



## EARLY PEOPLES

# Indians of the Plains and Great Basin

*Indians of the Plains and Great Basin* explores the daily life, history, and culture of American Indians who inhabited the Plains and Great Basin regions of North America.

### What did you learn?

#### QUESTIONS

1. Basin groups usually had unofficial leaders known as ...
  - a. Whisperers
  - b. Speakers
  - c. Talkers
  - d. Civil Chiefs
2. Most petroglyphs were made by carving or ...
  - a. Checking
  - b. Printing
  - c. Painting
  - d. Pecking
3. The Paiute played a game similar to modern day ...
  - a. Soccer
  - b. Hockey
  - c. Rugby
  - d. Cricket
4. The Indians' miserable living conditions gave rise to the ...
  - a. Wovoka Dance
  - b. Ghost Dance
  - c. Bison Dance
  - d. Dance of the Dead
5. Who was the Shoshone Indian woman who accompanied the Lewis and Clark expedition in 1805 and 1806?
6. The Cree word "mistatim" means *big dog*. What animal did the Cree call mistatim?

#### TRUE OR FALSE?

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The Great Basin is the swampiest spot in North America.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. People who lived in the Great Basin were more spread out than those who lived on the Plains.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Some Indian societies had the earliest known police forces.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. On the Plains, a young woman usually was allowed to select the man she wanted to marry.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. During hot weather, men in the Basin wore a loincloth made of linen.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Certain Plains tribes used round boats made from bison hide.



## ANSWERS

- 1. c. Talkers.** According to section "Leading the People" on page 15, we know that "Basin groups did not usually have recognized leaders but rather, unofficial leaders, sometimes known as 'talkers.' A talker was a respected member of the band, to whom others would go for advice." So, the correct answer is C.
- 2. d. Pecking.** According to section "Rock Art" on page 30, we know that "Most petroglyphs were made by carving or pecking." So, the correct answer is D.
- 3. a. Soccer.** According to section "Sports and Games" on page 49, we know that "The Indians enjoyed many ball games, including one similar to modern-day soccer. The Paiute played a game in which they kicked a buckskin-covered ball down a field, trying to cross the goal line of the opposing team." So, the correct answer is A.
- 4. b. Ghost Dance.** According to section "The Indian Wars" on page 57, we know that "The Indians' miserable living conditions gave rise to the Ghost Dance. A Paiute Indian named Wovoka (*woh VOH kuh*) said that if the people performed the Ghost Dance properly, the bison would return, non-Indians would leave the land, and the dead would come back to life." So, the correct answer is B.
- 5.** According to page 54, Sacagawea was the only woman on the Lewis and Clark expedition.
- 6.** According to page 51, the Cree called the horse mistatim.

## TRUE OR FALSE? ANSWERS

- 1. False.** According to section "Where Did the Indians of the Plains and Great Basin Live?" on page 7, we know that "The Basin is the driest spot in North America, but it does contain some plant life, as well as small lakes, rivers, and creeks." So, the correct answer is False.
- 2. True.** According to section "Social Organization" on page 13, we know that "People who lived in the Great Basin were more spread out than those who lived on the Plains. Food and water were scarce in this region, and the land could not support too many people in one area." So, the correct answer is True.
- 3. False.** According to section "Crime and Punishment" on page 22, we know that "Although Indian cultures did not have a police force, there were specific punishments connected with certain crimes." So, the correct answer is False.
- 4. True.** According to section "Courtship and Marriage" on page 34, we know that "On the Plains, a young woman usually was allowed to select the man she wanted to marry." So, the correct answer is True.
- 5. False.** According to section "Clothing and Jewelry" on page 41, we know that "During hot weather, men in the Basin wore a loincloth made of animal skin." So, the correct answer is False.
- 6. True.** According to section "Making Their Way" on page 51, we know that "Certain Plains tribes, such as the Mandan, used round boats called bullboats. The women made the bullboats by stretching a bison hide over a willow frame." So, the correct answer is True.