

Guided Notes

These are pictures of Earth, taken by _____ in space...and transmitted to the EROS center, north of Sioux Falls. This photo shows part of North America. At first glance, it may seem something's missing: lines marking the borders between nations—in this case between Canada and the United States.

And if your house sits on this side of the road sign, you'll vote and pay taxes in South Dakota. Those houses just down the road are homes to _____, who vote and pay taxes in that state.

France and _____ are European nations, far across the Atlantic, but there were times when their kings considered today's South Dakota to be their land. And a time when the United States worried that Britain might make a grab for our rivers and prairies.

Some of what we know about distant nations once claiming this countryside is because of five Fort Pierre teenagers. Walking near the Missouri River in 1913, they discovered an eight inch by six inch metal plate put there in _____. The plate was a marker left by French fur trappers, led by two brothers named La Verendrye. The marker claimed the land for King Louis of _____.

But it seemed strange to think of the land itself as something to be traded, or to be divided on maps with exact borders. _____ eventually arrived...with instruments that calculated border locations right down to yards and feet.

And the French king worried he couldn't defend his property way off in the middle of _____. He turned to a cousin for help.....a cousin who happened to be king of Spain. The deal was Spain could consider our region its own until France was ready to take it back.

The best remembered Spanish figure from that time is _____, who explored and mapped rivers and later started a successful fur trading company. He often traded seeds and farming tools to American Indians in exchange for trapping.

The second revolution was an uprising in France that ended that nation being a kingdom. Instead of a king.....the French leader who took back the North American property was Napoleon Bonaparte, _____ and _____ never shy about going to war to advance French interests.

Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States...could look at a map and see a war-minded neighbor like Napoleon might be a problem. So Jefferson took action, offering to buy Louisiana for _____ million dollars. Napoleon accepted, because his wars left him with lots of bills to pay. In 1803, the _____
_____ made the United States a much bigger country.

South Dakotans usually think of the War of 1812, between the United States and Britain, as happening in the eastern United States...where the British burned the White House...and where Francis Scott Key wrote the _____
_____ as he watched a battle at Baltimore.

By 1874, when territory leaders first made a push for statehood, Dakota Territory had been reduced in size to the land that's today's North and South Dakota. Most people believed this area would become _____ new state.

At first Dakota Territory's capital was _____. Politicians from the north didn't like traveling so far to the capital, on the territory's southern border. In 1883 the northerners were successful in getting the capital moved to _____.
Now those in the south complained about distance.

South Dakota's borders have remained the same ever since. Even a surveyor's mistake along the western border that gave _____ a little more land than originally planned has not been corrected.

And be reminded that in our part of the world, borders aren't barriers. We're free to cross them as we wish, as we explore all corners of South Dakota, and beyond.