The following passage is taken from the book ***Down the Great Unknown*** by Edward Dolnick, an account of an 1869 exploration of the Colorado River.

Read the paragraph and then read the test question.

The men were confident about the expedition, the mood a happy mix of can-do optimism and “school’s out for summer” boisterousness after the dreary weeks at Green River Station. Ignorance was not quite bliss, but it veered in that direction. Powell, for one, took for granted that outdoor expertise in general would translate into river experience in particular. “The hunters managed the pack train last year, and will largely man the boats this,” he wrote matter-of-factly. The tone implied that the switch from horses and mules to boats was trifling, akin to a switch from guitar to banjo.

Which of the following ideas does this passage suggest about the men of the expedition?

1. They were not educated
2. They did not have experience navigating rivers
3. They had just gotten out of school for the summer
4. They were going to learn to play the banjo

Use details from the passage to explain why you chose the answer you did.

The passage says they worked with horses and mules. In 1869 this would probably mean that they weren’t educated.

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The passage says that ignorance was not quite bliss, so they must have been ignorant.

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The author says that they took it for granted that their experience outdoors would be the same as experience on the river. They thought switching from horses and mules to boats would be easy.

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The passage says that they thought switching from horses and mules to boats would be easy. It also says their ignorance was almost bliss because they thought it would be fun and easy. They thought their experience outdoors would be the same as experience on the river. All of this shows that they didn’t really know what it would be like navigating a river in a boat.

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The passage says they were happy because “school’s out for summer” and they were getting ready to go on a trip.

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They were switching from playing a guitar to playing a banjo.

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People in 1869 weren’t very well educated.