

Practice Exercise 20

The needs of the Navajos are acute. Unemployment on the reservation approaches 70 percent. The average number of school years completed by Navajo adults over 25 is less than three years. For this nation within a nation, the problem is one of survival. The situation is that desperate.

But for the Navajos, desperation does not end with finding work, earning money, and being able to provide food, shelter, and clothing. There's more to it. There is also the desperation of a culture in danger of extinction.

Over the years, the dominant culture confined and manipulated the Navajos, methodically forcing Anglo values, attitudes, and life-styles upon them, to the slow destruction of their own. Families were broken up, children shipped off to boarding schools. States denied these people the right to vote. The government controlled their livestock production; missionaries dealt with them as pagans; and alcohol, the white man's curse, destroyed many who were unable to cope with this onslaught. While much of that is history, too much of that pattern still exists today.

1. The main function of the details in this passage is to
 - a. describe.
 - b. support an opinion.
 - c. set a tone.
 - d. reveal a character.
2. Over the years Navajo children were
 - a. given no education.
 - b. forced to work at an early age.
 - c. taught to hate the white culture.
 - d. sent to boarding schools.
3. At one time, states did not allow Navajos to
 - a. own land.
 - b. vote.
 - c. leave reservations.
 - d. own businesses.
4. Underline the sentence that states the most significant detail for someone interested in the employment statistics for Navajo adults.