

NAME _____ DATE _____

Read the following passage. Circle any unfamiliar words. Underline any sentences you have questions about. Then answer the questions below.

New York City began as a place for trading in the 1600s. There was a group of traders, or merchants, in Amsterdam. Amsterdam is a city in the Netherlands in Europe. The traders sent their sailing ships a great distance across the Atlantic Ocean. They traveled all the way to New York City, which they called "New Amsterdam." New Amsterdam had an excellent harbor for their ships. A harbor has water that is deep enough for sailing ships. It also has land on many sides to protect the ships from big waves in the ocean.

Dutch merchants traded with Native Americans. The Dutch wanted beaver furs. They also wanted timber, or wood, from Native American land. The Dutch ships left from the harbor at New Amsterdam. The ships sailed back to the Netherlands with thousands of beaver furs. Dutch merchants wanted beaver fur to make hats that were popular in Europe.

Native Americans hunted the beavers. Then they exchanged beaver furs for trade goods from Europe. Native Americans wanted metal tools made in Europe. They wanted iron knives, axes, copper pots, and rifles. They also wanted woven cloth and wool blankets made in Europe.

1. What did the Dutch traders want to get from the Native Americans?

2. What did the Native Americans want to get from the Dutch?
