

Name _____



A Native Perspective

Directions: Read the passage below. Then answer the reflection questions using complete sentences and evidence from the text when possible.

A Native Perspective on Westward Expansion

For generations, Native American tribes lived on and cared for lands across the Great Plains and the West. Their communities formed strong relationships with nature, depending on the land for food, shelter, and cultural traditions. When settlers began moving west, the government forced many Native families to leave their homelands. Promises of peace or shared land were often broken. Tribes that had lived in one place for hundreds of years suddenly had to rebuild their lives far from sacred places and hunting grounds. Many Native people felt great loss-but they also showed courage by holding onto their identity, languages, and traditions in the face of change.

1. Why were the lands in the West important to Native American tribes?
2. How did westward expansion change the lives of many Native families?
3. What does the passage say about promises made to Native tribes?
4. Based on the text, what are some ways Native people showed bravery during this time?
5. Reflection: Imagine your family was forced to leave your home and traditions behind. How might you feel? What challenges would worry you the most?
6. Why is it important to learn about Native voices and experiences when studying westward expansion?