

“A Lament for Confederation” Questions

1. What—or who—is Chief Dan George speaking to? Why, according to him, was Canada’s hundredth birthday in 1967 not a cause for celebration?

2. How would you describe the Canada that First Nations people knew when the forests were theirs?

3. How would you describe the Canada that First Nations people saw in 1967? What had changed since 1867?

4. But George didn’t stop with lamentation; he also asserted a vision of Indigenous cultural adaptation and renewal. Explain. To what extent do you think this vision has been achieved today? Why?

5. Should all Canadians know about the Canada that Chief Dan George saw in 1967? If they did, how would it affect their sense of Canadian identity?

6. What did you learn from “A Lament for Confederation” that you did not know before? How does this information help you understand First Nations people today?