

NATIVE WORDS, NATIVE WARRIORS

# Native Languages

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## W. Richard West: Text–Dependent Test Prep

**Directions:** In the left-hand column of the box below you will find a quote, caption, and image. In the right-hand column you will find a question about the excerpt on the left. This question is 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.

*“Language is central to cultural identity. It is the code containing the subtleties and secrets of cultural life. In many ways, language determines thought.”*

- **W. Richard West Jr., Southern Cheyenne and member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma; Founding Director, National Museum of the American Indian.**



*W. Richard West, Jr. (Southern Cheyenne).*  
Photograph, the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian.

1. What is the best interpretation behind the connection W. Richard West is making between language and culture?

- A. Language is really a secret code, similar to the one used by Code Talkers during WWI and WWII.
- B. Language is essential to the expression of culture. It is a means of communicating values, beliefs, and customs.
- C. Language makes you think; without it there is no way people can become educated about culture.
- D. If you are not allowed to speak your language, then you are also unable to think and have culture.