Impacts of Imperialism



Name _____ Date _____

1 Recall, then make a connection.

Start from memory. Write a meaning or quick example for each term.

Extraction	Assimilation policy	Self-definition

Contrast extraction with an assimilation policy. Explain how evidence of self-definition could complicate an official claim that a railway or cultural policy benefited everyone equally.

Context for the task

Imperial projects often presented infrastructure and extraction as signs of progress. A railway could move goods more efficiently while serving unequal priorities, using coerced labor, or changing access to land. The existence of infrastructure is not enough to establish who benefited, who decided, and who bore the costs.

2 Organize the records.

Whose question does it answer?

Classify the main information in each fictional project record.

Sort the records.

A. Transport or extraction output

B. Community experience or control

Write the category letter beside each record.

1. ___ A ledger counts exported freight loads.

2. ___ Residents describe losing access to land.

3. ___ A report gives the number of trains per week.

4. ___ Testimony describes labor imposed under threat.

5. ___ A petition asks who has authority to choose the route.

Evidence, application & transfer.



3 Read the evidence closely.

Test the progress claim

Claim: "More exports prove the project benefited every resident."

Select all evidence that challenges the inference.

A. Community testimony documents loss of land access.

B. Labor records identify coercive recruitment.

C. A freight ledger shows higher output.

D. The railway map has more stations than before.

Selections: _____ Explain your reasoning:

4 Apply the idea.

Australian policy and identity

Separate historical case: assimilation policies sought absorption into a dominant national culture. Official and community histories document continued Aboriginal cultural identity and resistance to surrendering it.

Which explanation fits?

A. Colonial interaction pressured identity, while community action sustained and reshaped self-definition rather than simply erasing it.

B. An official policy automatically replaced every person's identity.

C. Communities had no role in defining their own belonging.

My choice: _____ Explain why it fits:

5 Carry the idea forward.

Write a two-part analysis: first explain why the fictional railway's output increase cannot establish universal benefit; then explain how the Australian assimilation case shows interaction between imposed policy and identity. Keep the cases distinct.