

### Assignment 3:

We are learning about a local group of Native Americans this week. Read the story and answer the questions at the end.

# Native Americans

## Nez Perce

### Vocabulary

1. Peace- freedom from war and conflict



2. Lewis and Clark- explorers who left St. Louis and travelled all the way to the Colombia River (sent out by Thomas Jefferson)
3. Settlers- people who move and live on new land
4. Treaty (who remembers this word?)- an agreement between 2 (or more) countries or people
5. Prospectors- a person who searches (looks for) precious metals and stone like gold,



silver, or diamonds

6. Flee- run away



7. Pursued- followed or chased

8. Surrender- to give in to another power, stop running away



9. Fringes and beads-



10. Grind- crush into a powder

11. Elders- older people

12. Extinct- die out, no longer exist

## Nez Perce

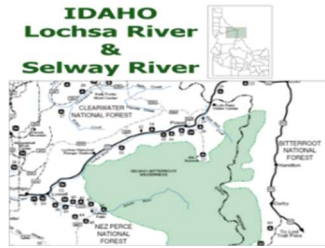
The Nez Perce are a Native American tribe that once lived throughout the Northwest United States including areas of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. Today, there is a Nez Perce reservation in [Idaho](#).

## History

Prior to the arrival of Europeans, the Nez Perce lived in spread out villages in the Northwest in **peace**. When horses arrived in America they travelled into the Great Plains to hunt **bison**.

The Nez Perce came into contact with **Lewis and Clark** on their expedition out west in 1805.

Lewis and Clark had nearly starved to death crossing the Bitterroot Mountains,



but the Nez Perce gave them food and helped them along in their journey.



*Traditional Lands of the Nez Perce by Ducksters*

In the late 1800s, white **settlers** moved into Nez Perce land. The Nez Perce signed a **treaty** with the U.S. government guaranteeing them their traditional homeland in 1855. In the 1860s, gold was discovered on the Nez Perce land. **Prospectors** soon moved into the territory. The U.S. government then took over more of the Nez Perce land.

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## Chief Joseph and the Flight of the Nez Perce

[Chief Joseph](#) was the leader over a band of Nez Perce that refused to leave their homeland. After a small skirmish (small war or battle), the U.S. Army arrived to remove Chief Joseph's people. They tried to **flee** to Canada, but were **pursued** by U.S. soldiers. Chief Joseph and his people traveled 1,400 miles, fighting many battles along the way before they finally **surrendered**.



*Chief Joseph and Family*  
by F. M. Sargent

### **What kind of homes did the Nez Perce live in?**

The Nez Perce once lived in small villages usually located near a stream. During the winter, they lived in more permanent homes called longhouses. Longhouses had A-shaped roofs and floors that were dug a few feet into the ground for warmth.

In the summer, some Nez Perce would follow the **bison** herds and live in teepees. Teepees were easy to move as they could be set up and taken down quickly. They were made from wooden



poles and bison hides.

### **What was their clothing like?**

The Nez Perce wore clothing made from animal skins. The women wore long dresses that were sometimes decorated with **fringes and beads**. The men wore shirts, breechcloths (shorts), and leggings. They made thick robes to wear during the cold months of winter.



*Nez Perce Warrior on Horse*  
by Edward S. Curtis

### What type of food did they eat?

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The men hunted a variety of game including bison, elk, deer, and rabbit. They also fished from the lakes and rivers. The women gathered berries and camas bulbs. They would **grind** the camas bulbs into a paste and use it to make cakes.

### How did they get the name Nez Perce?

The name Nez Perce came from French trappers and means "pierced nose" in French. The trappers must have been confused, however, because the Nez Perce did not typically pierce their noses. The Nez Perce refer to themselves as the Nimiipuu.

### Nez Perce Government

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The early Nez Perce did not have a complex form of government. Each village had a small council of **elders** that was led by a chief. There weren't any written rules, but people were expected to do what was best for the village. Today, the Nez Perce reservation has its own government led by a tribal council of elected leaders.

### Interesting Facts about the Nez Perce

- The Nez Perce were famous for being excellent horsemen and for breeding fine [horses](#). They are credited with creating the Appaloosa horse breed.
- There were around 12,000 Nez Perce in 1805, but the population declined to less than 2,000 by the early 1900s.
- Only a few people still speak the Nez Perce language and it is in danger of becoming **extinct**.
- They began a new horse breed in 1995 called the Nez Perce Horse.

# Questions

1. What area of the United States did the Nez Perce originally live?
  - c. Midwest
  - d. Southwest
  - e. Pacific Northwest
2. What famous explorer(s) did the Nez Perce help on their journey west?
  - a. Columbus
  - b. Hernando de Soto
  - c. Lewis and Clark
3. What was discovered on the Nez Perce land that caused prospectors to move in?
  - a. Oil
  - b. Gold
  - c. Diamonds
4. Who led the Nez Perce as they fled from the U.S. Army?
  - a. Chief Joseph
  - b. Sitting Bull
  - c. Geronimo
5. What type of homes did the Nez Perce live in during the winter?
  - a. Hogans
  - b. Longhouses
  - c. Wigwams
6. What type of homes did the Nez Perce live in during the summer?
  - a. Hogans
  - b. Longhouses
  - c. Wigwams
7. In what state is the modern-day Nez Perce reservation located?
  - a. California
  - b. Idaho
  - c. Oregon
8. What does the name Nez Perce mean in French?
  - a. Long hair

- b. Mountain people
- c. Pierced nose

9. What animal are the Nez Perce famous for breeding and training?

- c. Dogs
- d. Cats
- e. Horses

10. True or False: The Nez Perce language is in danger of becoming extinct.

- a. TRUE
- b. FALSE