Homelands Under Pressure

Read how westward expansion affected American Indian nations.

5.SS.1.10 "Review that American Indians were the first inhabitants of the United States and analyze the impact of westward expansion on North American tribes."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail showing that American Indians lived here before the United States existed. Circle two actions that expanded U.S. settlement, then write 1 and 2 beside two effects on American Indian nations.

Land Was Already Home

1. Long before the United States existed, American Indian peoples lived across the land now called the United States. They formed many nations, each with its own traditions and ways of governing. The Cherokee built towns and farmed in the Southeast. Farther west, the Lakota lived on the Great Plains, where bison were an important source of food and materials. These places were homelands, not empty land.

2. In the 1830s, the U.S. government forced the Cherokee and other nations from their southeastern homelands to make land available to settlers. In 1838 and 1839, soldiers drove thousands of Cherokee toward Indian Territory, in present-day Oklahoma. People traveled by foot, wagon, and boat. Many died from disease, hunger, or cold on the journey, known as the Trail of Tears.

3. Later, settlers and railroads spread across the Great Plains. Hunters killed huge numbers of bison, leaving the Lakota with less of a vital food source. The U.S. government also took Lakota land and pushed Lakota people onto reservations. Lakota communities resisted these losses and kept their languages and traditions alive. Westward expansion changed different nations in different ways, but many lost land and control over their lives.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the passage show that American Indians lived on this land before the United States existed? Use one example of a nation's life.

2. Why did the U.S. government force the Cherokee from their homeland, and what happened to many people during the journey?

3. How did the loss of bison and the loss of land each affect the Lakota?

4. What is one way westward expansion affected both the Cherokee and the Lakota? What was different about their experiences?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label titled "Homelands, Not Empty Land." Include a fact about life before expansion, an action that expanded U.S. settlement, an effect on an American Indian nation, and a way a community resisted or kept its traditions alive. Use because, so, or as a result to connect an action to an effect.

ANSWER KEY

Homelands Under Pressure

GRADE 5 · 5.SS.1.10

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail showing that American Indians lived here before the United States existed. Circle two actions that expanded U.S. settlement, then write 1 and 2 beside two effects on American Indian nations. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the passage show that American Indians lived on this land before the United States existed? Use one example of a nation's life.	**The passage says American Indian peoples lived here long before the United States existed. For example, the Cherokee built towns and farmed in the Southeast.**
2	Why did the U.S. government force the Cherokee from their homeland, and what happened to many people during the journey?	**The government wanted to make land available to settlers. Many Cherokee died from disease, hunger, or cold during the journey.**
3	How did the loss of bison and the loss of land each affect the Lakota?	**The loss of bison reduced a vital food source. The loss of land pushed Lakota people onto reservations.**
4	What is one way westward expansion affected both the Cherokee and the Lakota? What was different about their experiences?	**Both nations lost homeland. The Cherokee were forced on a deadly journey, while the Lakota also faced the loss of bison on the Great Plains.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Homelands, Not Empty Land
Long before the United States existed, Cherokee families lived in towns and farmed their homeland. Later, the U.S. government forced Cherokee people to leave that land to make room for settlers. As a result, many died during the journey toward Indian Territory. Lakota communities also faced losses, but they resisted and kept their languages and traditions alive.

Accept other accurate details from the passage. In the museum label, look for a clear connection between an expansion action and its effect, along with a distinct example of community resistance or cultural survival.