

## Issue Three: American Indian Issues

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### Lame Deer, “The Origin of Stories”

(see Web Page)

1. What do you think that Buffy Sainte Marie, a folk singer of Cree (i.e., not a Plains Indian tribe) ancestry, meant when she said, “I am not the Indian you have seen riding across the silver screen (motion picture screen)”?
2. What does the great American national monument at Mt. Rushmore signify to the average mainstream American? And what does it signify to Lame Deer and many other Sioux Indians? [**Refer to Lame Deer, Chapter 5, “Sitting on Top of Teddy Roosevelt’s Head”**]
3. Explain how the phrase “cultural genocide” (the destruction of a culture) may be used to apply to the situation of American Indians generally and specifically how it relates to Sioux Indians. Give some specific examples of aspects of Indian culture that have been lost as a result of conquest by European peoples. And how might it be argued have Indian cultures changed voluntarily as a result of contact with European peoples?
4. How do American Indians as a racial group differ most from all other racial groups recognized by the US Government?
5. What do you think it means to be a “real American Indian” in contemporary American society? What might be said in rebuttal to chief Sitting Bull’s claim that he made over one hundred years ago that since the Sioux and Cheyenne Indians of his time coveted the material possessions of the “White Man” that he (Sitting Bull) had become “the last real Indian”.
6. Referring to the “**Course Supplements**” (**See Course Web Page**) titled “**The Origin of Stories**”, explain **why** Seneca Indians have continued to convey their culture through the process known to us as the oral tradition of storytelling. Discuss the symbolism embedded in this story such as why the main character Poyeshao is an orphan boy, why he had to go “deeper and deeper into the woods” before he made his discovery, and why the thing that began talking to him from within the deep forest was “large and round” in shape. What do you think was the purpose of making Poyeshao and the others pay for the stories with food?