Know the News: The Code That Couldn’t Be Broken

Read the article, then answer the questions.

1. Which is a central idea of the article?
   A. The Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor plunged the United States into World War II.
   B. Although the Navajo language was prohibited in boarding schools, it became a secret weapon that helped the U.S. defeat Japan.
   C. Philip Johnston, the son of missionaries, grew up on the Navajo reservation.
   D. Some 6,800 Americans died at the battle of Iwo Jima.

2. Which statement best supports that central idea?
   A. “Navajos were being asked to use their once-forbidden language to help protect the U.S.”
   B. “The Japanese were highly skilled at deciphering codes.”
   C. “Marines trudged through thick jungle, facing death at every step.”
   D. “In field tests, [the Navajos] could send a four-line message in 20 seconds.”

3. Which was an effect of the code talkers’ efforts?
   A. The Navajo reservation became prosperous.
   B. The tide of the war in the Pacific turned.
   C. Fewer Navajos joined the Marines.
   D. English-speaking schools for Navajos closed.

4. Why might the U.S. government have sent Navajos to English-speaking boarding schools?
   A. to make Navajo children more “American”
   B. to provide Navajos with a complete education
   C. to integrate U.S. and Navajo traditions
   D. to teach them the Navajo code

5. Which of these led most directly to the Marines recruiting Navajos?
   A. Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor
   B. the outbreak of World War II
   C. Japanese skill at deciphering codes
   D. Japan’s capture of Guadalcanal

6. Which of these statements is an opinion?
   A. Chester Nez was one of the original 29 code talkers.
   B. The code talkers were the most valuable weapon against the Japanese in World War II.
   C. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor crippled the U.S. Navy’s Pacific fleet.
   D. Peter MacDonald said their accomplishment crossed all boundaries of language and culture.

7. What does *trudged* mean in the following sentence? “Marines trudged through thick jungle, facing death at every step.”
   A. ran swiftly
   B. fought bravely
   C. found their way with a compass
   D. walked slowly and with difficulty

8. Which of these happened first?
   A. Sam Sandoval enlisted in the Marines.
   B. Japan attacked Pearl Harbor.
   C. The battle of Iwo Jima began.
   D. The U.S. dropped two atomic bombs, on Hiroshima and on Nagasaki.

9. What does the map on p. 19 show?
   A. how the code talkers got to the Pacific
   B. the route of the attack on Pearl Harbor
   C. the location of battles where the code talkers served
   D. the location of U.S. allies in the war

10. Which conclusion could you draw from the article?
    A. Many code talkers regretted their service.
    B. Some code talkers refused to attend the White House ceremony last year.
    C. Code talkers saw their service as patriotic.
    D. The U.S. could have taken Iwo Jima even without the code talkers’ participation.