

Read the article “Powwow.” Then answer Numbers 1 through 10.

POWWOW

From the parking lot, you hear the rumble. The drummers are starting to warm up. Dancers lean against their pickups. They strain to see into the mirrors. They are tying eagle feathers into their hair.

The drums echo inside your chest. They mix with the steady thumping of your heart. The beat carries your feet forward. The Central Florida Fairgrounds call you inside. The annual Powwow of Orlando is about to start.

This powwow is like many others across the United States. It begins on a Friday and ends on a Sunday. Powwows can be small, with a few hundred people. They can also be huge, with several thousand. No matter what the size is, you can count on many hours of dancing.

There are 20 drums surrounding the dance circle today. The number of drums depends on the size of the powwow. Men and women sit behind the drums. Each person holds a drumstick. There are no dancers at first. They are lining up in a place out of sight. They are listening for a special drumbeat.

Then you hear someone say, “GRAAAAAAAND entry.” This is the voice of the powwow master. Suddenly, the official drumming begins.



The men enter first in single file. They are dressed in buckskin and eagle feathers. They represent warriors, hunters, and animals. They lead a long line of dancers into the circle. The grass dancers follow. They move and sway like the grass on the plains. The fancy dancers come next. They look like firecrackers with their brightly colored feathers.

Then the women begin joining the group. They, too, move in a single file. The traditional dancers wear buckskin or wool sewn with glass beads and shells. The jingle dancers' dresses have metal lids that dangle and clang. Each lid stands for a prayer. The fancy dancers are next. They move like young, wild horses.

The procession continues. At last, every dancer is in the circle. The grand entry may take only 20 minutes at a small powwow. At larger ceremonies, it can take more than an hour. Either way, the crowd remains standing. It is important to wait until the opening prayers are given.

Things may seem unorganized at first. But stand still and look around. Pretty soon, you will start to notice an order. There are elders sitting in small groups. Children are chasing each other. Handcrafted goods are being sold in a corner. A powwow is more than just music and dance. It's a chance to get together—something like a huge family reunion. A powwow is a chance to share family time. It is a time to celebrate tribal values and customs.

After the grand entry, the powwow master announces "Intertribal." This is a time for everyone, even visitors, to dance. This dance lasts until midnight or even later. People come and go freely. And the rhythm of the drums continues.

NAME _____

Date _____

- 1 Read this sentence from the article.

The jingle dancers' dresses have metal lids that dangle and clang.

What does the word *dangle* mean in the sentence?

- A. lead
- B. hang
- C. cover
- D. skip

- 2 Why are the dancers leaning on their pickups at the beginning of the article?

- A. They are watching other dancers.
- B. They are looking in mirrors.
- C. They are resting before the powwow.
- D. They are waiting for their families.

- 3 What do all powwows have in common?

- A. There are thousands of people watching.
- B. There are many hours of dancing.
- C. There are two separate grand entry periods.
- D. There are at least 20 drums being played.

NAME _____

Date _____

4 Read this sentence from the article.

From the parking lot, you hear the rumble.

What does the word *rumble* mean in the sentence?

- A. a rushing sound
- B. a ringing sound
- C. an animal sound
- D. a low sound

5 Describe the different dancers and their clothing. Use information and details provided in the article to help you write your answer.

NAME _____

Date _____

6 Why might a powwow seem unorganized?

- A. There is no official beginning or end.
- B. People are doing lots of different things at once.
- C. There are hundreds of kinds of dancers.
- D. People are confused by the steady drum beat.

7 The dancers first start coming out RIGHT AFTER

- A. the powwow master gives a welcome.
- B. the opening prayers are given.
- C. the official drumming starts.
- D. the firecrackers go off.

8 Why might people go to powwows year after year?

- A. to honor the powwow master
- B. to celebrate the new year
- C. to learn the newest dances
- D. to gather with their families

9 A grand entry takes so long because

- A. the beat of the drums makes everyone dance slowly.
- B. there are many dancers, and they enter in single file.
- C. the powwow master is an elder who moves slowly.
- D. there is a big dance circle, and it takes an hour to cross it.

10

Date _____

- Writing Tip:** Part of the answer is in the story, but part of the answer comes from your own experiences or from people you know. Write facts from the story and your opinion.

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