Name_____

The American-Indian Movement

In the late 1800s, native tribes in America continued to lose their land to frontier settlers. The United States government often made and broke treaties protecting lands of American-Indians. Using the force of the United States Army, American-Indians were then forced to reside on reservations.

By the 1970s, half of the one million American-Indians lived on reservations. Living conditions, in most cases, were not good. Leaders of the American Indian Movement (AIM) began to get much needed national attention from Washington, D.C. Tribes began to sue for the rights promised to them under treaties originally signed as early as the 1800s but had never been granted.

The courts agreed with the mistreatment of the early American-Indians. For example, in South Dakota, the Sioux were given $100 million for land that had been taken from them in a disreputable treaty deal. Other tribes were also able to make changes. Some stopped large corporations from encroaching on their land and stripping the area of all its natural resources. To honor those early Americans, the American-Indian Day celebration happens each October. This holiday is the second Monday of October each year. The day is set aside to commemorate or remember the crimes committed against the early American-Indians and to learn about and respect the early American-Indian cultures.

Text Questions

1. Why did early native tribes lose land to frontier settlers?
   a. Early settlers wanted the land for themselves.
   b. Early settlers wanted to share the land with the natives.
   c. The natives attacked the settlers and lost the battles, leaving the land unoccupied.
   d. The settlers did not have enough land to grow the needed crops for their families to survive.
2. What is a reservation?
   a. Land set aside by the American-Indians for individual tribes.
   b. Land set aside by the government for the various American-Indian tribes.
   c. Land set aside and paid for by tax dollars.
   d. Land set aside for each generation.
3. Which part of the text best explains the purpose of the American Indian Movement?
   a. the title
   b. first paragraph
   c. second paragraph
   d. third paragraph
4. What evidence from the text helps you to explain your answer for question three?

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   _____

   _____
5. What holiday is celebrated the second Monday of each October?
   a. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday
   b. Frontier Celebration Day
   c. American-Indian Day
   d. The birthday of Sitting Bull

LIVEWORKSHEETS