

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

Background Information: *Alexander Ross was a former schoolteacher who worked for several fur trading companies including the Pacific Fur Company (1810-1813) the NWC (1813-1821) and the HBC (1821-25). Ross lived in the Red River area from 1825-1856, with his book *The Red River Settlement* published shortly before his death in 1856.*

Featured Source:

The approach of the enemy was announced by the women and children of the settlers, who were seen running from place to place in alarm, seeking protection and crying out that the settlers were made prisoners.

... Governor Semple, who was Governor-in-Chief of the Hudson's Bay Company's territories, with several other gentlemen and attendants, walked out to meet the strangers, now **discerned** to be a party of half-breeds and Indians, all mounted and armed. Their **hostile** purpose being **manifest**, the Governor and his party halted, and were seen in a group as if consulting together, while the Indians and half-breeds divided themselves into two bodies, and instantly **commenced** firing from the shelter afforded by a few willows; first a shot or two, and then a merciless volley.

The party of Governor Semple, consisting of twenty-eight persons, was completely surrounded, and of that number no less than twenty-one were killed...

The **unhallowed** triumph of the murderers was complete. Only one of their number fell in the battle as they called it, and one other, we believe, was wounded, while the colonists who survived the massacre, were ordered once more to leave their homes without farther warning or preparation, on pain of being hunted down and shot like wild beasts, if they should ever appear there again.

Their houses, however, were ransacked, their goods pillaged, and the whole colony driven into exile.

Discerned: Realized /
Discovered

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

Hostile: Aggressive

Manifest: Clear / Obvious

Commenced: Began

Unhallowed: Unholy

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?

Inferences	
Person 1:	The source is one of the fairest and unbiased accounts of the Battle of Seven Oaks because the author worked for both the Northwest Company and the Hudson's Bay Company and so is familiar with both sides of the conflict.
Person 2	The source is problematic because Alexander Ross was working for the Northwest Company at the time of the Battle of Seven Oaks, and so he is likely to present a biased perspective that favours the Northwest Company's perspective.

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 inference is plausible.