

NATIVE WORDS, NATIVE WARRIORS

# Boarding Schools

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Richard Henry Pratt: Text–Dependent Test Prep

**Directions:** In the left-hand column of the box below you will find a quote, image, and caption. In the right-hand column you will find questions about the excerpt on the left. These questions are not designed to test your factual knowledge, but rather to assess your ability to analyze, infer, determine the meaning of words and phrases, and come to conclusions using featured sources.

*“In Indian civilization I am a Baptist, because I believe in immersing the Indian in our civilization and when we get them under, holding them there until they are thoroughly soaked.”*

- **Richard Henry Pratt, founder of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School (Richard Henry Pratt, *Battlefield and Classroom: Four Decades with the American Indian, 1867-1904*, 1964)**



*Richard Henry Pratt.* Photograph, courtesy of the Cumberland County Historical Society, Carlisle, Pennsylvania

Richard H. Pratt was the founder of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School. He believed it was the school’s job to take away the cultures and languages of American Indian children.

1. Select the best interpretation of the metaphor embedded in the quote, “when we get them under, holding them there until they are thoroughly soaked.”

- A. American should be a melting pot of many different cultures.
- B. Immerse American Indians so deeply in white European culture that Native cultures are effectively eliminated.
- C. American Indians attending boarding schools should be baptized as Baptists.
- D. American Indian students needed to learn how to swim.

2. What does Pratt mean when he says, “I am a Baptist”?

- A. He is saying that in Indian civilization he is a Baptist because he is trying to make a connection with Native communities.
- B. He means he is a Baptist missionary.
- C. He is suggesting that all American Indians should be Baptists.
- D. He is making a connection between baptizing and forced cultural assimilation.