READ IOWA HISTORY

EDUCATOR MATERIALS

Meskwaki Culture

LESSON PLAN FOR SUPPORTING QUESTION

Who are the Meskwaki?

1ST GRADE

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS TEACHING WITH PRIMARY SOURCES

Think Like a Geographer

A person who studies the environment and how it impacts people.

- Describe details about this location. What do you notice that can help figure out where this place is located? What is unique?
- Why would people move to or leave this place?
- How would people travel to this location? How has traveling to this location changed over time?
- Describe details about people who live here and how they impact the location? How does the location impact the people who live there?

Think Like an Economist

A person who studies the way people make decisions about money.

- Describe the people in relation to the location. What jobs or occupations do you think people had? Why do you say that? How do you think they met their needs and wants?
- How do decisions made by individuals affect themselves and the economy?
- How do decisions made by businesses affect people?
- How do jobs impact people and the economy? Describe what happens when jobs are lost.

Think Like a Historian

A person who explains changes that happened in the past.

- What happened in the past? Why is it important to understand what has happened in the past?
- How did past decisions or actions significantly transform people's lives?
- What has changed or stayed the same over time? Who benefited from the change? Why? Who did not benefit? Why?
- Who or what made changes happen? Who supported the change? Who didn't? Why?

Think Like a Political Scientist

A person who studies governments and how they work.

- What problems might people have faced in this society?
- What rights do people have? What rights are people missing?
- What might lead to people being treated fairly? What might lead to people being treated unfairly?
- What information can be gathered about trends at this location or time period that might change or impact the future?

Name _____

Think Like...

A Geographer	**A Historian**
An Economist	**A Political Scientist**

Meskwaki Girl and Her Doll, 1925

This photograph shows a Meskwaki girl playing with her doll beside a wickiup. The photo was taken on the Meskwaki Settlement in Tama, Iowa, in 1925. The photographer was Josephine Wallace. *Courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa, Wallace, Josephine, 1925*

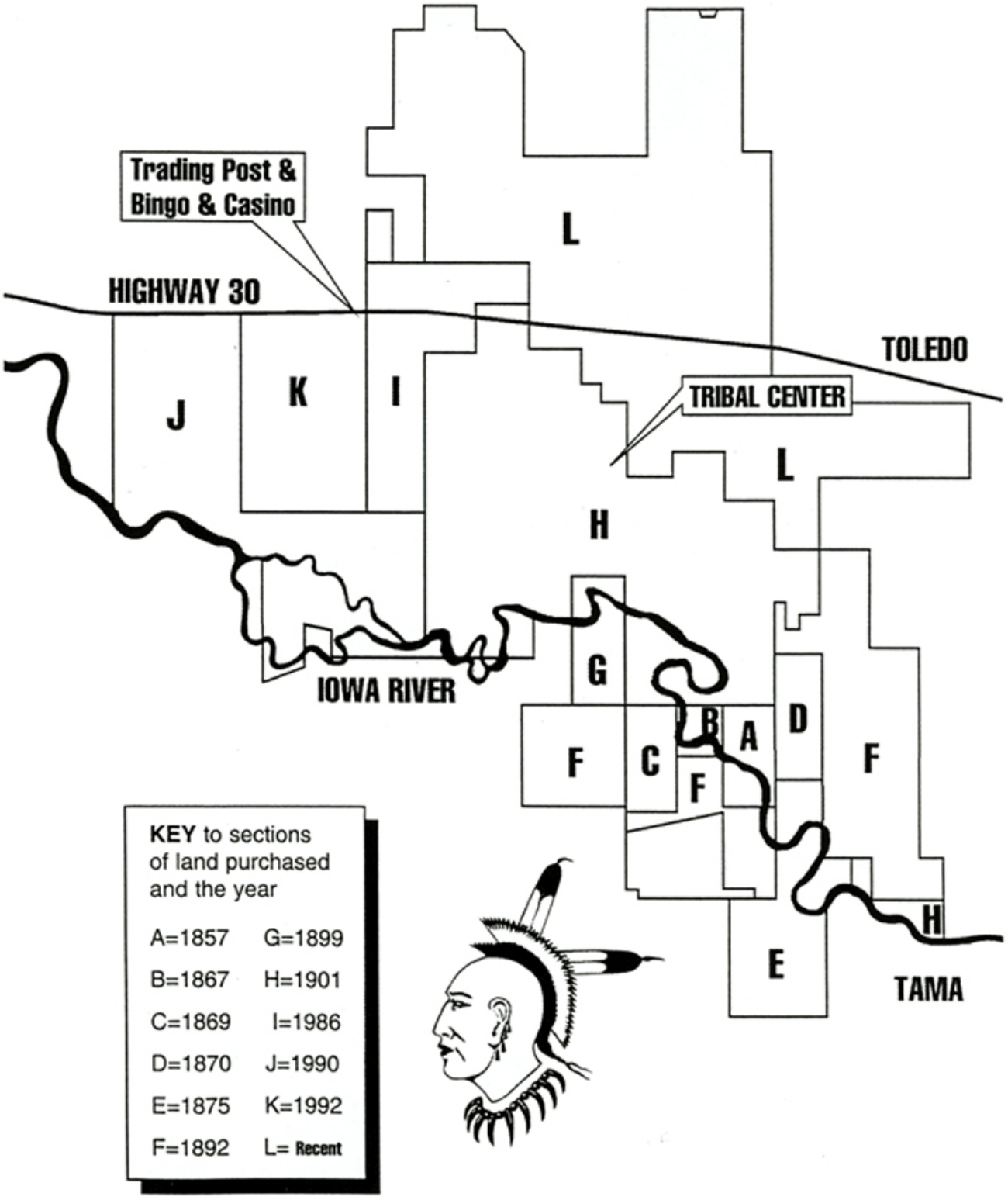
Boy at 104th Annual Meskwaki Powwow, 2018

This image is of a young boy dancing at the 2018 Meskwaki Powwow. *Courtesy of Meskwaki Nation, 2018*

Words to Start a Question

Who… ?
What…
? Where…
When…
Why… ?
? How…

Meskwaki Land Purchases



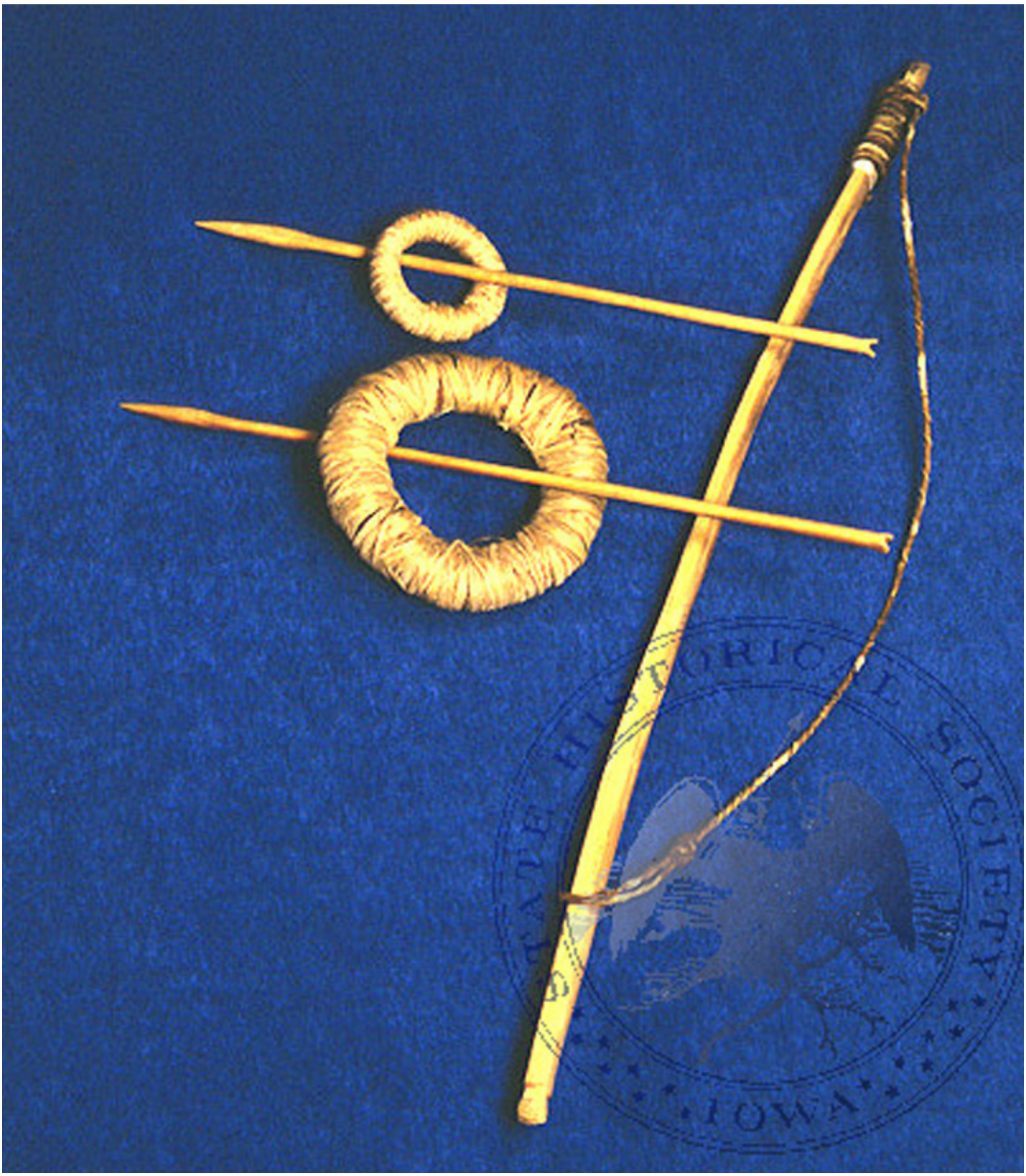
This map shows the history of land purchases made by the Meskwaki tribe. *Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, 2004*

Blank Map of the Unites States

Meskwaki Bead Belt Made by Chi Ki Ka, 1905

The Meskwaki bartered for cloth, glass beads, iron and copper cooking utensils, blankets and guns with pelts when they encountered European-Americans. The trade beads became the most important thing to the Meskwaki. These beads of many colors and sizes were made into many things. The early trade beads were blue and white glass beads. Early glass beads were imported from France and woven into many things. This bead belt was made by Chi Ki Ka around 1905. *Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, 1905*

Meskwaki Boy's Bow and Arrows, Date Unknown



Men and young boys went on seasonal hunts for large and small game, including deer and buffalo, and later engaged in fur trading. Young boys were taught to hunt for small game to supplement the family's food supply. Small blunt-ended arrows were used to knock out rabbits, squirrels and birds. After the fall harvest, bands traveled to their winter hunting grounds, leaving some food in the storage pits of the summer house. *Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, Greiner, Chuck, Date Unknown*

Meskwaki Woman and Child by a Wickiup in Tama, Iowa, Date Unknown

A Meskwaki woman, child and dog are pictured outside of a dwelling in Tama, Iowa. During the summer months (May to September), the Meskwaki lived in villages located along major rivers in the center of tribal lands. Their homes consisted of poles covered with slabs of elm bark. Several families lived in each town house. Meskwaki women tended gardens near their summer homes. They also gathered food (wild berries, nuts and roots) and collected bark and cattails for weaving baskets and mats. *Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, Date Unknown*

"Mesquakie" Essay from *The Goldfinch*, February 1992

MESQUAKIE

The name "Mesquakie" which means "red earth people" comes from the color of the red soil of their homeland. At one point in their migration, the Mesquakie lived in the forests of what is now Wisconsin and Michigan. Seasons determined how they lived. During the summer months (May to September), the Mesquakie lived in villages located along major rivers in the center of tribal lands. Their homes consisted of poles covered with slabs of elm bark. Several families lived in each town house. Mesquakie women tended gardens near their summer homes. They also gathered food (wild berries, nuts, and roots) and collected bark and cattails for weaving baskets and mats.

Young Mesquakie boys learned to hunt small game with bows and arrows while the men hunted deer and elk and protected the villages from enemies.

Once the Mesquakie encountered European-Americans, they gathered pelts for trading. The Mesquakie bartered for cloth, glass beads, iron and copper cooking utensils, blankets, and guns. Winter also provided time for tribal elders to tell stories around campfires and for playing games.

As European-American settlers moved west, the Mesquakie were forced to move

SHSI, Ward Collection—Iowa City

Kwi-ya-ma, a Mesquakie born in 1833

to reservation land in Kansas. A few households stayed behind, setting up camps along Iowa rivers. In 1850, Mesquakies living on the Kansas reservation combined their money and sold many of their ponies to purchase land in Iowa, now known as the Mesquakie Indian Settlement near Tama. A "settlement" differs from a reservation because the Indians—not the government—own and control the land.

Courtesy of University of Iowa Library and Archives, "Mesquakie," Indians of Iowa - The Goldfinch, Vol. 13, No. 3, pp. 18, February 1992

Name _____

Analyze a Photograph with the Five W's

Use the chart below to take notes about the image by focusing on the who, what, when, where and why. Then determine if the source is primary or secondary (circle one) and explain why.

Who?		Is this source primary or secondary? **Primary** **or** **Secondary**
What?		
When?		
Where?		
Why?		