**Unit 1: Early America (1400 - 1763)**

[Topic 1: The Horse](https://www.thinkport.org/tps/ushist/inquiry-kits.html?unit=01&topic=01)

Source 3, “History of a Buffalo Hunter”

A group of men from New Mexico hunt for buffalo.

[Original text]  
Story Collected by Simeon Tejada, Federal Writers Project, 1939

When Don Manuel Jesus Vanquez returned to Penasco preparations were being made for another expedition to the country of the Comanches and Cayguas (Kiowas) towards Kansas. Don Manuel Jesus Vasques went on this trip also. The object of this trip was the buying of horses from the Apaches (?) and Kiowas. On this trip burros loaded with bread were taken along. The bread was a certain kind of bread called Comanche bread. This bread was made of wheat flour but without yeast so that the bread was as hard or harder than a rock; and was traded to the Indians for horses.

(break inserted here) The Indians were Kiowas and Comanches. A “trinca” of bread was given for each horse. A “trinca” was half a sack of bread or in other words a sack of bread for a pair of horses. At this time the Indians already were receiving some aid from the government and they would feed those who went to trade with them, they had plenty of coffee and sugar. Twenty men went on this trading expedition and they brought fifteen horses back to Penasco with them.

The most of the men who went on this expedition worked for wages, small wages however, no one of them ever made more than 50¢ a day. Yet Don Juan Policarpio Romero never paid Don Manuel Jesus Vasques a single cent for his labors, as shepherd for his flock of goats nor for the making of coffins, nor for his services as a buffalo hunter or horse trader with the Indians, but he did keep Don Manuel and his family. While his patron lived Don Manuel never held one single penny in his hand.

**Emerging ESOL / Reader**

**Unit 1: Early America (1400 - 1763)**

[Topic 1: The Horse](https://www.thinkport.org/tps/ushist/inquiry-kits.html?unit=01&topic=01)

Source 3, “History of a Buffalo Hunter”

A group of men from New Mexico hunt for buffalo.

**Vocabulary**

* **ranch** - a big farm with animals like sheep or horses or cows. It does not grow food plants.
* **tribe** - a big group of people that lives together and has the same leader
* **trade** - to give something to someone to keep, and they give you something for you to keep.

Story Collected by Simeon Tejada, Federal Writers Project, 1939

Don Manual Jesus Vanquez was the boss of workers on the ranch. He got home to Penasco Ranch and got ready to leave again. He took the other workers to Indian Country. The Comanche and Kiowa tribes lived there. Don Vanquez had to get horses for the man who owned the ranch. He put bags full of hard, flat Comanche bread on donkeys. He took the donkeys to the tribes. The Indians gave him horses for the bread.

1. Think of a word that tells about Don Vanquez. What did he do that makes this a good word for him?

The word is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

It tells about him because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. Why do you think Indians traded horses for bread?

I think Indians traded horses for bread because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Would you go to Indian Country with Don Vanquez? Tell why or why not.

I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ go to Indian Country with Don Vanquez because

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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| **BONUS** - Draw a picture of Don Vanquez and something you read about here. Put three or more labels in the picture. |

**Intermediate ESOL / Reader**

**Unit 1: Early America (1400 - 1763)**

[Topic 1: The Horse](https://www.thinkport.org/tps/ushist/inquiry-kits.html?unit=01&topic=01)

Source 3, “History of a Buffalo Hunter”

A group of men from New Mexico hunt for buffalo.

Story Collected by Simeon Tejada, Federal Writers Project, 1939

Don Manual Jesus Vanquez was the boss at the ranch, Penasco. The owner of the ranch was Don Juan Policarpio Romero. Vanquez planned a trip to Indian Country with his men. He needed some of the horses that the Comanche and Kiowa tribes had. He told his men to load donkeys with bags of Comanche bread for the Indians. Comanche bread was flat, dry, and as hard as a rock. The Indians would trade their horses for the bread.

One “trinca” of bread was for each horse. A “trinca” was half a bag of bread, so one bag of bread got two horses. The Indians got food help from the government so they had lots of coffee and sugar. They fed the traders. Twenty men went on this trading trip, and they came back to Penasco with fifteen horses.

1. Think of 2 words that describe Don Vanquez. Tell why each one is a good word for him.

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1. Do you think it is fair or unfair for Don Vanquez to pay for big horses with bags of bread? Tell why.

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1. The men who went with Don Vanquez to get the fifteen horses had jobs to do. What do you think the jobs were?

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| **BONUS** - Draw a picture of Don Vanquez and something you read about here. Write a caption for the picture. |

**Advanced ESOL / Reader**

**Unit 1: Early America (1400 - 1763)**

[Topic 1: The Horse](https://www.thinkport.org/tps/ushist/inquiry-kits.html?unit=01&topic=01)

Source 3, “History of a Buffalo Hunter”

A group of men from New Mexico hunt for buffalo.

**Vocabulary**

* **expedition** - a long trip for a special reason
* **aid** - help
* **shepherd** - a person who takes care of a group of sheep
* **flock** - a group of the same kind of animal that stays together

Story Collected by Simeon Tejada, Federal Writers Project, 1939

When Don Manual Jesus Vanquez returned to the ranch, Penasco, he prepared for another expedition to the Comanche and Kiowa tribes. The trip was for buying horses. On this trip, they took donkeys loaded with bags of bread. The bread was called Comanche bread. This bread was made without yeast so that the bread was harder than a rock. The bread was traded to the Indians for horses.

A “trinca” of bread was traded for each horse. A “trinca” was half a bag of bread, so a bag of bread paid for a pair of horses. The Indians were getting some aid from the government and they would feed people who went to trade with them. They had plenty of coffee and sugar. Twenty men went on this trading expedition and they brought fifteen horses back to Penasco with them.

Most of the men worked for money, but no one ever made more than 50¢ a day. But the ranch owner Don Juan Policarpio Romero never paid Don Manuel Jesus Vanquez even a penny, not for being the shepherd for his flock of goats, nor for making coffins, nor as a buffalo hunter, nor horse trader with the Indians. He did take care of Don Manuel and his family. While his boss was alive, Don Manuel never held one single penny in his hand.

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| **BONUS** - Draw a 4-panel cartoon about this. Include speech and thought bubbles. |