
“All men were made by the same Great Spirit Chief. They are all brothers. The Earth is the mother of all people, and all people should have equal rights upon it”. These were the words of Chief Joseph a Nez Percé Indian from Idaho, USA. The Nez Percé were a strong, brave and intelligent people. They lived in what is now Washington, Idaho and Oregon. They had a good traditional friendship with the white men since 1805, when Lewis and Clark met them in the first expedition to the Pacific Coast. The leader of these people was old Joseph.

In 1863, gold was discovered in the Nez Percé lands in Oregon, and a great number of white men moved to there. Then, old Joseph asked the United States government to convince those white men to go back to the East. The Government’s answer was: “The tepee of the savage will soon give way to the whites...” And the Indians were sent to the reservations.

When old Joseph was near death, he looked into the future and warned his son. He said: *“When I am gone, always remember that your father never sold his country... the white men have their eyes in our land. My son never forget my dying words. This country holds your father’s body. Never sell the bones of your father and your mother”*

After several years of war, in 1885 Chief Joseph (Joseph’s son) and his people were sent to Washington. He died in 1904, really far from his loved valley...”



Please, have a look at paragraph 1 and:

- a- underline the name of a planet
- b- circle a date
- c- find two surnames _____

Read the text and find the opposites:

weak	
modern	
young	
near	



Read paragraph 1 again and complete these sentences:

- a- According to Chief Joseph the mother of all people is
- b- Chief Joseph was from.....
- c- The first explorers to the Pacific Coast were

Please read paragraph 2 and choose the correct sentence:

- A- In 1863, the white men wanted the gold from Oregon.
In 1863, the white men weren't interested in gold.
- B- The Nez Percé were worried about the white men.
The Nez Percé were happy with their neighbours.
- C- The Indians were free after the gold rush.
The Indians were taken to reservations.

Read paragraph 2 again and find the answers for these questions:

a-Did the Nez Percé live in the East or in the West?

.....

b-What did Joseph do when the white men invaded their lands?

.....

Read paragraph 3 and choose:

a-“Old Joseph was near death” means:

*he was next to the Death.

*he was going to die.

b-“The whitemen have their eyes in our land” means:

*they have lost their eyes.

*they want the land.

c-“Never sell the bones of your father and your mother” means:

*never sell the land.

*don't sell the bones.

Read the text again and make up its tittle:

Let's read a bit more...

Chief Joseph once said: *“I will not sign your paper, you go where you please, so do I; you are not a child, I am no child; I can think for myself. No man can think for me. I have no other home than this. I will not give it up to any man. My people would have no home. Take away your paper. I will not touch it with my hand”*

Please, write your opinion about this thought.

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Published: August 11th, 2017



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