

Discussion Questions

Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians but Were Afraid to Ask by Anton Treuer



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Source: Madison Public Library staff. Some questions taken from <http://www.litlovers.com/run-a-book-club/questions-for-nonfiction>

1. Talk about the book's structure. Did you like the question and answer format? Did you think the chapters did a good job of grouping the questions?
2. Do the issues affect your life? How so—directly, on a daily basis, or more generally? Now or sometime in the future?
3. Did the book truly answer all of the questions you had, or did you have more questions? If you still have questions, where are some places you might turn for more information? (Note: See the list of further resources in this guide.)
4. Before you started reading this book, what were some of the questions you were hoping to see answered? Did you find the answers you were seeking?
5. What did you learn from this book that surprised you?
6. Which questions and answers stood out to you as particularly interesting? Which ones were unexpected?
7. Consider the book's tone. What makes this book different from a more academic work? Do you think reading this book is an effective way to learn about Indians?
8. How controversial are the issues raised in the book? Who is aligned on which sides of the issues? Where do you fall in that line-up?
9. What evidence does Treuer use to support the book's ideas? Is the evidence convincing...definitive or...speculative? Does the author depend on personal opinion, observation, and assessment? Or is the evidence factual—based on science, statistics, historical documents, or quotations from (credible) experts?
10. The book's conclusion offers ways to help. Which of these are things you plan to put into practice? Has this book inspired you to change in any way? If so, how?