

Station N°6: Marriage and Divorce

MARRIAGE: Many men were killed in war and hunting, so there were more women than men. A wealthy man might have more than one wife (polygamy). The number of wives was limited with how much food he could hunt. The more successful hunter he was; the more wives he could have. For the wives it meant good because they could share their work.

If a man's brother died, he would be expected to marry the widow and take care of her children. Polygamy seemed like a perfect solution. It meant one wife didn't have so much work, and everyone could be properly looked after.



DIVORCE: Indians honoured their wives very much because they did all the work except hunting, fishing and fighting. If the marriage didn't work, the divorce was very easy for either partner.

To be divorced the man would announce publicly that he had "thrown away his woman". Men usually did this by banging a drum. The woman could divorce her husband simply by moving her belongings back to her parent's tepee.



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Chose the right answer a, b or c to complete the sentences.

1. If a man was a _____ hunter, he could have more wives.
a. bad b. good c. fast
2. The number of wives was limited by _____.
a. children b. how pretty he was c. hunted food
3. The wives had _____ work to do, if there were more of them.
a. less b. more c. same
4. The tribe expected a man to marry his brother's _____.
a. sister b. widow c. youngest daughter
5. Indian women were treated _____.
a. with respect b. like men c. badly
6. A divorce was very _____ for men or women.
a. hard b. complicated c. simple
7. They needed to tell _____ about getting a divorce.
a. the chieftain b. the whole tribe c. their parents
8. Playing a _____ could mean a divorce.
a. guitar b. flute c. drum
9. A woman _____ also divorce her husband.
a. could b. couldn't c. never
10. She simply moved all she had back to her parent's _____.
a. house b. apartment c. tepee