"Power of the Drum"

Lesson Guide, Essential Understanding Questions, Reflection Questions, and Answer Key

Suggested Grade Levels: 3-8

This lesson guide includes a summary of the video, suggested lesson plan, essential understanding questions, reflection questions, and an answer key for the discussion questions.

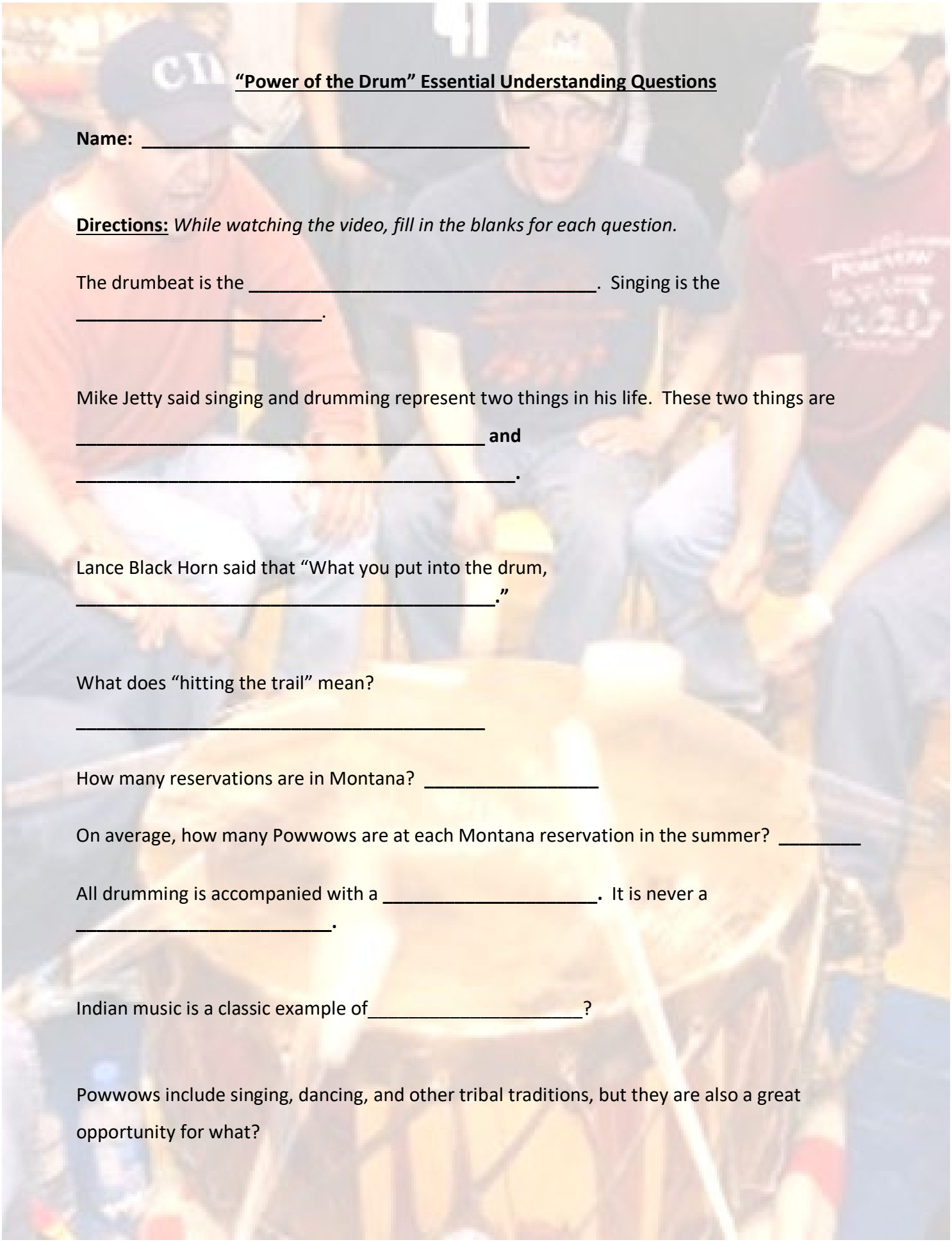
In the video, "Power of the Drum," several Native American singers discuss drumming, Native music and Powwows. The singers express how music, singing, and drumming personally affect/benefit them in their lives. The components of Native Music, such as drumming being combined with song, are also discussed. Near the end of the video, a few drummers explain how they feel Native music is a very valuable addition to IEFA in the classroom. 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.

Special thanks to the Music Teachers from East Helena Schools for creating the discussion guide and questions: Cole Bass, Jon Cantrell, Mathew Krantz, Traci Mazanec, and Tamika Schoppe.

Suggested lesson plan:

1) Teachers are always encouraged to preview a video prior to showing it to their students.
2) Before watching the video, discuss as a class or in groups what students already understand or believe they know about Native music and drumming.
3) Encourage students to think about what Native music they have heard sounds like and how they feel about it.
4) Students watch the "Power of the Drum" video while completing the discussion questions.
5) Have students complete the reflection questions. Consider playing Native music quietly while they are completing this section. Consider playing music by Native groups such as A Tribe Called Red, Black Lodge Singers, Supaman, or Red Bone. Make sure to preview music before playing it to your students.

INDIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL
Montana Office of Public Instruction



“Power of the Drum” Essential Understanding Questions

Name: _____

Directions: *While watching the video, fill in the blanks for each question.*

The drumbeat is the _____. Singing is the _____.

Mike Jetty said singing and drumming represent two things in his life. These two things are _____ **and** _____.

Lance Black Horn said that “What you put into the drum, _____.”

What does “hitting the trail” mean?

_____

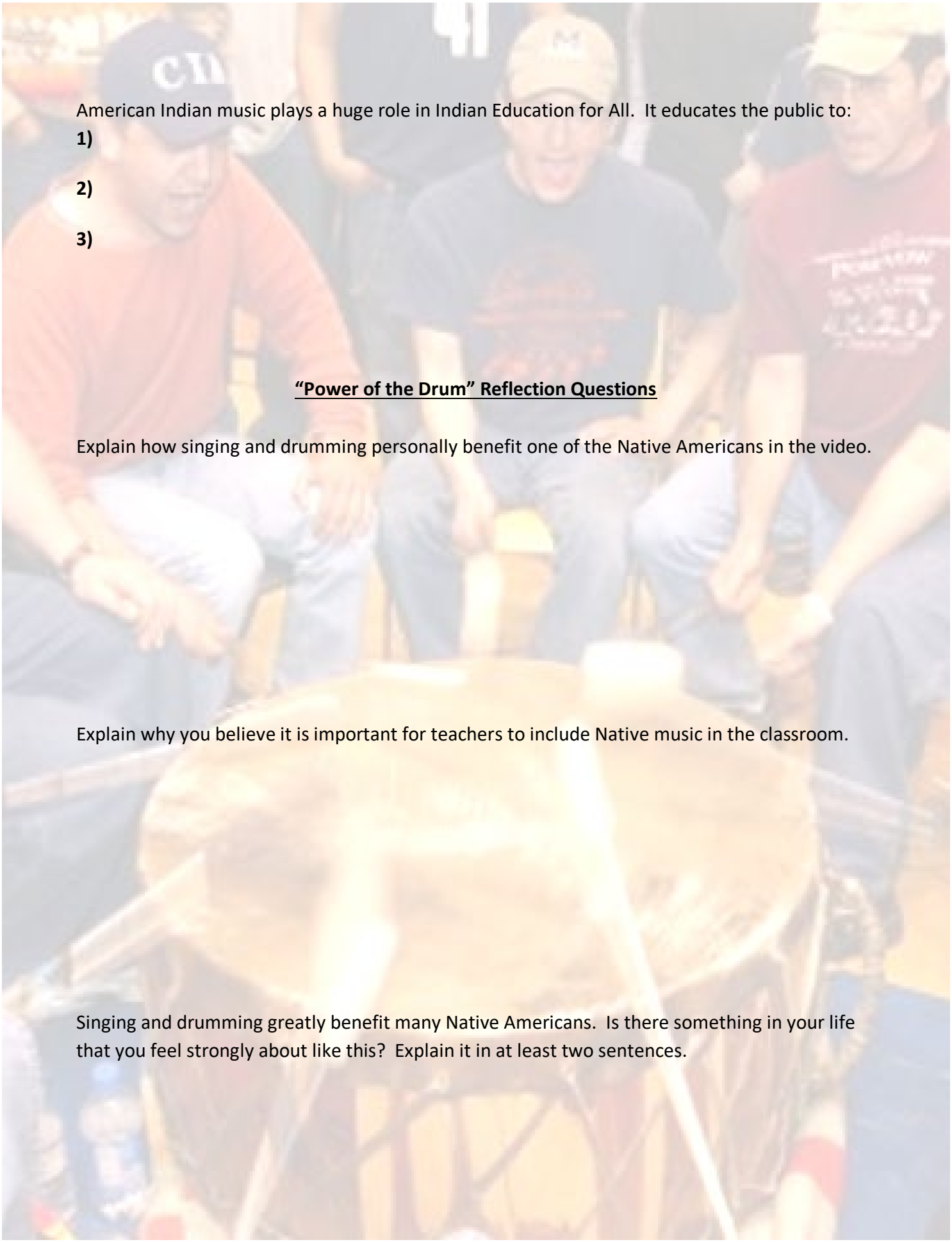
How many reservations are in Montana? _____

On average, how many Powwows are at each Montana reservation in the summer? _____

All drumming is accompanied with a _____. It is never a _____.

Indian music is a classic example of_____?

Powwows include singing, dancing, and other tribal traditions, but they are also a great opportunity for what?



American Indian music plays a huge role in Indian Education for All. It educates the public to:

1)

2)

3)

<u>"Power of the Drum" Reflection Questions</u>

Explain how singing and drumming personally benefit one of the Native Americans in the video.

Explain why you believe it is important for teachers to include Native music in the classroom.

Singing and drumming greatly benefit many Native Americans. Is there something in your life that you feel strongly about like this? Explain it in at least two sentences.

"Power of the Drum" Answer Sheet

The drumbeat is the **heart**. Singing is the **soul**. (50 seconds)

Mike Jetty said that singing and drumming represent two things in his life. These two things are **balance** and **inspiration**. (1 min, 26 seconds)

Lance Black Horn said that, "What you put into the drum, **you get out of it**." (2 min, 20 seconds)

What does "hitting the trail" mean?
The path we take on our individual journeys is varied. (3 min, 10 seconds)

On average, how many Powwow are at each Montana reservation in the summer? **2-3** (3 min, 20 seconds)

How many reservations are in Montana? **7** (3 min, 30 sec)

All drumming is accompanied with a **song**. It is never a **chant**. (3 min, 58 seconds)

Indian music is a classic example of **oral tradition** as music is never written down. (5 min, 17 seconds)

Powwows include singing, dancing, and other tribal traditions but they are also a great opportunity for what?
Educating non-Indians (7 min)

American Indian music plays a huge role in IEFA. It educates the public to: (7 min, 42 seconds)

1) **the beauty,**
2) **importance,**
3) **what music truly represents in the Indian culture**.