

Growth Changes Homelands

Read how westward growth affected Indigenous nations.

USII.1.d “explaining the effect that the growth of the United States had on Indigenous people.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each action connected to United States growth, then write a number beside the effect it had on Indigenous people. Use the same number for each action-and-effect pair.

Expansion and Indigenous Nations

- ① During the 1800s, the United States grew westward as settlers, miners, and railroad companies moved onto lands where Indigenous nations already lived. The federal government often made treaties that recognized tribal land, but it also broke or changed many agreements when non-Indigenous settlers wanted the land. In 1830, the Indian Removal Act supported the forced removal of many southeastern Indigenous peoples. Cherokee people were forced west on the Trail of Tears, where thousands died from disease, hunger, and exposure during the journey.
- ② Growth also changed the environment that supported many Indigenous communities. As railroads crossed the Great Plains, they brought more settlers and made it easier to ship resources away. Commercial hunters killed huge numbers of bison, an animal central to the food, shelter, tools, and trade of many Plains nations. As bison herds declined, families faced hunger and lost important materials. Settlers fenced land and claimed water sources, making it harder for Indigenous people to travel, hunt, and farm in familiar places.
- ③ United States officials confined many Indigenous nations to reservations, areas smaller than their homelands. Some people resisted removal or defended their communities, while others used diplomacy, legal action, and new economic work to survive. Government boarding schools took many Indigenous children from their families and tried to replace their languages and traditions with English and non-Indigenous customs. Despite these pressures, Indigenous people preserved and renewed cultural practices, languages, and governments. United States growth caused lasting losses, but it did not erase Indigenous nations.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How did broken or changed treaties affect Indigenous nations?

2 What were two effects of the decline of bison herds on many Plains nations?

3 How did reservations and boarding schools affect Indigenous people and communities?

4 Name one way Indigenous people responded to United States growth. What does this response show?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write exactly three sentences about a fictional Indigenous family after settlers fence a nearby water source. In sentence 1, state an action connected to United States growth. In sentence 2, explain an immediate effect. In sentence 3, explain either a lasting effect or how the community responds.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each action connected to United States growth, then write a number beside the effect it had on Indigenous people. Use the same number for each action-and-effect pair. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did broken or changed treaties affect Indigenous nations?	They caused Indigenous nations to lose tribal land when non-Indigenous settlers wanted it.
2	What were two effects of the decline of bison herds on many Plains nations?	Families faced hunger and lost materials used for food, shelter, tools, and trade.
3	How did reservations and boarding schools affect Indigenous people and communities?	Reservations confined many nations to smaller areas than their homelands. Boarding schools separated many children from their families and tried to replace their languages and traditions.
4	Name one way Indigenous people responded to United States growth. What does this response show?	Answers may name resistance, defending communities, diplomacy, legal action, new economic work, or preserving and renewing cultural practices, languages, and governments. These responses show Indigenous people worked to survive and protect their communities and cultures.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A railroad company brought settlers who fenced the stream near Maya's community. Her family had to travel farther for water and could no longer farm one field. The community met to protect its water rights and pass its knowledge to younger children.

Accept accurate cause-and-effect explanations that connect United States growth to land loss, environmental change, forced removal, cultural pressure, or Indigenous responses. For the open task, check for exactly three sentences with a growth-related action, an immediate effect, and a lasting effect or response.