

Chilocco Fact Sheet + Song & Art: Review Questions



Background information-Chilocco Indian Boarding School

1. What years did the Chilocco School operate? 1884 to 1980
2. What is another term for “Native American”? indigenous
3. What word means “across tribal lines”? pan-Indian What prefix means “across”? pan
4. What were two of the goals of the school? To dissolve tribal identity and erase indigenous beliefs, practices and languages
5. What were two of their methods to achieve this? forced separation of children from their parents, and strict military-style rules (uniforms, marching, etc.)
6. How many students attended Chilocco? 18,000 How many tribes? 126
7. Despite being lonely and discouraged, what are some positive memories of Chilocco students? Love and mutual support, creation of new pan-Indian identities, reinforcement of old tribal bonds

Interpreting Song Lyrics & Artwork

8. From what tribe is the songwriter, Elexa Dawson? Potawatomi
9. Who is the speaker in her song? (answers vary) a student traveling to Chilocco, her grandmother
10. (First verse) In what way were the Chilocco students living “like orphan sons”? (answers vary) since they were away from their parents, they were like orphans
11. (Second verse) Using the translations (at the bottom), paraphrase (put into your own words) the last two lines: “Nani mina Os cannot lead us, / Chemokman's living they must earn.” (answers vary) Our parents can't guide us anymore. They are having to stay home and work in the white man's world
12. (Second verse) What does this use of this native Potawatomi language tell us about the attempt of the school to erase native languages? It did not succeed
13. (Third verse) Native students, especially in early years, were used to living in lodges and teepees. What phrase describes the Chilocco buildings? “Rock walls and wooden floors”
14. (Third verse) What phrase describes the inner freedom the students retained in spite of their physical confinement? “the wildness in my spirit in my soul”
15. (Fourth verse) These schools attempted to erase the traditions of children from formerly nomadic and hunter-gatherer cultures, and turn them into farmers. What words refer to this loss of native culture? “the ways and the stories of my yesterday, / I once knew well but I forgot.”
16. **(Album cover)** What building is pictured on the “Many Moons” cover artwork? Chilocco
17. What mood is created in this image of the building? (answers vary) dark, cold, scary
18. What phrase (from the third verse) is portrayed in the images in the sky? “vision of prairie lights”
19. See the contrast between the sharp-angled, dark building and the brilliant colors and round shapes of the surrounding land and sky. How does this represent the contrast between the Chilocco school's culture and the native cultures of its students? (answers vary) the Chilocco school culture is stern, cold and dark; the native cultures are bright, exciting, and magical