Big Bear

Reading Comprehension

Activity 1 Stop and Think

Read the paragraphs.
Stop and think as you read.

Big Bear surrenders on July 2, 1885. He is charged with treason. Witnesses say Big Bear did nothing wrong. Their words mean nothing. The white court wants to show the Indians who rules. Big Bear is found guilty of treason.

Stop and think: Imagine you are Big Bear. How do you feel?

Big Bear has his say in court. He says: “I am old and ugly. But I have tried to do good. Pity the children of my tribe! Pity the old and helpless of my people. Big Bear has always been the friend of the white man.”

Stop and think: Imagine you hear Big Bear in court. How do you feel when you hear Big Bear’s words?
Activity 2 Main Idea and Details

Check the details that support each main idea.

The first one is an example.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main idea</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Cree depend on the bison.</td>
<td>✅ The Cree make tools from bison bones. ✅ The bison provide meat. The bison run for their lives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. The government breaks its promises.</td>
<td>(a) ___ The government does not provide enough food. (b) ___ Big Bear is not part of the white world. (c) ___ Indians cannot choose their reserve land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Violence makes sense to some in Big Bear’s band.</td>
<td>(a) ___ The warriors go to the Thirst Dance. (b) ___ The warriors kill nine hostages. (c) ___ The warriors kill one man at Fort Pitt.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Activity 3 Invisible Messages

Read the writer’s words. Figure out the invisible message.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The writer’s words</th>
<th>The invisible message</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>When Big Bear speaks, people listen.</td>
<td>People respect Big Bear. Big Bear says important things.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Bison provide the Cree with meat, clothes, tools, rope, and fuel.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Big Bear’s band grows to 2,000 members.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Activity 4  Fact and Opinion

Read the sentences.
Write (F) for fact or (O) for opinion.

1. Big Bear’s father dies in 1865. _____
   Big Bear’s father was a good chief. _____

2. The Queen of England is not good to the Cree. _____
   The Queen of England represents the government of Canada. _____

3. The warriors travel to Frog Lake. _____
   The warriors were wrong to hold hostages. _____

### Activity 5  The Table of Contents

Read each question.
Look at the Contents page in your book.
Which chapter has the answer to the question?
Write the name of the chapter.
Find the answer to the question. Write the answer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Why are the bison important to the Cree people?</td>
<td>The Bison</td>
<td>The bison provide the Cree with many things.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Where was Big Bear born?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Why does Big Bear sign Treaty 6?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Who is Louis Riel?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Activity 6 Make a Connection

Read the idea from the story.
Make a connection to your life.

Idea

Big Bear sees death all around. The Cree lose the battle. Big Bear sees that violence cannot solve problems.

Your Life

People solve problems in different ways.
Some people gather facts.
Some people make a plan.
Some people ask for help.
Some people walk away.

Think of a problem you have faced in your life.

How did you solve the problem?

What did you learn about yourself? About others? About life?
Good writers know that writing is a process.

Good writers think of ideas before they write.

Good writers check their writing.

**Activity 1 Write Your Ideas**

Complete these paragraphs about solving problems. Use your ideas from Activity 6.

Your teacher will help you with spelling.

**Paragraph 1**
One way to solve problems is by __________________________________________________________.

This is a good way to solve problems because ____________________________________________.

**Paragraph 2**
I like to solve problems by _________________. I never solve problems by ____________________ because ____________________________________________________________________.

Read each paragraph out loud.
Which paragraph do you like better?
Copy the paragraph on the lines.
Check for capital letters and end punctuation.
Activity Organize Ideas

Read the details for Idea Maps 1 and 2. Are the details a cause or an effect? Copy the details into the correct box.

Good writers know that writing is a process. Good writers organize their ideas before they write. One way to organize ideas is to use cause and effect.

Idea Map 1

Details
The soil is poor.
The Indians have empty bellies.

Cause
_____________________
_____________________

Effect
Crops are hard to grow.
_____________________
_____________________

Idea Map 2

Details
Many Cree starve.
The bison herds grow smaller.

Cause
White settlers kill the bison.

Effect
_____________________
_____________________

Effect
_____________________
_____________________
Choose details from Idea Maps 1 and 2 to complete the answers.

1. Why are crops hard to grow? *Because _______________________________
   ________________________________ .

2. Why do the bison herds grow smaller?
   *Because ___________________________________________________________ .

3. What happens when the bison herds grow smaller?
   ________________________________________________________________ .

**Activity 3** Use Capital Letters and Punctuation

Read these sentences. Circle the capital letters and end punctuation.

1. Big Bear is Cree.
2. He is born near Jackfish Lake.
3. When does he become a chief?
4. Big Bear dies on January 17, 1888.

Read these sentences. Add capital letters and end punctuation.

5. a cree warrior shoots a hostage
6. his name is wandering spirit
7. why does he shoot the hostage
8. the warriors go to frog lake on april 2, 1885
9. big bear tries to stop the violence

_in this activity..._

**use capital letters**
- at the beginning of a sentence,
  - with the names of groups of people,
  - with names of people and places, and
  - with dates.

**use punctuation**
- at the end of a sentence.
Activity 1 Predict the Word

Complete each paragraph.
Use the pictures to predict the word.

Readers see new words all the time. They need to decode the new words.
Good readers decode words in different ways.
They use pictures to predict words.
They use meaning clues to predict words.
These are two ways to decode words.

1. Cree people learn to ____________________.

2. Wandering Spirit _________________
a priest.

Complete each sentence.
Use meaning clues to predict the word.

3. Bison provide the Cree with ____________________.

4. Big Bear sees that _________________ cannot solve problems.

5. Treaty 6 promises _________________ in times of hunger.
Activity 2 Find Common Patterns

Look at each word in the box.
Each word has a common pattern.
Group the words under the correct pattern.

Good readers look for common patterns in words.
This is another way to decode words.

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Activity 3: Divide and Conquer

Read these words.
Look for common endings.
Write the base word on the line.

1. tools ________
   ________
2. hunting ________
   ________
3. horses ________
4. camps ________
5. herds ________
6. smaller ________
7. leader ________
8. speaker ________
9. words ________

Read each sentence out loud.
Circle the words with common endings.

15. The Cree steal horses from other camps.
16. The bison herds grow smaller.
17. Big Bear is a good leader.
18. He is a good speaker.
19. His words are wise.
20. Farming is hard.
21. The government does not keep promises.
22. Nine hostages are killed.
23. A warrior shoots a priest.
24. Pity the old and helpless.
25. Big Bear dies on January 17, 1888.
Crossword Clues

All the answers to the clues are from Big Bear’s biography.

ACROSS
2. the killing of many people
6. a person who sees somebody do something
8. an agreement between two or more countries
9. opposite of black
11. the number before ten
12. opposite of young
13. show a person how to do something

DOWN
1. a person who defends you in court
3. people who settle in a new place
4. attack in a sudden way
5. the Cree needed this animal
7. opposite of full
8. the act of betraying your country (rhymes with season)
10. the feeling that means you need to eat
Big Bear

1. **Main Idea and Details:** (1) a, c  (2) b, c

2. **Invisible Messages*: (1) The Cree depend on the bison. The bison are important to the Cree. The Cree need the bison to live. (2) Big Bear’s band is big. Many Cree like Big Bear. Big Bear is a good leader.

3. **Fact and Opinion:** (1) F/O (2) O/F (3) F/O

4. **Table of Contents:** (1) Early Years / near Jackfish Lake  (2) Treaty 6 / his people have empty bellies  (3) Louis Riel and Big Bear / he is a Métis leader

5. **Organize Ideas:** Idea Map 1: Cause: The soil is poor. Effect: The Indians have empty bellies.

   Idea Map 2: Effect: The bison herds grow smaller. Effect: Many Cree starve. (1) the soil is poor  (2) white settlers kill the bison. (3) Many Cree starve.

6. **Use Capital Letters and Punctuation:** (1) Big Bear is Cree.  (2) He is born near Jackfish Lake. (3) When does he become a chief? (4) Big Bear dies on January 17, 1888. (5) A Cree warrior shoots a hostage. (6) His name is Wandering Spirit. (7) Why does he shoot a hostage? (8) The warriors go to Frog Lake on April 2, 1885. (9) Big Bear tries to stop the violence.

7. **Predict the Word*: (1) farm (2) kills; shoots  (3) meat; clothes; tools; rope; fuel;  (4) violence; killing; hate  (5) food; help

8. **Find Common Patterns:** (1) meat  (2) beat  (3) kill  (4) will  (5) band  (6) land

9. **Divide and Conquer:** (1) horse  (2) camp  (3) herd  (4) small  (5) lead  (6) speak  (7) word  (8) farm  (9) promise  (10) hostage  (11) kill  (12) shoot  (13) help  (14) die  (15) horses / camps  (16) herds / smaller  (17) leader  (18) speaker  (19) words  (20) Farming  (21) promises  (22) hostages / killed  (23) shoots  (24) helpless  (25) dies

*Accept any answer that makes sense.

**Crossword Solution**

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M A S S A C R E    B
W E A I
Y T W I N E S S
T R E A T Y D M O
R R R L P N
E E E W H I T E
A R U Y
S S S ' N I N E
O L D G
N T E A C H
R
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