

Name _____

THE CHOUTEAUS - EARLY FUR TRADERS

DIRECTIONS: Read the biography sheet “Rene Auguste Chouteau (1749-1825) & John Pierre Chouteau (1758-1849).”

Answer the following questions:



1. These two brothers were born in the 1700's and died in the 1800's.
2. Where were they born? New Orleans
3. What country were their parents from? France
4. Of what city are they considered to be “founders”? St. Louis
5. What native people controlled the Missouri area at this time? Osage Indians
6. What did the Chouteaus want from the Osage in trade? Furs (or pelts)
7. What did the Osage want from the Chouteaus in trade? Muskets, knives, kettles, blankets, ribbons and other imported goods
8. What was the “key to success” for the Chouteaus? Having good relations with the Indian tribes that supplied their furs
9. Many Osage today are related to the Chouteaus. Why would this be? The Chouteaus lived among the Osage at times, having children with Indian wives
10. What was the effect of the Treaty of 1808, negotiated by Pierre Chouteau? The Osage ceded huge areas of land in Missouri and Arkansas (52 million acres)
11. Where did the Chouteaus live the latter parts of their lives? St. Louis
12. In what areas of business were they involved, besides the fur trade? real estate, banking, iron manufacturing, railroads, mining, and utilities.
13. Jean Pierre’s oldest son, Auguste Pierre Chouteau, later became an influential trader in the Three Forks region of Oklahoma (southeast of Tulsa, near Muscogee).