



EARLY PEOPLES

Indians of the Northwest Coast and Plateau

Indians of the Northwest Coast and Plateau explores the daily life, history, and culture of American Indians that inhabited the northwestern part of the United States and southwestern Canada.

What did you learn?

QUESTIONS

1. A warrior of the Northwest coast tribes wore armor carved from ...
 - a. Hickory
 - b. Birch
 - c. Oak
 - d. Cedar
2. The tribes of the Northwest coast are probably best known for the amazing carved columns known as ...
 - a. Tipi poles
 - b. Totem poles
 - c. Doric columns
 - d. Cedar columns
3. Only women from certain Northwest coast tribes wore lip ornaments, called ...
 - a. Breechcloths
 - b. Labrets
 - c. Shell rings
 - d. Chilkats
4. The Canadian government's ban on potlatches and spirit dances was not lifted until ...
 - a. 1884
 - b. 1902
 - c. 1951
 - d. 1983
5. What is a *powwow*?
6. What is a *petroglyph*?

TRUE OR FALSE?

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| _____ 1. The Plateau cultural area contains excellent sources of both food and water. | _____ 4. Few totem poles that were made before 1800 exist today. |
| _____ 2. In many tribes, a slave could marry a free man or woman. | _____ 5. It was tradition for Plateau children to give away their "first foods." |
| _____ 3. During a Plateau Indian potlatch, the guests gave dried or smoked deer meat to the host. | _____ 6. Because tribes in the Northwest coast region lived in similar environments, they did not have reason to trade with one another. |

ANSWERS

- 1. d. Cedar.** According to section “Making War” on page 16, we know that “A warrior of the Northwest coast tribes wore a wooden helmet, collar band, a hide vest, and armor carved from cedar.” So, the correct answer is D.
- 2. b. Totem poles.** According to section “Indian Carvings” on page 30, we know that “The tribes of the Northwest coast are probably best known for the amazing carved columns known as totem poles, which were more than decorative items.” So, the correct answer is B.
- 3. b. Labrets.** According to section “Clothing and Jewelry” on page 41, we know that “Only women from certain Northwest coast tribes wore lip ornaments, called labrets.” So, the correct answer is B.
- 4. c. 1951.** According to section “A Changing Way of Life” on page 57, we know that “It was made even more difficult for many of the Northwest coast peoples when the Canadian government outlawed potlatches and spirit dances in 1884. This ban was not lifted until 1951.” So, the correct answer is C.
- 5.** According to page 60, a *powwow* is a “festival at which many different tribes meet and that features such performers as storytellers, singers, and dancers.”
- 6.** According to page 60, a *petroglyph* is a “rock carving, usually a picture or symbol.”

TRUE OR FALSE? ANSWERS

- 1. True.** According to section “A Land of Plenty” on page 7, we know that “The Plateau cultural area contains excellent sources of both food and water.” So, the correct answer is True.
- 2. False.** According to section “Slaves in Indian Society” on page 15, we know that “A slave was also not allowed to marry a free man or woman.” So, the correct answer is False.
- 3. False.** According to section “Potlatch Ceremonies” on page 22, we know that “During a Plateau Indian potlatch, the host gave dried or smoked deer meat to all of his guests.” So, the correct answer is False.
- 4. True.** According to section “Indian Carvings” on page 31, we know that “But, since wood quickly rots in the humid Pacific Northwest region, few totem poles that were made before 1800 exist today.” So, the correct answer is True.
- 5. True.** According to section “Life Lessons” on page 49, we know that “Among the Plateau peoples, a tribe’s best hunter would eat a boy’s first kill or catch of fish. The highest-ranking woman would eat the first plant foods collected by a girl. Giving away their ‘first foods’ in this way also taught the children to be generous.” So, the correct answer is True.
- 6. False.** According to section “Trading Among Tribes” on page 52, we know that “Although tribes in the Northwest coast region lived in similar environments, they still found reasons to trade with one another.” So, the correct answer is False.