

Site and Situation Activity

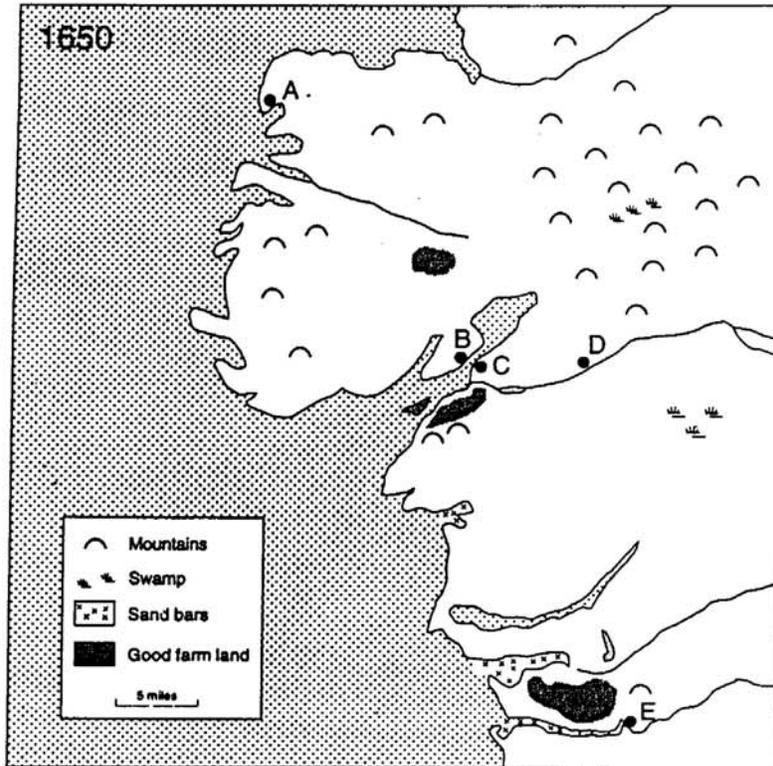
Due: Wednesday, February 20

You are the scout for a group of settlers trying to decide where to build a town. The others have asked you to analyze the site and situation of several locations and make a recommendation. Write a short essay (at least 1pg, single-spaced), in which you answer the following questions:

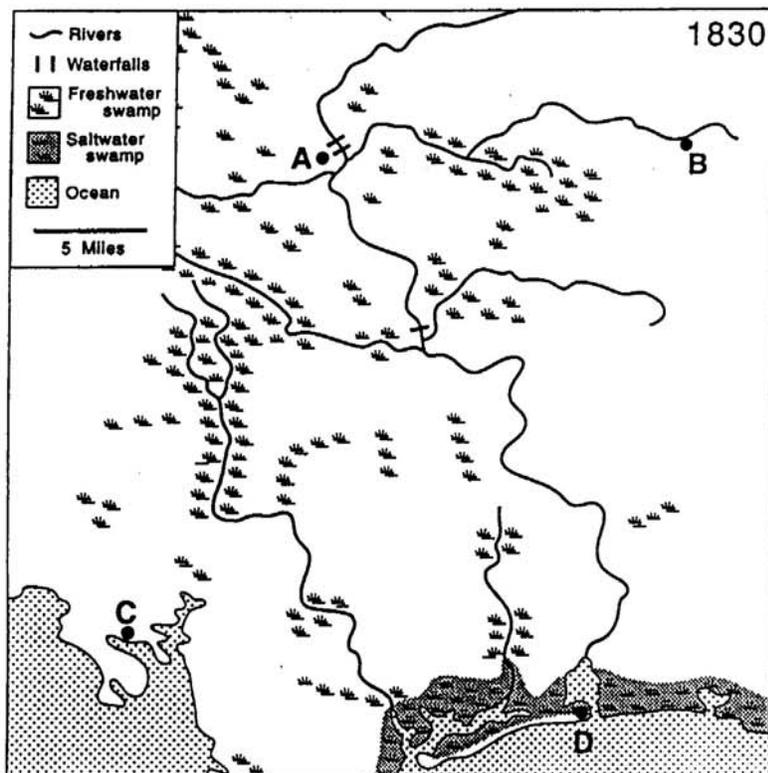
1. Consult the “Settlement in 1650” map. Evaluate the sites of the places lettered A through E. What local conditions would be advantageous for settlers trying to establish a town at each location at that time? What might cause problems? (e.g., Place D has fresh water available but no good farmland nearby; no danger of sea attack, but not located on the ocean for fishing.) Rank the five sites from best to worst in terms of their site characteristics.
2. What about the situations of the five places? Which have the best connections with other places? (e.g., Place D is located on a river which may lead to interior markets, but in 1650 the interior is thinly settled by Native Americans. Key markets are located in Europe, so accessibility for ocean-going ships is crucial to success.)
3. What place would you recommend for settlement, based on both site and situation characteristics? Why?
4. Imagine that the year is now 1830 (second map). The region’s population is growing quickly. Industry is becoming important, but needs a reliable power source. Rank the four places from best to worst in terms of both site and situation. What place would you recommend for settlement? (Clearly distinguish between site and situation in making your recommendation.)
5. Imagine that the year is now 1880 (third map). The frontier has moved to the Great Plains, far to the west, and railroads are the major way of hauling things. Once again, rank the places from best to worst in terms of both site and situation. What place would you recommend for settlement?
6. Finally, reevaluate the places on the first map (1650) for the year 1880, in light of the railroad and the opening of the west to immigrant settlement. In general, how does this change your evaluation of the site and situation of the five places? Would you now recommend a different place for settlement?

Special thanks to Dr. Laura Smith for creating this activity.

Settlement in 1650



Settlement in 1830



Settlement in 1880

