Land and Change

Federal choices and their effects on Nez Perce homelands

4.SS.1.5 "Describe the federal policies and the motivations that led to westward expansion and subsequent consequences that impacted American Indian tribes in Idaho."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two federal actions, circle reasons settlers or the government wanted land, and number two effects on Nez Perce people. Use your marks to trace how each choice led to change.

Who Would Use the Land?

1. In the 1800s, many families traveled west hoping to farm land of their own. The U.S. government wanted more settlers in the West. In 1862, it passed the Homestead Act. This law offered settlers a way to claim land if they lived on it and farmed it for several years. Yet lands the government called available were often homelands of American Indian tribes.

2. In what is now Idaho, gold found on Nez Perce land drew miners and settlers. The U.S. government wanted to open more land to newcomers. It pressed Nez Perce leaders to sign a new treaty in 1863. The treaty cut the size of the Nez Perce reservation set by an earlier treaty. Some leaders signed, but others refused to give up their people's land.

3. The smaller reservation meant many Nez Perce families lost access to places where they lived, fished, and gathered food. Disagreement over land did not end. In 1877, the U.S. Army forced Nez Perce groups who had not signed the 1863 treaty to leave their homes. After a long flight and fighting, many survivors were sent far from Idaho. Federal choices to make land available to settlers had painful costs for Nez Perce communities.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did many families travel west, and how did the Homestead Act help them?

2. Why did the government press Nez Perce leaders to sign the 1863 treaty, and what did the treaty change?

3. How did the smaller reservation affect Nez Perce families?

4. How did federal actions in 1877 further affect Nez Perce groups who had not signed the treaty?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 3- to 4-sentence label for a museum exhibit about land in Idaho. Connect the Homestead Act and the 1863 treaty to the government's goal, then contrast what a settler hoped to gain with what a Nez Perce family risked losing.

ANSWER KEY

Land and Change

GRADE 4 · 4.SS.1.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two federal actions, circle reasons settlers or the government wanted land, and number two effects on Nez Perce people. Use your marks to trace how each choice led to change. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did many families travel west, and how did the Homestead Act help them?	**Families hoped to farm land of their own. The Homestead Act offered a way to claim land by living on it and farming it for several years.**
2	Why did the government press Nez Perce leaders to sign the 1863 treaty, and what did the treaty change?	**The government wanted to open more land to newcomers drawn to the area. The treaty made the Nez Perce reservation smaller.**
3	How did the smaller reservation affect Nez Perce families?	**Many families lost access to places where they lived, fished, and gathered food.**
4	How did federal actions in 1877 further affect Nez Perce groups who had not signed the treaty?	**The U.S. Army forced them to leave their homes, and many survivors were sent far from Idaho.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Settlers hoped to own farms in the West, so the government passed the Homestead Act to offer land claims. Gold on Nez Perce land also drew newcomers, and the government pressed leaders to sign the 1863 treaty to open more land. The treaty made the Nez Perce reservation smaller. A settler might hope for a farm, while a Nez Perce family might lose access to a place where they fished or gathered food.

Accept answers that connect a federal action to its purpose and a supported effect on Nez Perce people. Students should not suggest that all Nez Perce leaders signed the 1863 treaty.