America
New States Created

5. Surprisingly, not everyone was happy with the deal the United States made with France to purchase the Louisiana Territory. One Boston newspaper reporter complained that the United States already had enough land and did not need to spend so much money on more. How would you convince this reporter that the United States benefited from this purchase? Write the main benefits of this purchase for the United States.



Read about one of the states which was included in the Louisiana Territory. On another piece of paper, write the main idea of what you read.