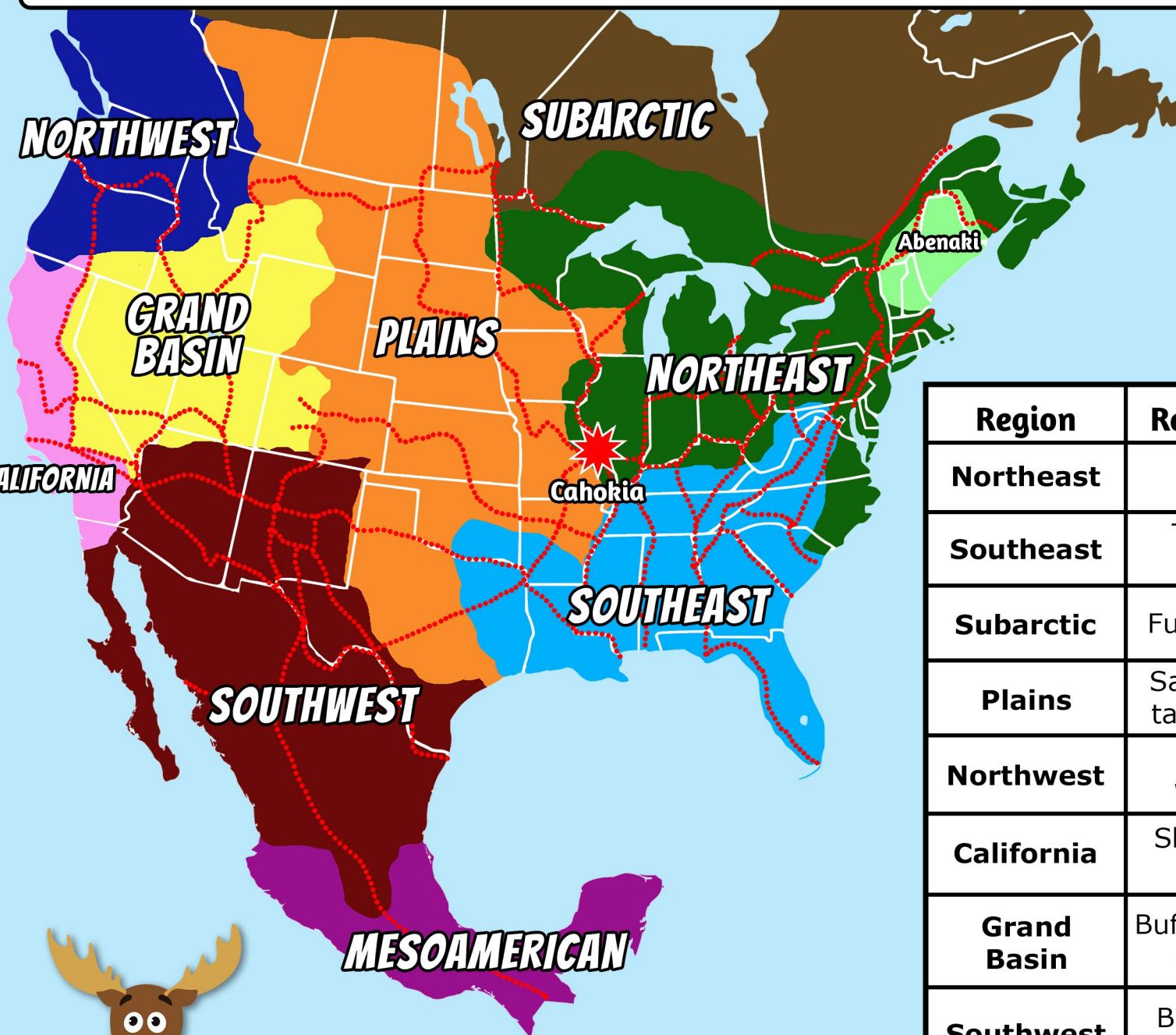


INDIGENOUS TRADE ROUTES IN 1400

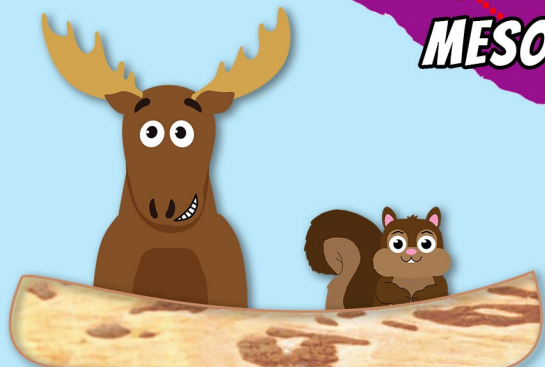
Trade in North America didn't start with Europeans! For thousands of years, indigenous groups in North America traded with each other. Each region in North America has different natural resources. The tribes exchanged items that they needed as well as luxury items.

Indigenous traders would travel long distances to trading centers. One trading center called Cahokia, which is near modern-day St. Louis, had a population of 40,000 people by the year 1400. That was bigger than most cities in Europe! The red lines below show popular routes used by indigenous traders.

The Abenaki participated in this trade. Things like beaver furs and dried fish were very useful for indigenous tribes in other parts of the continent. In return, they could get things like dyes, pottery, and bright colored feathers.



Region	Resources Traded
Northeast	Copper, furs, dried fish
Southeast	Tobacco, shells, pearls
Subarctic	Furs, caribou coats
Plains	Salt, meats, hides, tallow (animal fat)
Northwest	Fish oil, wood, whale products
California	Shells, soapstone, dried fish
Grand Basin	Buffalo robes, horns, obsidian, hides
Southwest	Blankets, pottery, turquoise
Meso-American	Corn, cacao, jade, cinnabar for red dye



1. Look at the list of resources traded. Which of these resources are necessities? Which are luxuries? Are there any that could be either?
2. Compare the resources from three regions from different parts of the continent. How do you think the geography of the region impacted what they traded? Did any regions have similar resources?
3. If you were an Abenaki in 1400, which of these resources would you trade for? Which do you think would be the easiest to get? Hardest? Why?
4. The United States didn't exist in 1400, but some of the trade routes are similar to modern state borders. Why do you think that is?