

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# The Past Perfect Tense

**The Birchbark House**  
Grammar: Perfect Tenses

The **past perfect tense** of a verb shows an action that happened before a certain time in the past. To write the past perfect tense, use *had* as a helping verb. Then write the correct form of the main verb.

## past perfect tense

He had wanted to visit his friend on her birthday.

We had given her flowers and a birthday cake before.

## Thinking Questions

*Is the helping verb had? Is the main verb in the past participle form?*

**Activity** Write the past perfect tense of the verb in parentheses on the line.

1. We (stop) \_\_\_\_\_ fishing when the lake froze over.
2. I already (eat) \_\_\_\_\_ by the time the guests came.
3. Before we knew it, they (leave) \_\_\_\_\_ the building  
for the ceremony.
4. She (help) \_\_\_\_\_ gather fruits and nuts.
5. He (read) \_\_\_\_\_ the old book that belonged to his  
grandmother.
6. Rudy never (see) \_\_\_\_\_ a bear before.
7. She (make) \_\_\_\_\_ a special blanket for the baby.
8. You (promise) \_\_\_\_\_ to walk through the woods  
with me.