Instructions: Read the following passage. Use what you learn in the passage to answer the questions at the end.

A Mission Dilemma

It is 1745 and you are a member of the Pamaque Tribe. You and your people are hunter-gatherers who exist in coastal south Texas between the Nueces River and Padre Island. Your survival depends on traveling from one place to another in search of food. Your primary diet consists of vegetation and whatever animals you can find along the flat grasslands and waterways. You lead a difficult life with starvation being just one meal away, but you and your people are accustomed to this way of life because your ancestors have lived like this for thousands of years.

Strange new diseases have decimated your people. In addition to disease and lingering starvation, the Lipan Apache, who have always been enemies, are waging a war of extermination against your people.

One night, you are so exhausted from searching for food and firewood that you collapse in a deep sleep in a grassy field away from your family’s camp. That same night, the Lipan Apache launch a raid on your family. When you return to camp in the morning, you find your uncle is beaten and left for dead, your preteen sister is taken captive by the Lipan Apache as a slave, while the rest of your family is brutally murdered. You are a mixture of angry and heartbroken as a result of what happened to your family. You realize that something drastic must be done, because you and your uncle can not live this way anymore...

There are rumors of a place along the Yanaguana (San Antonio River) where men dressed in blue robes offer a space with consistent food and walls for protection. You and your uncle stagger towards this supposed place along the river and eventually arrive at a place called Mission San Francisco de la Espada. Your uncle dies within a few days of arrival. You are alone at the mission, and you may be the last remaining Pamaque.

Though you receive a place to stay and enjoy the new and stable supply of foods like steak, chicken, goat, and flour-based foods, you sometimes yearn for the old diet of gathered pecans, mesquite beans, and prickly pear cactus fruit. You long to roam the grasslands like you did before. No one speaks the same language here, so everyone is trying to learn Spanish from the men in the blue robes, who are known as Franciscans. You find learning a new language to be a challenge. Along with language, you are learning how to tend to livestock and other necessary skills for a successful sedentary life on the frontier of Spanish Texas. You are not interested in learning how to tend to
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livestock and other necessary skills for a successful sedentary life on the frontier of Spanish Texas. The Franciscans are also teaching the Roman Catholic religion, which you find difficult to accept. Although, at times, you wish to return to the old ways, you know deep in your heart that the old ways are gone forever.

Later in 1745, the Lipan Apache lay siege to the mission. Anyone who steps outside the mission’s walls is violently attacked and brutally killed, but, in about a month, the Lipan Apache claim to have a change of heart and wish to join the mission. The Franciscans want to welcome the Lipan Apache, but you and the soldiers think it’s a trick.

1. What evidence could you present to support your opinion about not allowing the Lipan Apache into the missions?

2. Analyze why you think the Franciscans might want to welcome the Lipan Apache.

3. Evaluate how your life has changed since you entered Mission San Francisco de la Espada.

4. Give two examples of learning something new that was not easy for you.

5. Evaluate and describe why you might feel like you could be the last of the Pamaque.