

A Gathering of Nations

Revised selection – original text by Paul Woelfle, New Hope
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Pre-reading

Questions:

- What do you think this reading is about?

Definitions:

- Regalia – very fancy attire; magnificent dress

Reading

18 On April 23, 2002 we went to the “Gathering of Nations” Powwow. It was a huge event with
35 four full days of activity and excitement. There were tribes from Canada and all over the United
States. There were also a lot of local tribes such as Apache and Navajo.

49 The powwow was not only celebrated by natives, but by people from all over the world. There
66 were people from Germany, France, Italy, Africa, Hawaii, England and China.

77 There were cash prizes for 28 different **categories** of contest dancing. The categories for men
92 were Grass, Fancy, and Traditional. The colors of the different regalia worn by each dancer were
108 amazing. Dance categories for women were Fancy Shawl, Jingle Dress, and Traditional. The
121 children had dance categories similar to the adults.

129 The beadwork on the regalia was beautiful. Some of them were very **elaborate**. Others were
144 simpler in design. The cost of making the regalia was from a few hundred dollars to several
161 thousand dollars.

163 There were cash prizes for the different drum groups that participated. These drum groups
177 came from Canada and all over the U.S. They played and sang different songs while the dancers
194 were dancing. There was also a Miss Indian World contest. A new Miss Indian World was
210 crowned.

211 Over 3,000 registered dancers and singers participated in the powwow. There were over 800
225 craft vendors under huge tents selling their wares. The artwork was beautiful and very detailed.
240 Some of the artwork was beaded jewelry, furniture, and clothing. There also were quilts and
255 footwear for sale.

258 Some vendors sold food and drinks. There was no alcohol served. There were all kinds of
274 food like Indian fry bread tacos, fry bread, chili burgers, and much more! Other booths had
290 educational information about a variety of topics.

297 We spent two days at the powwow, and didn’t get to see everything. We would like to return
315 to Albuquerque to visit again sometime. The city is a blending of different cultures. The people
331 were very friendly and courteous.

336

Level 7.0

Understanding

1. What does the word **elaborate** mean? _____

2. What types of contests were held at the powwow? _____

3. Where was the powwow? _____

4. What tribes live in the area where the powwow was held? _____

5. What is a **category**? _____

6. What was the name of the powwow? _____

7. Why do you think that name was given to the event? _____

8. Who attended the powwow? _____

Writing

Option A: Write about a powwow or similar event that you have either participated in or attended.

Option B: Summarize the reading in your own words.
