

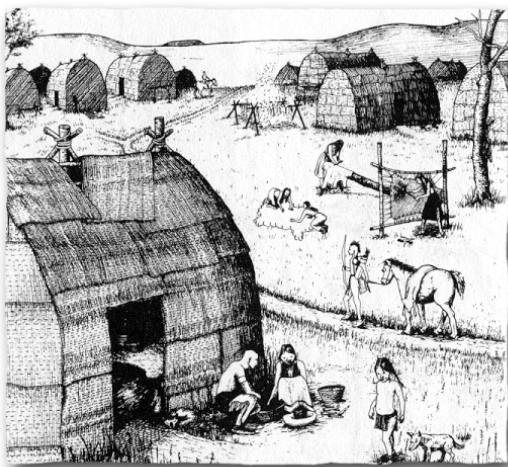
the Louisiana Purchase

A Native Americans: *The Osage*

First
of a
Four
Part Series

In the Louisiana Purchase of April 1803, the United States bought a huge piece of land west of the Mississippi River, doubling the young country's size. More than just a political deal, the Louisiana Purchase suddenly changed the lives of all sorts of people.

Your home is the place where you live and play. It is the place where you eat, sleep, keep your favorite stuff, and visit with friends and family. Take a moment to imagine how you might feel if someone took your home away. How would you feel if you were forced to move to a new and unfamiliar place? When the Louisiana Purchase transferred the Louisiana Territory to America, many Indian peoples had lived there for hundreds of years. The Territory was their **homeland**. Over time, more and more settlers came to live in the Territory. Many of these European and American settlers thought of the Indians as bad people or as unworthy of owning the land. Eventually, they forced the Indians to leave their homes and move to new lands.



The Louisiana Territory was home to many Native American Tribes. The Osage, Missouri, Sac, Fox, Kansas, and Ioway Indians had lived there for hundreds of years. The Shawnee, Delaware, Kickapoos and Peorias had also moved east to this area and called it home.

The Osage were one of the most powerful tribes in the Louisiana Territory. They lived along the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. They were hunters and **warriors**. They controlled most of the fur trade in this area. The Osage had a strong trading relationship with the French. Their trading relationship gave them access to many goods, including horses. The Osage became excellent horseback riders. Children learned to ride when they were very young, and horses became an important part of hunting.

The first European explorers and settlers in the Louisiana Territory wanted to make a **profit** from the land. They wanted to trap and trade for furs. They also wanted to mine the land for **precious metals**, like gold and silver. At first, most Indians were happy to trade with them. Europeans could trade guns and horses, which made hunting easier for the Indians. They also wanted gunpowder and other goods the traders offered.

Over time, more Europeans began to settle the Territory. Indians began hunting more so that they could trade furs. Europeans also used the land to hunt and trap animals. Eventually, there were too few animals

because so many were being hunted and trapped. The Indians' home started to change. It was no longer the home that they remembered. This change led to **tension** between settlers and Indians, and also between Indian tribes. All these groups started to fight over the land.

The Louisiana Purchase made it easier for Americans and Europeans to take more land from the Indians. Eventually, tribes such as the Osage were forced to move from their lands along the Missouri and Mississippi. The Indians were far outnumbered by new settlers and they were forced to sign treaties giving up their land. Sometimes, conflicts between tribes kept Indians from working together to **resist** these changes. The Indians were moved to **reservations**, small areas of land set aside for them. These reservations were very different from the Indians' old homes, and it was hard for them to keep their ways of life.

Many tribes were moved to western parts of the Louisiana Territory. The new settlers didn't see a use for this land at the time. Today, many original tribes of the Territory are still **organized** and live in parts of Kansas and Oklahoma. They have kept the cultures and traditions of their people alive.

Activities To Extend Learning Throughout The Series.

Native Americans

Have students use words in bold print as new vocabulary words or ask students to explain the meaning of the words as class participation.

Have students choose a tribe living in the territory at the time of the Purchase. Have students work individually, or in cooperative learning groups, to complete a research project on the selected tribe. Have students present their research to the class using visual aids they have created.

Take students to the Fort Osage Historic Site to learn about Fort Osage. <http://www.historicfortosage.com/forthistory.html>

French and Spanish Life

Ask students to name the three nations whose flags flew over early Missouri at the time of the Purchase.

Ask students to pretend that they are French or Spanish people living at the time of the Louisiana Purchase. Have each write a paragraph discussing why he or she might have come to live in, or travel through, the Louisiana Territory during this time.

Family Life

Ask students to create a chart showing both similarities and differences between life today and life at the time of the Purchase.

Have students draw a picture depicting life at the time of the Purchase. Students could draw people doing work or other activities that people at the time of the Purchase might have done.

The Purchase

Have students answer the following questions: James Monroe and Robert Livingston were offered the Louisiana Territory for \$15,000,000. The territory includes 883,072 square miles. How much did the United States pay per acre? Based upon what you read in the article, why do you think this figure might be a little off what the United States actually paid, per acre?

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