

-They Myth of Pocahontas Discussion Questions-

1. What is the main idea that both writers are attempting to convey in these articles about Pocahontas?
2. The first article is written by Chief Crazyhorse of the Powhatan Tribe. Make an inference as to why readers would be more willing to pay attention to an article about Pocahontas from this man.
3. Using both articles, name at least four items that Disney "got wrong" in portraying Pocahontas in their movie.
4. Chief Crazyhorse states that the people of the Powhatan Nation find the Pocahontas film to be anything but accurate and truthful. According to him, what did Disney do when the Powhatan people offered their help on the film to correct inaccuracies?
5. What is the evidence, according to Crazyhorse, that Smith was either lying about the Pocahontas incident or that calls his story into question?
6. According to Crazyhorse, Euro-Americans (whites) should find the story of Pocahontas embarrassing. Do you agree or disagree with this assessment? Explain why.
7. Summarize (do not directly quote from the article) where the American people's image of the Indian originally came from (this information can be found in the Pewewardy article).
8. "While the song 'Savages' presumably means to unearth and thus neutralize a pervasive racism of the earlier era, the song embodies a complexity of attitudes and beliefs that remain, at their core, offensive to American Indian people." Phrase in your own words what Pewewardy is saying that the original intent of the "Savages" song was-and what was the end result instead?
9. "We live in a society that suffers from 'historical amnesia.'" Explain the most likely meaning of this term 'historical amnesia.' What are some other examples of 'historical amnesia' that have occurred throughout American history?
10. **Homework assignment:** Search for movies or TV shows-such as The Dances with Wolves or the Lone Ranger- and then find websites or articles that discuss how Native Americans are portrayed in those movies/shows. Jot down the web address of one or the articles or sites and list 3 things that you learned about the portrayal of Native Americans in movies and TV from that site.