

Reservation Blues

Picture 1 : a man is sitting on a chair by the roadside. He's reading a book and selling handicraft jewellery. It is probably made of silver and turquoise. The background is characteristic of Monument Valley.

Picture 2 : two women are gambling at the casino. They are playing on one-armed bandits. The one in the foreground is inserting coins in a slot machine. They are smiling so they must have won some money. They will be able to supplement their income.

Picture 3 : a group of people is canoeing. They are probably fishing (salmon). The background shows that they are from Montana, North Dakota, Washington State or Alaska.

Picture : we can see a long-haired child who is sheltering his eyes from the sun. Behind him, there are several Native Americans in traditional outfits and feathered headgear. It shows the opposition between tradition and modernity.

Questions :

- Wounded Knee is the name of a battle between Sioux and Whites.
- There are many problems on the Pine Ridge reservation :
 - High infant mortality and suicide rates
 - Health problems : alcoholism, diabetes and obesity
 - No comfort in the houses : no running water or electricity
- The tone of the article is optimistic because it shows the Sioux have decided to take their fate into their own hands. For example, Mr Bull Bear goes to college to learn about modern science, they grow plants and have some cattle.