

MEA Prep Sample

Name:

Reading Passage:

1

Between the British triumph over the French [in the French & Indian Wars] and the uprising against King George [the American Revolution], the situation of the Indians in Maine went from bad to worse. Another major murder of innocent Indians occurred in 1767 when Joseph, an Indian trapper, his wife Molly-Eneus, and two daughters, Hannah, fourteen, and Pasanway, four, were robbed of their beaver skins and a gun with a silver thumb piece and then killed. The record of the Massachusetts General Court is filled with references to this crime, which happened near Sebago Lake, and there are the usual promises – and even a [100 pounds, which was a great deal of money in 1767] reward offer – to bring the two English hunters accused of the crime, Daniel Austin and Frank Douglas, to justice, but no clear-cut evidence this was ever accomplished.

2

Such an episode was simply at the pinnacle of cross-cultural friction as it inevitably increased in Maine. Wherever the English came, they, too, hunted, depleting the Indians' food supply and available source of revenue-producing furs. The ecology was changed when settlers cleared the land and continued to cut down trees for timber products. So it was that the Penobscots found themselves on July 26, 1769, with emissaries once more in the council chamber in Boston, soliciting Governor Bernard and his council for economic relief. They could do nothing else. Going on the war path was really not an option now that the French in Canada were gone. What they were asking for primarily, they expressed as follows: *We should be glad of a sufficiency at present for our hunting but as hunting is daily decreasing, we would be glad of a tract of land assigned us for a township settled upon us and our posterity for the purposes of husbandry*¹ [farming, careful management of resources].

...

In the discussions in Boston, the Penobscots, asked how big a tract of land they wanted, simply replied: *Sufficient to support ourselves and our families by husbandry*. Offered a township – six miles square – they replied they didn't think it would do, since their numbers had already grown and *we are increasing fast* [the tribe is growing in numbers at the current location].

Bernard [Governor of Massachusetts] asked: *Would six miles in length on each side of your village of Passadonkey (Passadumkeag) and six miles back in the country do?*

It would, he was told.

Yet these tribal leaders were very careful not to **acquiesce** entirely on the loss of all their other lands. *The land which we now possess was in possession of our fathers from the beginning of time*, they declared, and while admitting they had been conquered and had become subjects of "that great King George," they never actually said they had given up their land, and emphasized, despite their words about husbandry, that they needed space to hunt in, for without it, *We and our wives and our children must perish*.²

Rolde, Neil. Unsettled Past: The Story of Maine Indians. Gardiner, Maine, Tilbury House, 2004, pages 138-39.

¹ Baxter Manuscripts: Documentary History of the State of Maine, 2nd Series, Vol. XXIV. Portland, Maine: Fred L. Tower Company, 1916, pages 157-58. Collections of the Maine Historical Society.

² *Ibid*, page 159.

Questions:

Questions:

1. The passage labeled **1** is best described as:
 - a. A part of a story
 - b. An analysis and retelling of a historical event
 - c. An explanation of a historical event
 - d. A primary source document
2. The best heading for Passage **1** is:
 - a. The Penobscots between the Wars
 - b. The Situation of the Indians in Maine Goes From Bad to Worse
 - c. Cross-Cultural Interaction in 1769
 - d. A Description of a Meeting Between Penobscots and Governor Bernard
3. The purpose of the text enclosed in square brackets [] is:
 - a. To correct the author
 - b. To provide update the text
 - c. To provide additional information or to make the text more clear for you
 - d. To make the reader interested
4. The purpose of the text in *italics* is to:
 - a. Distract the reader
 - b. Provide emphasis
 - c. Indicate direct quotations from historical documents
 - d. Make the passage more interesting
5. The numbered footnote at the end of the passage:
 - a. Tell where different information can be found
 - b. Tell what else the author has written
 - c. Provide personal information
 - d. Tell the source of the quoted information

6. Short answer: In the box below, explain why the crime described in Paragraph 1 might be described as a "horrible Open Case." Use details from the paragraph in your answer.

7. Vocabulary:

The word **pinnacle** as used in the passage means:

- a. low point
- b. end
- c. most important point
- d. middle

The word **depleting** as used in the passage means:

- a. increasing
- b. reducing
- c. affecting
- d. avoiding

The word **revenue** as used in the passage means:

- a. income
- b. commodity
- c. fur
- d. trouble

The word **emissaries** as used in the passage means:

- a. leaders
- b. friends
- c. enemies
- d. representatives

The word **acquiesce** as used in the passage means:

- a. disagree
- b. argue
- c. give in
- d. hold out

8. The Penobscots and the British settlers came into conflict. Using information from the passage, detail at least two reasons for this conflict.

9. The author's point of view in Paragraph 2 is best described as:

- a. Critical of previous historians
- b. Sympathetic to the British
- c. Sympathetic to the Penobscots
- d. Believing that conflict between the British and Penobscots, and changes in Penobscot life, were inevitable

10. In the passage, the Penobscots present their needs for the future of their Nation. What are these needs? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

11. The source of this passage is:

- a. A webpage
- b. An encyclopedia
- c. A book
- d. A magazine article

Key:

1. b

2. b

3. c

4. c

5. b

6. 5pt. Response should include:

a. murder of woman and children

b. murderers known but not prosecuted or punished for murders (no trial)

c. murder was in cold blood

d. completed sentences

e. few or not mechanical errors

7.

a. c

b. b

c. a

d. d

e. c

8. 3 pt. response should include the following in a list or in sentences

a. British hunting depleted food supply

b. Hunting depleted beaver supply – reduction in revenue

c. Cutting down trees and clearing lands changed ecology

9. d

10. 3 pt. response should include the following in a list or in sentences

a. Land sufficient for farming / husbandry

b. Land sufficient for future tribal groups to survive on

c. Land for hunting – hunting rights

11. c

Scoring:

_____ Inference (7, 9 - 1 pt. each = 6 pt)

_____ Short Answer – Explain (6 - 5 pts = 5 pt)

_____ Short Answer – Details (8– 3 pts, 10 – 3 pts = 6 pt)

_____ Text structure (3, 4, 5, 11 - 1 pt. each = 4 pt)

_____ Main Idea (1, 2 – 1 pt. each = 2 pt)

Total: _____ of **23 pt.**

22-23 Exceeds

16-21 Meets

11-15 Partially Meets

Below 11 – Does Not Meet