

Ready for a Powwow



Don Heiny for Weekly Reader

Nantai wears special Native American clothes at the powwow.

The Quabbin Lake Singers are in tune with their culture. The group sings at **powwows**, or gatherings, to celebrate their Native American traditions. *Weekly Reader* was invited to a powwow in Connecticut where the singers recently performed.

In the past, powwows were religious ceremonies for Native Americans. Today, they are joyful, festive events that honor Native American life.

The Quabbin Lake Singers are all members of the Mann family. They are part of the Historical Nipmuc tribe in Massachusetts. *Nipmuc* means "freshwater people." The family includes three brothers: Sahyeed, 9; Nantai, 8; and Anoki, 7. Along with their parents, the boys sing at powwows in the Native American language of Nipmuc.

During the summer and on school vacations, the family travels around the United States and Canada. They combine old customs with new ones. The family performs ancient Native American songs and writes their own music. "Not only are we having fun," their dad told *Weekly Reader*, "but we're keeping our culture alive."

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Who are the Quabbin Lake Singers?

- A. two children who sing instead of going to school
- B. Native Americans who are part of a historic tribe in South Dakota
- C. members of a family who sing at powwows
- D. a family that lives in Canada but visits the United States during the summer

2. What does this passage describe?

- A. This passage describes the history of the Nipmuc Tribe in Massachusetts.
- B. This passage describes the Quabbin Lake Singers and powwows.
- C. This passage describes the mother of Sahyeed, Nantai, and Anoki Mann.
- D. This passage describes the dancing that takes place at powwows in Connecticut.

3. The Quabbin Lake Singers keep their Nipmuc culture alive by performing songs.

What evidence from the passage supports this statement?

- A. The Quabbin Lake Singers are all members of the Mann family, which includes three brothers.
- B. The Quabbin Lake Singers are all members of the Historical Nipmuc Tribe in Massachusetts.
- C. The songs performed by the Quabbin Lake Singers are in the Native American language of Nipmuc.
- D. During the summer and on school vacations, the Quabbin Lake Singers travel around the United States and Canada.

4. Based on the passage, how important are songs to Native American life and culture?

- A. very important
- B. slightly important
- C. not important
- D. less important than they used to be

5. What is this passage mostly about?

- A. the Quabbin Lake Singers, the songs they perform, and powwows
- B. Native American religion and how it has changed over the years
- C. what Sahyeed, Nantai, and Anoki Mann are studying in school
- D. a powwow in Connecticut where the Quabbin Lake Singers performed

6. Read these sentences: "Members of the family perform ancient Native American songs and write their own

music. 'Not only are we having fun,' the family's dad told Weekly Reader, 'but we're keeping our **culture** alive.'"

What does the word "**culture**" mean?

- A. people who move from one country to another
- B. money that singers and musicians make from concerts
- C. natural disasters that result in death and destruction
- D. the arts and customs of a group of people

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Powwows were once religious ceremonies for Native Americans; _____, they are festivals that honor Native American life.

- A. previously
- B. currently
- C. soon
- D. never

8. What is a powwow?

9. According to the article, who recently performed at a powwow in Connecticut?

10. The passage describes powwows as "joyful, festive events that honor Native American life." Use evidence from the text to explain how powwows honor Native American life.

1. Who are the Quabbin Lake Singers?

- A. two children who sing instead of going to school
- B. Native Americans who are part of a historic tribe in South Dakota
- C. members of a family who sing at powwows**
- D. a family that lives in Canada but visits the United States during the summer

2. What does this passage describe?

- A. This passage describes the history of the Nipmuc Tribe in Massachusetts.
- B. This passage describes the Quabbin Lake Singers and powwows.**
- C. This passage describes the mother of Sahyeed, Nantai, and Anoki Mann.
- D. This passage describes the dancing that takes place at powwows in Connecticut.

3. The Quabbin Lake Singers keep their Nipmuc culture alive by performing songs.

What evidence from the passage supports this statement?

- A. The Quabbin Lake Singers are all members of the Mann family, which includes three brothers.
- B. The Quabbin Lake Singers are all members of the Historical Nipmuc Tribe in Massachusetts.
- C. The songs performed by the Quabbin Lake Singers are in the Native American language of Nipmuc.**
- D. During the summer and on school vacations, the Quabbin Lake Singers travel around the United States and Canada.

4. Based on the passage, how important are songs to Native American life and culture?

- A. very important**
- B. slightly important
- C. not important
- D. less important than they used to be

5. What is this passage mostly about?

- A. **the Quabbin Lake Singers, the songs they perform, and powwows**
- B. Native American religion and how it has changed over the years
- C. what Sahyeed, Nantai, and Anoki Mann are studying in school
- D. a powwow in Connecticut where the Quabbin Lake Singers performed

6. Read these sentences: "Members of the family perform ancient Native American songs and write their own

music. 'Not only are we having fun,' the family's dad told Weekly Reader, 'but we're keeping our **culture** alive.'"

What does the word "**culture**" mean?

- A. people who move from one country to another
- B. money that singers and musicians make from concerts
- C. natural disasters that result in death and destruction
- D. **the arts and customs of a group of people**

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Powwows were once religious ceremonies for Native Americans; _____, they are festivals that honor Native American life.

- A. previously
- B. **currently**
- C. soon
- D. never

8. What is a powwow?

At minimum, students should identify powwows as gatherings. More detail is preferable: these gatherings consist of Native Americans celebrating their culture.

9. According to the article, who recently performed at a powwow in Connecticut?

The Quabbin Lake Singers recently performed at a powwow in Connecticut.

10. The passage describes powwows as "joyful, festive events that honor Native American life." Use evidence from the text to explain how powwows honor Native American life.

Answers may vary, as long as they are supported by evidence from the passage. For instance, students may respond that powwows honor Native American life with performances of traditional Native American songs. The singing of the Quabbin Lake Singers at powwows is an example of Native American life being honored in this way.