

“Letters From an American Farmer” (1782)

Directions: Answer the questions below based on the excerpt.

Artifact	Excerpt from “Letters From an American Farmer” by Hector St. Jean de Crevecoeur	
Excerpt	<p>We are a people of cultivators, scattered over an immense territory communicating with each other by means of good roads and navigable rivers, united by the silken bands of mild government, all respecting the laws, without dreading their power, because they are equitable. We are all animated with the spirit of an industry which is unfettered and unrestrained, because each person works for himself.</p> <p>Here the rewards of his industry follow with equal steps the progress of his labour; his labour is founded on the basis of nature, self-interest; can it want a stronger allurements? Wives and children, who before in vain demanded of him a morsel of bread, now, fat and frolicsome, gladly help their father to clear those fields whence exuberant crops are to arise to feed and to clothe them all; without any part being claimed, either by a despotic prince, a rich abbot, or a mighty lord. ... The American is a new man, who acts upon new principles; he must therefore entertain new ideas, and form new opinions. From involuntary idleness, servile dependence, penury, and useless labour, he has passed to toils of a very different nature, rewarded by ample subsistence. --This is an American.</p>	
Word Bank	abbot- head of an abbey of monks penury- extreme poverty cultivators- creators, makers, shapers of society	frolicsome- playful despotic- tyrannical; dictator

Historical Inquiry Questions- Part 2

What groups or people are mentioned and omitted in the textbook excerpt?	<i>Mentioned:</i>
	<i>Omitted:</i>
When the author uses the word "equitable" who is he referring to?	
According to the author's account, how has the American Man evolved?	
How might the context of the U.S. affect the content in the excerpt?	