

Background Information

Read the information below and then answer the questions.

The Government wanted to encourage people to settle in the West (what is now Saskatoon and surrounding areas). To do this, the Government allowed pioneers to settle in groups. These groups, or colonies, had similar interests and found comfort being close to one another. The colonies shared religions, beliefs and ways of life.

One of these colonies, The Temperance Colonization Society was organized in 1881 in Toronto, Ontario. The Temperance Colony wanted to establish a colony in the West that was free of the problems of big city living – poverty and alcoholism.

John Lake and a party of men from the Temperance Colonization Society traveled out West to examine the land set aside for their settlement. They contacted the Dakota-Sioux Chief who lived on a reserve south of the colony site to learn more about this unfamiliar environment. Chief White Cap proved to be a valuable resource, giving Mr. Lake advice about where to establish a ferry crossing. Mr. Lake and his party also examined the soil to learn if it would be suitable for farming. Since most of the settlers would be farmers, it was important that Mr. Lake learn as much about the area as possible.

Mr. Lake ran advertisements in newspapers in eastern Canadian cities, encouraging people to settle out West. By 1884, there were approximately 200 people settled in the area we now call Saskatoon.

1. What is a colony?
2. What type of colony did the Temperance Colonization Society want to make?
3. Why did John Lake contact Chief Whitecap?
4. Why was it important that John Lake learn about the soil quality?