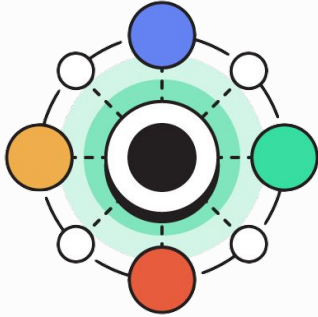


Formative Assessment: Contextualization and Sourcing



Thinking historically means interpreting historical events, developments, or processes in light of the surrounding historical context. It also means understanding key information about a historical source, such as its purpose, perspective, and reliability as a piece of evidence.

Directions: Read the following primary source. Then, answer the questions on contextualization that follow. The multiple choice questions for this formative assessment are Weighted Multiple Choice (WMC) Questions. This means that there is only one *incorrect* answer, but the other 3 choices are weighted. The *best* answer is 3 points, the *second-best* answer is 2 points, and the *third-best* answer is 1 point. The *incorrect* answer is 0 points.

Formative Assessment: Contextualization and Sourcing

Source: Poster advertising “Indian Territory That Garden of the World, Open for Homestead and Pre-Emption,” 1889.

THE PRESIDENT

In his last message to Congress, strongly recommends that the Indian Territory be opened for settlement, and there is no doubt but that Congress at its present session will pass the necessary act declaring the unoccupied lands in

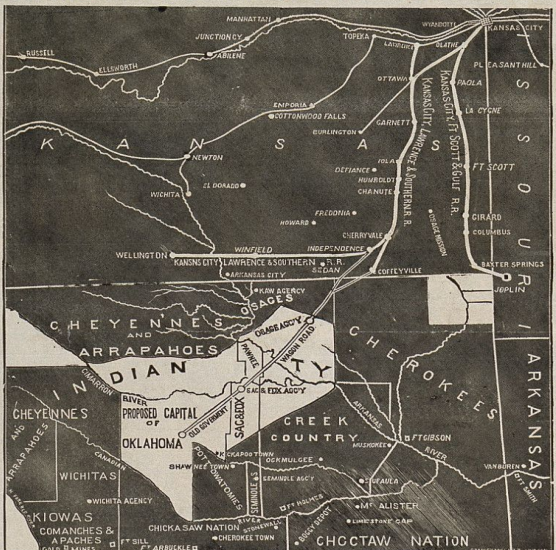
INDIAN TERRITORY

THAT

GARDEN OF THE WORLD,

OPEN FOR

HOMESTEAD AND PRE-EMPTION



MAP OF INDIAN TERRITORY,
Showing the Lands that will be subject to Homestead Entry and How to Reach Them.
White indicates Homestead Lands, of which there will be over 10,000,000 Acres.

In view of the early opening of the Territory, it is necessary for those who would improve the opportunity to secure Free Land and Homes in this magnificent country, to be prepared to start as soon as the lands are declared by Congress to be subject to Homestead Entry. The rush will be great, and early comers will have every advantage.

Every Person 21 Years of Age or Over will be ENTITLED TO 160 ACRES.

THE PRESIDENT
IN HIS LAST MESSAGE TO CONGRESS,
STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT THE
INDIAN TERRITORY BE OPENED FOR
SETTLEMENT, AND THERE IS NO DOUBT
BUT THAT CONGRESS AT ITS PRESENT
SESSION WILL PASS THE NECESSARY ACT
DECLARING THE UNOCCUPIED LANDS IN
INDIAN TERRITORY
THAT
GARDEN OF THE WORLD
OPEN FOR
HOMESTEAD AND PRE-EMPTION

MAP OF INDIAN TERRITORY
SHOWING THE LANDS THAT WILL BE
SUBJECT TO HOMESTEAD ENTRY AND
HOW TO REACH THEM. WHITE INDICATES
HOMESTEAD LANDS, OF WHICH THERE
WILL BE OVER 10,000,000 ACRES.

IN VIEW OF THE EARLY OPENING OF THE
TERRITORY, IT IS NECESSARY FOR THOSE
WHO WOULD IMPROVE THE
OPPORTUNITY OF FREE LAND AND
HOMES IN THIS MAGNIFICENT COUNTRY,
TO STEAD ENTRY. THE RUSH WILL BE
GREAT, AND EARLY COMERS WILL HAVE
EVERY ADVANTAGE.

EVERY PERSON 21 YEARS OF AGE OR
OVER WILL BE ENTITLED TO 160 ACRES

1. Each of the following statements is a historical fact that is related to the above document. Which historical fact *best* helps to contextualize the purpose of the above document? In other words, which fact *best* helps us understand why this document was written?
 - A.** In 1862, the Homestead Act was passed which accelerated the settlement of western territories.
 - B.** The completion of several transcontinental railroads in the 1870s and 1880s stimulated western economic development.
 - C.** After the Civil War, a period of Reconstruction occurred until 1877 to rebuild the nation.
 - D.** In 1889, Congress made Indian territory available to American habitants after President Grover Cleveland's urging.

2. Justify your choice in the space below.



1. Each of the following statements is a historical fact that is related to the above document. Which historical fact *best* helps to contextualize the purpose of the above document? In other words, which fact *best* helps us understand why this document was written?
 - A. In 1862, the Homestead Act was passed which accelerated the settlement of western territories. **(1 point)**
 - B. The completion of several transcontinental railroads in the 1870s and 1880s stimulated western economic development. **(2 points)**
 - C. After the Civil War, a period of Reconstruction occurred until 1877 to rebuild the nation. **(0 points)**
 - D. President Cleveland successfully urged Congress in 1889 to make Indian territory available to American habitants. **(3 points)**

2. Justify your choice in the space below.

Choice D, worth 3 points, is the most helpful statement for contextualizing the purpose of the primary source. In it, we learn that Congress did open lands controlled by American Indians for the settlement of Americans. Choice B is also helpful, and therefore worth 2 points. It provides a reason why Americans may have been interested in moving west at the end of the 19th century. Choice A provides another example of Congressional action to stimulate western settlement. However, it occurred more than 20 years before this poster was issued and thus, Choice A is worth 1 point. Choice C, while true, does not provide insight into the purpose of the primary source and is worth 0 points.



1. Weighted Multiple Choice

3 points (Choice D)	2 points (Choice B)	1 point (Choice A)	0 points (Choice C)
Subtotal: ____/ 3			

2. Short Answer: Justify Your Answer

3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points
Student thoroughly justifies their choice of the <i>best</i> fact—which was worth three points as shown on the teacher key—that would help contextualize the purpose of the source.	Student thoroughly justifies their choice of either the 1 or 2 point option from the WMC question. OR Student's justification of the 3 point option needs deeper analysis.	Student's justification of their choice (either the 1 or 2 point option) lacks deep analysis.	Student either makes no attempt to justify their choice OR tries to justify the 0 point option.
Subtotal: ____/ 3			

Total: ____/6

