

Passage 4

Native Americans from the southeastern part of what is now the United States believed that the universe in which they lived was made up of three separate, but related, worlds, the Upper World, the Lower World, and This World. In the last there lived humans, most animals, and all plants.

This World, a round island resting on the surface of waters, was suspended from the sky by four cords attached to the island at the four cardinal points of the compass. Lines drawn to connect the opposite points of the compass, from north to south and from east to west, intersected This World to divide it into four wedge-shaped segments. Thus a symbolic representation of the human world was a cross within a circle, the cross representing the intersecting lines and the circle the shape of This World.

Each segment of This World was identified by its own color. According to Cherokee doctrine, east was associated with the color red because it was the direction of the Sun, the greatest deity of all. Red was also the color of fire, believed to be directly connected with the Sun, with blood, and therefore with life. Finally, red was the color of success. The west was the Moon segment; it provided no warmth and was not life-giving as the Sun was. So its color was black. North was the direction of cold, and so its color was blue (sometimes purple), and it represented trouble and defeat. South was the direction of warmth, its color, white, was associated with peace and happiness.

The southeastern Native Americans' universe was one in which opposites were constantly at war with each other, red against black, blue against white. This World hovered somewhere between the perfect order and predictability of the Upper World and the total disorder and instability of the Lower World. The goal was to find some kind of halfway path, or balance, between those other worlds.

- Which of the following is the best title for the passage?
(A) One Civilization's View of the Universe
(B) The Changing of the Seasons in the Southeast
(C) The Painting of Territorial Maps by Southeastern Native Americans
(D) The War Between Two Native American Civilizations
- In line 3, the phrase "the last" refers to
(A) all plants (B) This World (C) the universe (D) the Upper World
- The author implies that This World was located
(A) inside the Upper World (B) inside the Lower World
(C) above the Upper World (D) between the Upper World and Lower World
- According to the passage, southeastern Native Americans compared This World to
(A) waters (B) the sky (C) an animal (D) an island
- According to the passage, lines divided This World into how many segments?
(A) Two (B) Three (C) Four (D) Five
- According to the passage, southeastern Native Americans associated red with all of the following EXCEPT
(A) fire (B) trouble (C) blood (D) success
- According to the passage, which of the following colors represented the west for southeastern Native Americans?
(A) Blue (B) White (C) Black (D) Purple
- The shape of This World is closest to that of which of the following?
(A) A circle (B) A triangle (C) A square (D) A cube

PRACTICE TEST 55

Passage 1

Forces other than damaging winds are also at work inside tornadoes. Sometimes, as the writhing, twisting funnel passes over a house, the walls and ceiling burst apart as if a bomb had gone off inside. This explosion is caused by the low air pressure at the center of a tornado.

The pressure at the center of a tornado is usually 13 pounds per square inch. However, inside the house the air pressure is normal, about 15 pounds per square inch. The difference of 2 pounds per square inch between the inside and outside pressure may not seem like much. But suppose a tornado funnel passes over a small building that measures 20 by 10 by 10 feet. On each square inch of the building, there is 2 pounds of pressure from the inside that is not balanced by air pressure outside the building. On the ceiling, that adds up to an unbalanced pressure of 57, 600 pounds. The pressure on the four walls adds up to 172,800 pounds.

If windows are open in the building, some of the inside air will rush out through them. This will balance the pressure inside and outside the building. But if the windows are shut tightly, the enormous inside pressure may cause the building to burst.

Unfortunately, heavy rain and hail often occur in thunderstorms that later produce tornadoes. So people frequently shut all windows to protect their property. This may cause far worse damage later. For the same reason, tornado cellars must have an air vent. Otherwise, the cellar door might be blown out when a tornado passes over it.

- Which of the following is the main topic of the passage?
(A) How tornadoes can be prevented
(B) When tornadoes usually occur
(C) Where tornadoes are formed
(D) Why tornadoes cause so much damage
- In line 2, the word "funnel" refers to which of the following?
(A) A bomb
(B) A house
(C) A tornado
(D) An explosion
- According to the passage, tornadoes can destroy buildings because the
(A) force of a tornado increases the air pressure in a building
(B) air pressure at the center of a tornado is over 172,000 pounds
(C) weight of a tornado can crush a building's roof when it passes overhead
(D) air pressure inside a tornado is less than the air pressure inside a building
- According to the passage, what is the difference per square inch between the air pressure inside a building and the air pressure inside a tornado?
(A) 2 pounds
(B) 10 pounds
(C) 13 pounds
(D) 15 pounds
- According to the passage, the pressure on a building during a tornado can be relieved by
(A) closing the cellar
(B) opening the windows
(C) using a fan for ventilation
(D) strengthening the roof and walls
- According to the passage, people close their windows to prevent damage caused by
(A) tornadoes
(B) thunderstorms
(C) uprooted trees
(D) bursting structures
- In line 17, the word "it" refers to
(A) wind
(B) hail
(C) cellar door
(D) air vent