Quiz: Indigenous Peoples Throughout the World

1. There are about 5000 languages and cultures within the world population of indigenous people. True or False?

2. In the second half of the 20th century, the U.S. and Canadian governments removed indigenous children from their families. These children were placed in boarding schools in which their native cultures were dismissed and English was the only language permitted to be spoken. This was done in their “best interest”. True or False?

3. From the Arctic to the South Pacific, there are roughly 3 million indigenous people in the world. True or False?

4. There is a growing number of indigenous people who are able to live in their traditional lands. True or False?

5. Throughout human history, whenever neighboring peoples have expanded their territories or settlers have acquired new lands by force, the cultures, livelihoods and even the existence of indigenous peoples have been endangered. True or False?

6. Among the indigenous peoples of the world, levels of wealth, socio-economic conditions and access to basic social services are equal to that of non-indigenous peoples. True or False?

7. In most cases, treaties between indigenous peoples and the government of the country in which they reside have been respected. True or False?

8. Serious discrimination has lead to alcoholism and suicide within the indigenous population. True or False?

9. The United Nations observes August 9th as International Day of the World’s Indigenous People; the aim of this day is to call attention to the existence and the plight of indigenous peoples throughout the world. True or False?

10. About half of all Native Americans live in rural areas on or near any of the United States’ 28 reservations. True or False?
Quiz Answers: Indigenous Peoples Throughout the World

1. True.

2. True.

3. False. It is estimated that 300 million indigenous people live around the world.

4. False. The number of indigenous people living on their traditional land is decreasing.

5. True.

6. False. Indigenous peoples are amongst the poorest in the world; most lack basic social services such as water, sanitation, and electricity.

7. False. Although treaties exist between most indigenous peoples and the governments of the countries in which they reside, these treaties are often disputed either because they are thought of as unfairly negotiated, or because the treaty rights have been breached and obligations not fulfilled.

8. True.


10. False. Only 25% of Native Americans live in rural areas. Nonetheless, Native Americans are the most rural of any ethnic group in the U.S.

Sources: