

Document A

This article is from a Navajo language newspaper published in Arizona and New Mexico.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR EXPLAINS WITHDRAWAL PROGRAM

The objectives for the Indian Bureau of the [President's] administration were **reviewed** by ... [the] assistant **Secretary of the Interior**. He spoke at the Indian affairs seminar which was held during the **Gallup ceremonial**. He said that the aim of the government "is for the Indians to have exactly the same status as all other American citizens; the same freedom to manage their own affairs; to make their own decisions; and to have the same rights and responsibilities."

He pointed out that Federal administration of the affairs of the Indian tribes "should be terminated as rapidly as the circumstances of each tribe will permit."

Source: "Assistant Secretary of the Interior Explains the Withdrawal Program," *Ádahooníígíí* (Navajo Nation).

Vocabulary

reviewed: presented

Secretary of the Interior: leader of the U.S. government department that manages federal land, natural resources, and relationships with Native American nations

Gallup Ceremonial: a gathering in Gallup, New Mexico, that celebrates the culture and arts of various Native American nations

Document B (Modified)

This article describes a new law passed by the United States Congress that divided Native American reservations into sections and allowed tribal members to claim individual ownership of them. According to the law, unclaimed sections could be sold to the public.

THE INDIAN RESERVATIONS

The law passed in the last session of Congress authorizes the **secretary of the interior** to survey each Indian reservation and make **allotments of land in severalty** to all the Indians living there. It further sets forth that when allotments have been made to all the Indians of a tribe, it shall be lawful for the **secretary of the interior** to negotiate with them for the purchase and **relinquishment** to the government the lands not allotted.

Source: "The Indian Reservations," *The Mitchell Capital* (Mitchell, SD),

Vocabulary

allotments of land in severalty: separating a large area of land into smaller pieces for private ownership

secretary of the interior: leader of the U.S. government department that manages federal land, natural resources, and relationships with Native American nations

relinquishment: release control or give up ownership

Document C

This article ran on the front page of The New York Times.

The President said that he would send to Congress **legislation** to enable tribal groups to assume operational control of many existing Indian aid programs.

[The President] also formally **renounced** a 17-year-old national policy under which the Government has sought to cut Indians loose from their dependence on the national administration.

But, at the same time, he charted a course that would avoid continuation of federal **paternalism** toward Indians, assuring them ... assistance while granting them authority to decide how it should be used. ...

Toward that end, the President said that he would send **legislation** to Congress giving Indian groups authority to assume control over federally administered programs — such as schools, housing, medical services, economic development, and public works.

Source: “President Urges Wider Indian Role in Aid for Tribes,” *The New York Times*.

Vocabulary

legislation: a proposed law to be considered by a legislature

renounce: reject

paternalism: limiting a person’s freedom or choices, supposedly for their own good

Document D

This article is from a newspaper in Nespelem, Washington.

Approximately 150 tribesmen of the Colville reservation gathered in council at Omak Saturday afternoon and heard Harvey K. Meyer, reservation superintendent, explain the significant portions of the act in detail.

The speaker explained that the act is designed primarily to encourage and make possible a wider self-government among the Indians, and includes **provisions** declared to be advantageous to the tribesmen of the present and future generations.

One of the most significant features of the bill is the abolishment of the **allotment system**, under which Indian land has been handled for many years. It also authorizes the **consolidation** of Indian owned land off the reservations and the purchase of additional land to enlarge present reservations.

Source: "Colville Tribesmen Hear of Self-Government Plan," *The Nespelem Tribune*.

Vocabulary

provision: something provided or given

allotment system: process of U.S. government breaking reservation land into 160-acre plots for private owners

consolidation: combining, adding together

Guiding Questions

Round 1

Examine the four articles and complete the chart below.

	What about the article might give you clues about when it was written?	The documents were published in one of the following years: 1887, 1934, 1953, or 1970. In what year do you think each was made? Why?
Document A		
Document B		
Document C		
Document D		

Round 2

First, each group member should share their answers from Round 1. Next, work together as a group to answer the following question:

Think about how United States government policy toward Native Americans changed from 1880 to 1980. In what year were these articles likely written?

Document _____ was likely created in 1887 because

Document _____ was likely created in 1934 because

Document _____ was likely created in 1953 because

Document _____ was likely created in 1970 because

Round 3: Final Vote

Come to a final decision about the order of the documents. You can change your answers from Round 2 if your mind has changed.

1887: Document _____

1934: Document _____

1953: Document _____

1970: Document _____

If your answer changed from Round 2, briefly explain why: