DAILY Warm-Up 13

Name _____ Date _____

CHIEF JOSEPH

Chief Joseph was a great leader for his people. He was the chief of the Nez Pierce Indians. This nation was located in Idaho and parts of Northern Washington. They were a peaceful nation and maintained good relations with the whites after Lewis and Clark came through on their expeditions. Much of his childhood was spent at a mission run by Christian missionaries.

In 1855, Chief Joseph's father signed a treaty with the United States government. The treaty said that the Nez Pierce were allowed to keep much of their traditional lands. But by 1863, another treaty greatly reduced the amount of land they would own. When Chief Joseph assumed his role as chief in 1877, he challenged the U.S. government on the second treaty. It was stated that the Nez Pierce people never agreed to this treaty.

Months and months of fierce fighting took place before the Nez Pierce people were forced to leave for a reservation in what is now known as Oklahoma. Many of the Nez Pierce people died of malaria and starvation. Chief Joseph tried every possible means to change the minds of the U.S. government, but to no avail. Joseph was eventually sent to a reservation in Washington, where legend says that he died of a broken heart.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Where did the Nez Pierce live in the beginning?
   a. parts of Northern Idaho and Utah
   b. parts of Idaho and Washington
   c. parts of Oklahoma
   d. parts of Idaho and Oklahoma

2. According to the passage, how did Chief Joseph serve his people?
   a. He waited the official 10 years to set up a reservation.
   b. He worked hard to support the rights of his people by leaving.
   c. He represented his people against the United States government.
   d. He signed a treaty for them.

3. What is the main idea of the passage?
   a. to explain how through hard work and dedication, Chief Joseph was able to accomplish great things
   b. to explain the problems between the Nez Pierce and the U.S.
   c. to explain the role Chief Joseph played and where the Nez Pierce people ended up
   d. to explain how difficult it is to negotiate with the Federal Government

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LIVEWORKSHEETS