Last Chance Powwow 2019 - Helena, MT

Grades: 6-8

This video and discussion guide support instruction related to **Essential Understanding #3** - The ideologies of Native traditional beliefs and spirituality persist into modern day life as tribal cultures, traditions, and languages are still practiced by many American Indian people and are incorporated into how tribes govern and manage their affairs.

Powwows are vibrant celebrations of Native American cultures, and this short video and discussion guide is designed to help you better understand and enjoy the events and activities you'll experience. While the specific customs, rules, and traditions can differ from one celebration to another, this video provides a basic overview to enhance your experience and to help you appreciate the history, events, and traditions of a powwow.

A Powwow is a gathering where Native American dancing, singing, and celebration take place. There are several different powwows that take place throughout the country, and this video clip features the 2019 Last Chance Community Powwow.

Instructions: Watch the linked video as a class. After viewing, complete this worksheet to the best of your ability. When finished, go through your answers as a class.

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INDIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL
Montana Office of Public Instruction

1. What important cultural practice do the songs at the Last Chance Powwow exemplify?
   A. Modern classical musical composition
   B. The oral tradition
   C. Ceremonial rituals
   D. Written historical records

2. What is the primary activity of the singers at the powwow?
   A. Recording music
   B. Leading the inter-tribal dancing
   C. Checking out good food vendors
   D. Sharing their songs

3. How do the songs featured at the powwow contribute to the event's overall purpose?
   A. They serve as a formal welcome to all attendees.
   B. By providing entertainment for the dancers
   C. They are a method of sharing cultural traditions.
   D. By documenting the history of powwows

4. Songs at the powwow are primarily preserved and passed on through which means?
   A. Photographs of the singers
   B. Live performance and memory
   C. Written sheet music
   D. Montana Historical Society

5. Who can attend a powwow?
   A. Only Native Americans
   B. Specific members from a tribe
   C. Everyone
   D. Only drummers, dancers, and singers

6. Describe a time you were invited to participate in a cultural or community tradition that was not originally your own. How did the act of participating—rather than just observing—help you "share cultural traditions"?

7. In your own life, is there a specific "regalia" or type of clothing you wear for a hobby, job, or tradition that signals your identity to others? How does this outward symbol represent your skills or "what you do in life”?

Last Chance Community Pow Wow

1. What important cultural practice do the songs at the Last Chance Powwow exemplify?
   A. Modern musical composition
   B. The oral tradition
      a. *The video explicitly states that the songs are an 'excellent example of the oral tradition in practice,' referring to the passing down of culture through speech and song rather than writing.*
   C. Ceremonial rituals
   D. Written historical records

2. What is the primary activity of the singers at the powwow?
   A. Recording music
   B. Leading the inter-tribal dancing
   C. Competing for awards
   D. Sharing their songs
      a. *"Singers share their songs," identifying this as their key contribution to the powwow.*

3. How do the songs featured at the powwow contribute to the event's overall purpose?
   A. They serve as a formal welcome to all attendees.
   B. By providing entertainment for the dancers
   C. They are a method of sharing cultural traditions.
      a. *At powwows, family and friends gather to share their cultural traditions.*
   D. By documenting the history of powwows

4. Songs at the powwow are primarily preserved and passed on through which means?
   A. Photographs of the singers
   B. Live performance and memory
      a. *This aligns with the description of these songs as an 'oral tradition in practice,' which relies on being spoken or sung and remembered over time.*
   C. Written sheet music
   D. Montana Historical Society

5. Who can attend a powwow?
   A. Only Native Americans
   B. Specific members from a tribe
   C. Everyone
      a. *Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend powwows and can join in inter-tribal dances.*
   D. Only drummers, dancers, and singers

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