At one time the United States had less than 20 states. President Thomas Jefferson wanted the nation to grow in size. He was worried the country was getting crowded.

France owned a large piece of land bordering the western part of the United States. It was called Louisiana. President Jefferson sent men to France to buy a small piece of land in Louisiana. France was at war with England and needed money. French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte offered to sell all of Louisiana to the United States. The price was $15 million. Kansas was part of the Louisiana Purchase.

The Louisiana Purchase was good for both countries. France got the money it needed to fight the war with England and the United States doubled its size. Even today the Louisiana Purchase ranks as one of the best land deals in history.
President Jefferson often wrote important messages in code. Work the multiplication problems below and use the code to find five of the states that were part of the Louisiana Purchase.

$15 million for 500 million acres of land. That’s about $0.03 an acre! Today the average price of a Kansas acre is $1,100!