This Land is Our Land

Pre-reading

Questions:
- What do you think this reading is about?

Definitions:
- Equal – the same for everyone
- Valley – a area of low land between hills or mountains
- Steeple – a high narrow tower on top of building, or roof of a church
- Relief – help such as food, shelter or medical care that is given to those in need

Reading

This well-known song is called “This Land is Your Land.” Many Americans learn it at an early age. It was written by Woody Guthrie in 1940. He wrote many songs about freedom, peace, and equal rights for all people.

This land is your land, this land is my land.
From California to the New York island;
From the Redwood Forest to the Gulf Stream water;
This land was made for you and me.
As I was walking that ribbon of highway,
I saw above me that endless skyway.
I saw below me that golden valley.
This land was made for you and me.

This land is your land, this land is my land.
From California to the New York island;
From the Redwood Forrest to the Gulf Stream water;
This land was made for you and me.

One bright sunny morning in the shadow of the steeple,
By the Relief Office I saw my people –
As they stood hungry, I stood there wondering if
This land was made for you and me.

*Outdoor photo courtesy of Clearwater River Company

Level 2.0
Understanding

1. Who wrote “This Land is Your Land?” ________________________________ ________________________________ 
   __________________________________________________ ______________________________ 

2. Who is the land for? ________________________________________________ 
   __________________________________________________ ______________________________ 

3. What color is the land? ____________________________________________ 
   __________________________________________________ ______________________________ 

4. What two states are in the song? ____________________________________ 
   __________________________________________________ ______________________________ 

5. Why do you think those two states were chosen? ______________________ 
   ___________________________________________________________________________ 
   ___________________________________________________________________________ 
   ___________________________________________________________________________ 
   ___________________________________________________________________________ 
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Writing

Choice A: In the last line of the song, why does the song writer question if “this land was made for you and me?”

Choice B: What message do you think this song sends? What is the meaning of the song?

Choice C: Do you like this song? Why or why not?