

Name:

Date:

Respect for Nature

Native American Reading Comprehension Passage

For many **Native American Nations**, nature has always been an important part of daily life. The land, water, plants, animals, and sky were viewed as valuable gifts that should be treated with care and respect. While each Native American Nation has its own traditions and beliefs, many share the idea that people are connected to the natural world and have a responsibility to protect it.

Native American families depended on forests, rivers, mountains, and grasslands for food, water, clothing, shelter, and medicine. Hunters, fishers, and gatherers often took only what they needed and worked to avoid wasting natural resources. This careful approach helped ensure that plants and animals would continue to thrive for future generations.

Many communities also practiced farming methods that supported healthy soil and strong harvests. Growing crops like **corn, beans, and squash**, known as the **Three Sisters**, helped improve the soil naturally. People also learned to observe the seasons, weather patterns, and the behavior of animals to decide the best times for planting, fishing, or gathering food.

Respect for nature was also shared through stories, songs, and ceremonies. Elders taught children the importance of caring for rivers, forests, wildlife, and the land. These lessons encouraged gratitude, responsibility, and cooperation within the community.

Today, many **Native American communities** continue to protect forests, rivers, wildlife, and sacred places. They also work to preserve traditional environmental knowledge while supporting conservation projects, clean water programs, and sustainable land management. Their efforts remind us that caring for nature benefits everyone.

Vocabulary

Use the passage to define each word.

1. Conservation:

2. Sustainable:

3. Responsibility:

4. Resources:

5. Gratitude:

Vocabulary

Use the passage to define each word.

1. Conservation:

2. Sustainable:

3. Responsibility:

4. Resources:

5. Gratitude:

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. What did many Native American communities believe about nature?

- A. Nature should only be used for farming.
- B. People should respect and care for the natural world.
- C. Forests were not important.
- D. Animals should never be protected.

2. Why did many families take only what they needed from nature?

- A. To avoid carrying heavy loads.
- B. To help protect natural resources for the future.
- C. Because there were no plants.
- D. Because they only hunted once a year.

3. Which farming method is mentioned in the passage?

- A. Rice farming
- B. Three Sisters planting
- C. Greenhouse farming
- D. Hydroponics

4. How were lessons about nature passed to children?

- A. Only through written books.
- B. Through stories, songs, ceremonies, and elders.
- C. Through television.
- D. By traveling to other countries.

5. What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. Nature was unimportant to Native Americans.
- B. Respecting and protecting nature has long been an important value in many Native American communities.
- C. Only farmers cared about the environment.
- D. Rivers were used only for transportation.

Short-Answer Questions

1. Why did many Native American families avoid wasting natural resources?

2. Name two natural resources mentioned in the passage.

3. How did elders teach children to respect nature?

Short-Answer Questions

1. Why did many Native American families avoid wasting natural resources?

2. Name two natural resources mentioned in the passage.

3. How did elders teach children to respect nature?

4. How do many Native American communities continue protecting nature today?

Context Clues

1. Many Native American communities support conservation projects.

The word **conservation** means:

- A. Wasting resources
- B. Protecting and caring for nature
- C. Building roads
- D. Growing only flowers

2. Sustainable land management helps protect natural resources.

The word **sustainable** means:

- A. Harmful to the environment
- B. Using resources wisely so they last for the future
- C. Very expensive
- D. Temporary

Notes:

Main Idea & Supporting Details

Main Idea

What is the passage mostly about?

Supporting Detail #1

Supporting Detail #2

Inference Question

Why do you think respecting nature helped Native American communities survive for many generations?

Critical Thinking

What are two ways you can show respect for nature in your own community?

Answer Key

Vocabulary (Sample Answers)

Conservation – protecting and caring for natural resources.

Sustainable – using resources in a way that protects them for the future.

Responsibility – a duty to care for something.

Resources – useful materials found in nature, such as water, forests, and plants.

Gratitude – being thankful and showing appreciation.

Multiple Choice Answers

B
B
B
B
B

Sample Short Answers

1. They wanted to protect natural resources so future generations could also use them.
2. Water, forests, plants, animals, rivers, or land.
3. Through stories, songs, ceremonies, and guidance from elders.
4. By supporting conservation efforts, protecting wildlife, preserving clean water, and caring for sacred places.

Main Idea (Sample)

Many Native American communities have long valued respecting and protecting nature, and those traditions continue today.

Supporting Details (Sample)

Families took only what they needed from nature.

Communities continue supporting conservation and environmental protection.

Inference (Sample)

Respecting nature helped ensure that food, water, plants, and animals remained available for future generations.

Text Evidence (Sample)

"Hunters, fishers, and gatherers often took only what they needed and worked to avoid wasting natural resources."

Critical Thinking (Sample)

Students may suggest recycling, planting trees, conserving water, cleaning local parks, or protecting wildlife habitats.