

TEACHER'S GUIDE **Grades 5 to 12**

Tecumseh **Native Americans & Frontiersmen Series**

Subject Areas: Social Studies, American History, The War of 1812, Native Americans, and Multicultural Studies

Synopsis: Tecumseh's dream is to unite the Native Americans into a confederation. He sees this as the only way to stop the whites from taking the land and destroying the Native American peoples and their way of life. Tecumseh is somewhat successful in uniting the tribes of very different cultures, but ultimately fails in preventing the downfall of the Native Americans.

Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to recognize the value in uniting different groups for a common cause.
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to compare and evaluate the value systems of the Native Americans and the Anglo-Americans.
- Objective 3)** Students will be able to recognize the importance of religious influences on culture.
- Objective 4)** Students will be able to discuss and evaluate whether this his torical program has a bias.
- Objective 5)** Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of land acquisition as a recurring reason for war throughout history.
- Objective 6)** Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of and appreciation for the differences and commonalities of the Native American cultures that united under Tecumseh's confederation.
- Objective 7)** Students will be able to analyze the successes or failures of various attempts at unification throughout history.
- Objective 8)** Students will be able to make suppositions concerning global power dynamics.

Pre-Viewing Activities:

- 1) Use maps to identify the land occupied by Woodland tribes in 1790 and in 1820.
- 2) Discuss the characteristics of a charismatic leader and those of a hero.
- 3) Discuss whether these characteristics cross all cultures through all historical periods.
- 4) Discuss their knowledge of the commonalities and differences among Native American tribes.
- 5) 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) Form teams and debate the reasons why Tecumseh's confederacy failed, but the 13 colonies, the model that inspired him succeeded.
- 5) Form small groups and discuss the possibility of forming confederations today to make a united Asia or Africa.
- 6) Form debate teams to discuss whether the end justifies the means in military action both in the past and today.
- 7) Form teams, which will each discuss what the world would be like today if Tecumseh's confederation had successfully defeated the U.S. Military. Each group will share its ideas with the whole class.
- 8) Discuss whether this program has a bias. Is a biased representation valid? Is a biased representation of history appropriate for educational purposes?

Post Viewing Questions for Discussion:

- 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?

Essential Facts:

- 1775: White settlers from Virginia colony encroach on Native American land in Ohio country. Many tribes retreat; Shawnee stand and fight.
- 1779: 1/3 of Shawnee give up and leave Ohio country.
- 1790: U.S. in huge debt from French & Indian War. U.S. sells tribal lands in Ohio country to land speculators to reduce some of their debt.
- 1790: Native Americans defeat St. Claire due to army's lack of training in wilderness warfare.
- 1793: General "Mad" Anthony Wayne defeats Native Americans, destroys villages.
- 1806: Tecumseh's brother Lalawithica becomes a revered Shawnee prophet.
- 1809: William Henry Harrison bribes Native American chiefs to sign away three million acres at Fort Wayne, IN.
- 1810: William Henry Harrison and Tecumseh's Confederacy meet for the first time.
- 1811: Harrison defeats Native Americans at Tippecanoe.
- 1812: U.S. Declares War on Great Britain. Tecumseh and British form an alliance against the U.S.
- 1813: Tecumseh dies during battle in Canada.

Vocabulary:

confederacy, frontier, wilderness warfare, skirmishes, land speculators, "long knives", prophet, military occupation, vengeance, alliance, orator

Important People:

Shawnee Chief Cornstalk - Shawnee War Chief who adopts Tecumseh.

“Mad” Anthony Wayne - American general who defeated Shawnee and destroyed villages in 1793.

Lalawithica (La-la-with-ika)– Tecumseh’s brother and Shawnee prophet who had large part in uniting tribes.

William Henry Harrison - Governor of Indiana territory; defeats Native Americans at Tippecanoe.

General Isaac Brock - British General who allies with Tecumseh during War of 1812.

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