A Gathering of Nations
Revised selection – original text by Paul Woelfle, New Hope
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To Open Your Mind, 2005 Edition

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

Definitions:
• Regalia – very fancy attire; magnificent dress

Reading
On April 23, 2002 we went to the “Gathering of Nations” Powwow. It was a huge event with 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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