

Read "Might Makes Right" before answering the questions that follow.

**Might Makes Right**

*by Laura Bresko*

1 During the 1820s, America became a crowded country. Settlers from Europe came pouring into the New World, looking for a place to call home. Much of the land in the eastern part of the country was already settled when they arrived. It had been given to loyal and important subjects back when Colonies were still under British rule.



The incoming white settlers knew that there was plenty of land west of the Appalachian Mountains. There was only one problem. The Indians owned that territory. It was scary business to settle in Indian territory and most wouldn't even try it. Instead, voters put pressure on their state governments to ask the Indians to move. When the Indians refused, the states took action.

2 The states decided to make it very tough on the Indians. First, states passed new laws that made tribe membership illegal. Then Congress passed the Indian Removal Bill of 1830. It required the Indians to give up their lands in the East for territory in the West. Many tribes fought the new laws in the courts. Though they won, the white states would not uphold the decisions of the court. In the end, Native Americans were forced to move or be killed by the U.S. Army.

3 The Cherokee nation did not think the whites were being fair. They refused to move. In 1836, President Jackson ordered the Army to remove the Cherokee by force. Many were killed in the fight to save their homelands. Finally, the Army won. They relocated the Cherokee and all other Indian tribes east of the Mississippi to Oklahoma. The Army rode on horseback. The Cherokee walked on foot. Their walk was over 1,000 miles. They often went without food and clean water. The weather was awful and disease spread like wildfire. Nearly one-quarter of the Cherokee people died along the way. The route is now called *The Trail of Tears* because of their hardships.

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- 4 Fortunately, some eastern Native Americans did evade the U.S. Army, but their numbers were small. Some Cherokee hid in caves in their Great Smoky Mountains until the Army gave up looking for them. Over 12,000 Cherokee descendants are still living in North Carolina today. A few hundred Seminoles fled from Georgia and Alabama to the swamps of Florida. They knew the Army would not follow them there. Today, over 7,000 Seminoles live in the Florida Everglades. Both tribes receive thousands of visitors each year. For many Americans, it is their only opportunity to view Native American culture.
- 5 The removal of Native Americans is one of the saddest events in United States history. Today, we are more sensitive to the rights of indigenous peoples. But back in the 19th century, many considered it their right to take lands from the Indians by force. They lived by the saying "might makes right." Because they had guns and many more men willing to fight, the white settlers felt justified in destroying the Indians' way of life.

Use "Might Makes Right" to answer questions 1-6.

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| <p>1 What does the phrase "might makes right" mean in paragraph 5?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A It is every American's right to have and carry guns.</li><li>B It's easy to take property away from those who are weaker than you.</li><li>C It's okay to take property away from others if you want it.</li><li>D If you have the power, it's your right to do what you want.</li></ul> | <p>2 The author wants the reader to think that —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>F Indians deserved their treatment.</li><li>G Andrew Jackson was a great president.</li><li>H Native Americans and white people could have lived side by side.</li><li>J Native Americans were treated unfairly.</li></ul> |
|---|---|

**3** Which is the best summary for this article?

- A** In the early 19th century, the eastern part of America was becoming overcrowded. People were coming to the New World looking for a place to call home. These Europeans wanted the land on the Trail of Tears owned by the Indians and pressured the government for help to get it. President Jackson sent the army to remove the Indians, but the Indians fought back and were able to keep their land.
- B** In the early 19th century, European settlers came to America, crowding the eastern part of the country. The Indians feared that these settlers would try to move into their territories west of the Appalachians and put pressure on the government to prevent it. Instead, the government moved the Indians further west on the Trail of Tears causing the Indians many hardships.
- C** In the 1820s, settlers from Europe came to America, causing the land to become crowded. People knew there was land west of the Appalachians, but fear of the Indians kept them from moving west. The people asked their government to step in and do something to help, but the government refused. Eventually, people moved to the western territories using the Trail of Tears.
- D** In the 1820s, eastern America was crowded, and people wanted Indian land. Congress passed the Indian Removal Bill, which forced Indians to give up their land and move west. The Cherokee Indians refused, so President Jackson ordered them removed by force. The Indians walked 1,000 miles to Oklahoma. The route became known as the Trail of Tears because of their hardships.

**4** The main purpose of the illustration next to paragraph 1 is to show where the —

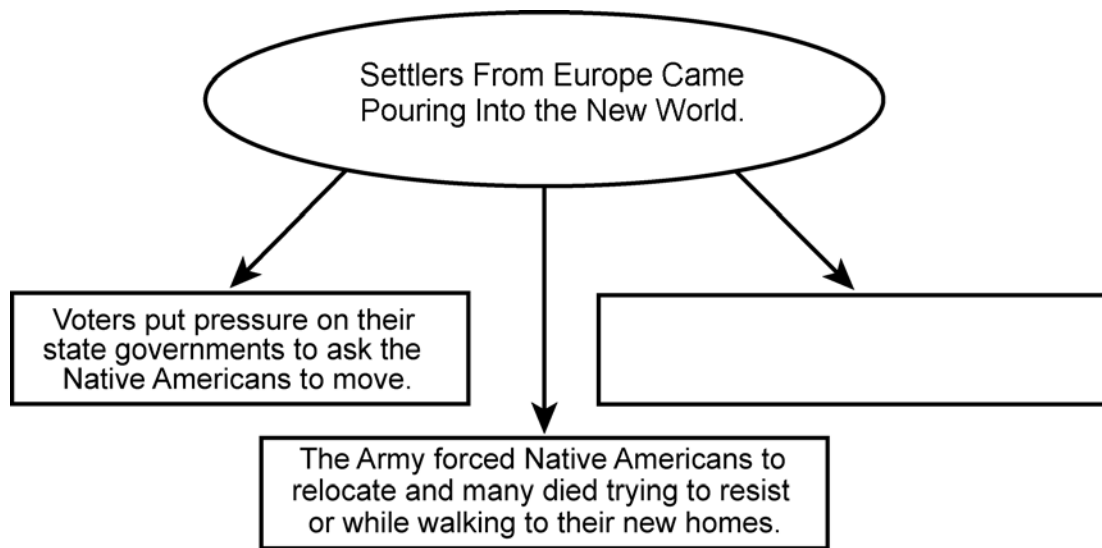
- F** Seminole descendants still live.
- G** Cherokee descendants still live.
- H** Cherokee were relocated.
- J** Seminole were relocated.

**5** How were the lives of Native Americans different before the white man arrived?

- A** The Native Americans had no commerce.
- B** The Native Americans had no leaders.
- C** The Native Americans had no wars.
- D** All the land belonged to the Native Americans.

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- 6 The diagram below shows some of the things that happened because of European settlers pouring into the New World in the early 1800s.



Which of the following belongs in the empty box?

- F** The Army was given horses to use to round up the Indians and walk them to another state.
- G** Some Cherokee hid in caves in the Great Smoky Mountains and some Seminoles fled to the swamps of Florida.
- H** Laws were passed that forced land that had been given to loyal British subjects be given to the settlers.
- J** Congress and states passed laws to make life hard for the Indians and force them to give up their lands.



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Item Number	Reporting Category	Readiness or Supporting	Content Student Expectation	Correct Answer
<b>READING Selection 1</b>				
1	1	Readiness	4.2 (B)	D
2	3	Readiness	4.10 Fig.19 (D)	J
3	3	Readiness	4.11 (A)	D
4	3	Readiness	4.11 Fig.19 (D)	G
5	3	Readiness	4.11 (C)	D
6	3	Supporting	4.13 (B)	J