

Betrayal of Penn's Promise: The Walking Purchase**The Vision of William Penn****Worksheet 1: A Walking Purchase Simulation**

In this simulation, you will re-enact the Walking Purchase of 1737, both in terms of what happened in that time period and in terms of what might happen if such an event occurred today. The original event occurred September 19-20, 1737 when Thomas Penn, citing a Treaty that was supposedly made between his father, William Penn and the Delaware Indians, hired three runners to “walk” for a day and a half westward from Springfield, Bucks County. The three men, Edward Marshall, James Yeates and Solomon Jennings, actually ran the distance, thereby claiming for the Penn family over 1200 square miles of Indian lands. For the purpose of this simulation, we will use a measured area and a set time. From there, you will calculate the approximate distance that would be covered in a day and a half.

Directions

Read the descriptions of the people below who will be participants in this event. Some people will be runners, some will be Indian representatives, and some will be modern-day property owners and government officials who will have to defend their rights to their property. Select three roles that you think you may be good at and list them by your preference for first, second, and third.

Edward Marshall – One of the three “walkers” and the only one to complete the thirty-six hour run. His walk covered a distance of almost 55 miles.

James Yeates – Another of the three “walkers.” Exhaustion forced him to drop out of the event on the morning of the second day.

Solomon Jennings – The third of the three “walkers.” He was the first to drop out of the event when he suffered a leg injury.

Thomas Penn – One of William Penn’s sons. The Penn Family was in debt and needed more land to sell to colonists. In addition, there was concern in the colony about the connections between the Delaware Indians and the Iroquois, who were loyal to the French. Thomas, along with James Logan, the Provincial Secretary, produced a treaty that they claimed his father, William Penn, negotiated with the Delaware Indians in 1686. This treaty became known as the “Walking Purchase Treaty.” According to the terms of the treaty, Penn would own all the territory “as far as a man could go in one day and a half.”

Lenape Chief Lappawinsoe – Chief at the time of the Walking Purchase. Complained to the King about the legitimacy of the territory claimed as a result of the Walking Purchase, but eventually conceded the land.

Joseph Knowles – One of a group of people who “prepared” a path for the runners. Since most of the territory covered at the time was wooded, Penn hired people to clear away brush and undergrowth – to make a track – for the runners.

James Logan – Provincial Secretary of the Pennsylvania Colony and chief agent for the Penn Family in America. He was like a manager who ran the colony when the Penn family was in England. Along with Thomas Penn, he fabricated the “Walking Purchase” Agreement in order to expand the land owned by the Penn Family.

Colonists – In addition to the three “walkers,” several colonists (see Joseph Knowles above) followed

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Worksheet 1b: A Walking Purchase Simulation, con't.

the progress of the men. Some of these probably rode or walked part of the distance with the men. Some of them had helped clear a path and may have been "stationed" at various points along the route, perhaps to give aid to or encourage the runners.

Lenape Indians – The Lenape also followed the "walkers." While the men were running, the Lenape complained that they were not following the terms of the treaty which called for them to walk – not run.

Choose your Role:

Choice 1: _____

I would like this role because: _____

Choice 2: _____

I would like this role because: _____

Choice 3: _____

I would like this role because: _____

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Worksheet 2: Calculation Chart

A Walking Purchase – Distance Calculation Chart

Directions:

Take the distance traveled by the fastest runner and calculate the distance that might be covered in one hour, 24 hours and 36 hours and the area enclosed by that distance.

Time	Distance Walking (in yards)	Distance Running (in yards)	Distance (in miles)	Area (in square miles)	Map Coordinates (e.g. west from starting point)
20 minutes					
1 hour					
24 hours					
36 hours					

Student Worksheet 3: Geophysical Map of the Surrounding Area

Starting at the your school coordinates, create a map showing the amount of territory you now own as a result of your purchase. Be sure to mark the coordinates on your map.

