



Directions: After reading the background information and examining the source, answer the questions below.

Background Information: *Robert Michael Ballantyne (1825-1894) began working in the fur trade for the Hudson's Bay Company at the age of 16. He worked in the industry for 6 years, eventually compiling his experiences in a book that was published in 1848. He went on to publish several adventure novels.*

Featured Source:

Soon the boats began to arrive...There were seven or eight boats; and ere long as many fires burned on the green beside the fort, with a **merry**, careless band of wild-looking Canadian and **half-breed voyageurs** round each. And a more picturesque set of fellows I never saw.

They were all dressed out in new light-blue **capotes** and corduroy trousers, which they tied at the knee with beadwork garters. Moose-skin moccasins cased their feet, and their **brawny**, sun-burned necks were bare. A scarlet belt encircled the waist of each; and while some wore hats with **gaudy** feathers, others had their heads **adorned** with caps and **bonnets**, surrounded with gold and silver tinsel hat-cords. A few, however, **despising** coats, travelled in blue and white striped shirts, and trusted to their thickly-matted hair to guard them from the rain and sun.

They were truly a wild yet handsome set of men; and no one, when gazing on their happy faces as they lay or stood in careless attitudes round the fires, puffing clouds of smoke from their ever-burning pipes, would have believed that these men had left their wives and families but the week before, to start on a five months' voyage of the most harassing description, **fraught with** the dangers of the boiling **cataracts** and foaming rapids of the interior."

Source: Ballantyne, Robert William (1848) *Every-day Life in the Wilds of North America.*

Merry: Cheerful/happy

Canadian: French

Half-breed: A person of mixed heritage, typically having one indigenous and one non-indigenous parent. This term is now considered offensive.

Voyageur: 18th and 19th century French and Metis fur traders who typically transported goods by canoe

Gaudy: Flashy

Capotes: Long coats made from wool or blanket material

Trousers: **Pants**

Brawny: Sturdy/Muscular

Adorned: Decorated

Bonnet: Hat / Head Covering

Despising: Disliking

Fraught with: Full of

Cataracts: Rapids / Waterfalls

Continued on Back



Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Your Task: Examine the inferences below and return to the text. Which inference is best supported by the source?

Alternative Inferences	
Person 1:	Ballantyne admires the Voyageurs' bravery and spirit.
Person 2	Ballantyne views the Voyageurs as unsophisticated, rough, and dangerous men who care little for their families.

Multiple Choice: Which inference is most plausible?

- a) Person 1's inference is most plausible
- b) Person 2's inference is most plausible
- c) Both Person 1 and Person 2's inferences are equally plausible
- d) Neither meaning is plausible

Short Answer Response: Explain your reasoning below.