

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Tecumseh Native Americans & Frontiersmen Series

Pre-Viewing Activities:

- 1) Discuss the characteristics of a charismatic leader and those of a hero. Are these characteristics found in all cultures and in all periods of history?
- 2) What do you think are the commonalities and differences among Native American tribes?
- 3) Discuss whether the right to land comes with the power to seize it.

Post Viewing Activities:

- 1) Research other military strategists throughout history. Compare their military prowess and success/failure with Tecumseh's.
- 2) Research the cultures of various Woodland tribes and discuss the immense task Tecumseh faced in uniting these various groups.
- 3) Research the powerful influence of religious fervor on military action throughout history and today. Compare this with the religious fervor of the Shawnee prophet Lalawithica and his influence in uniting the Native American tribes into Tecumseh's confederacy.
- 4) Write an essay that explains the reasons why Tecumseh's confederacy failed, but the 13 colonies, the model that inspired him, succeeded.
- 5) With your group, discuss the possibility of forming confederations today to make a united Asia or Africa. Share your feelings with the class.
- 6) Write an essay that discusses whether the end justifies the means in military action both in the past and today.
- 7) Write an essay that discusses what the world would be like today if Tecumseh's confederation had successfully defeated the U.S. Military.
- 8) Write an essay that discusses whether this program has a bias. Is a biased representation valid? Is a biased representation of history appropriate for educational purposes?

Post Viewing Questions:

- 1) Compare Tecumseh with William Henry Harrison. Who was the hero? Who was a success and who was a failure? Why?
- 2) Was the U.S. Government justified in taking over Native American hunting grounds, destroying villages and killing the Native Americans? What was their justification or reason? Is this type of land acquisition occurring in the world today?
- 3) Should the Native Americans today seek reparations for the land taken from them?
- 4) Why did Tecumseh's confederation fail?