

SECTION OBJECTIVES

1. Find out what led to war between the United States and Native Americans in the Old Northwest.
2. See the different ways in which Native American leaders reacted to United States expansion.

BELLRINGER

Warm-Up Activity Ask students to define *accommodation* and *assimilation*. Ask whether they have ever accommodated to the wishes of a stronger power, such as an institution, or tried to become assimilated into a new group.

Activating Prior Knowledge Ask students to imagine the point of view of Native Americans in the Old Northwest. Have them consider the perspectives both of Native Americans who had not already been displaced from their native lands and of those who were newly experiencing this disruption and dislocation in the early 1800s.

TARGET READING SKILL

Ask students to complete the graphic organizer on this page as they read the section. See the Section Reading Support Transparencies for a completed version of this graphic organizer.

READING FOCUS

- What led to war between the United States and Native Americans in the Old Northwest?
- In what different ways did Native American leaders react to United States expansion?

MAIN IDEA

As the United States continued to expand onto Native American lands, Indians responded in various ways, ranging from acceptance to war.

KEY TERMS

Battle of Fallen Timbers
Treaty of Greenville
reservation
assimilation
Battle of Tippecanoe

TARGET READING SKILL

Summarize Copy the chart below. As you read, fill in information about the views of the Native American leaders listed.

Native American Views	
Leader	Strategy for Dealing With U.S. Expansion
Little Turtle	Accepted white culture; lived peacefully with white settlers; adopted some of their ways
Handsome Lake	
Tenskwatawa	
Tecumseh	

Setting the Scene Before the American colonies gained independence from Britain, relations between Native Americans and colonists often had been marked by violence. If anything, the creation of the United States had worsened the situation, as large numbers of European settlers had then moved westward onto Indian lands. A Shawnee chief declared:



“The being within, communing [communicating] with past ages, tells me that once, nor until lately, there was no white man on this continent; that it then all belonged to red men, children of the same parents, placed on it by the Great Spirit that made them, to keep it, to traverse [travel across] it, to enjoy its productions, and to fill it with the same race, once a happy race, since made miserable by the white people who are never contented but always encroaching [invading].”

—Tecumseh, 1810

War in the Old Northwest

The American Revolution had broken the power of the Iroquois nations in the North and beaten back the Cherokee in the South. In the early 1790s, however, the Miami, Delaware, Shawnee, and other Native American groups came together to fight American expansion. Assisted by the British in Canada and led by warriors such as Little Turtle and Blue Jacket, they defeated a United States army at Miamitown (present-day Fort Wayne, Indiana) in 1790. Then they defeated an expedition commanded by Northwest Territory Governor Arthur St. Clair, inflicting one of the biggest defeats ever suffered by a United States army in Indian warfare.

The British soon deserted the Native Americans, however. To add to their woes, Native Americans now faced a new national army known as the Legion of the United States. Realizing the skills and tools of this army, Little Turtle tried to persuade the other chiefs to seek a peace settlement rather than face military defeat.

VIEWING HISTORY William Henry Harrison reported that Tecumseh (above with a British general) wished to “form a combination of all the Indian Tribes . . . to put a stop to the encroachments of the white people.” **Expressing Problems Clearly** What difficulties did Tecumseh face in trying to unite Native American nations?

CAPTION ANSWERS

Viewing History Sample answer: Tecumseh had to convince the various Native American groups to disregard their cultural differences and forget any existing conflicts. Many Indian groups had already been severely weakened by events such as the Revolution. Also, Tecumseh had to convince all groups to agree with his chosen approach to dealing with U.S. expansion.

RESOURCE DIRECTORY

Teaching Resources

[Guided Reading and Review booklet](#), p. 27

Technology

Section Reading Support Transparencies
Guided Reading Audiotapes (English/Spanish),
Ch. 6

Student Edition on Audio CD, Ch. 6
Prentice Hall Presentation Pro CD-ROM, Ch. 6



The chiefs chose not to listen to Little Turtle’s advice. In 1794, General “Mad Anthony” Wayne led the Legion to victory over the Native Americans at the **Battle of Fallen Timbers** in present-day northwestern Ohio. As a result of this battle, the Miami, Delaware, Shawnee, and other Native Americans were forced, in 1795, to accept the **Treaty of Greenville**, in which they relinquished the southern two thirds of Ohio. The treaty also forced them to accept that the Ohio River was no longer a permanent boundary between their lands and those of the white settlers. From New York to Indiana to Mississippi, Native Americans ended the 1700s in a greatly weakened condition.

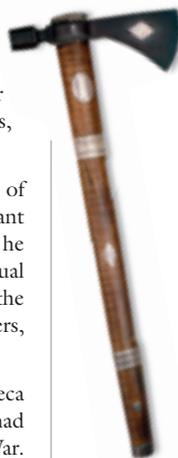
Native American Reactions

In the early 1800s, several Native American leaders proposed different ways to deal with the United States. The options they suggested included four broad strategies: accepting white culture, blending Indian and white cultures, returning to Indian religious traditions, and taking military action.

Accepting White Culture Some Native Americans followed the path of Little Turtle, a leader of the Miami people. Though Little Turtle was a brilliant military leader who had engineered the great victories of the early 1790s, he later made peace with white settlers and lived in northern Indiana on annual payments from the government. Over time, Little Turtle adopted some of the settlers’ customs. After devoting much of his life to fighting the white settlers, Little Turtle tried to live peacefully with them.

Blending Indian and White Cultures In western New York, a Seneca named Handsome Lake followed a different course. Handsome Lake had fought with the British against the Americans during the Revolutionary War. Later, he had been forced to live on a **reservation**, an area that the federal government set aside for Native Americans who had lost their homelands. In 1799, Handsome Lake called for a rebirth of Seneca culture that would blend Native American customs with those of the white Americans.

VIEWING HISTORY Miami Indians meet with U.S. soldiers at the Treaty of Greenville in 1795.
Recognizing Cause and Effect
 (a) What led to the Treaty of Greenville? (b) What effect did the treaty have on Native Americans?



In 1807, Tecumseh presented this pipe tomahawk to Thomas Worthington, then senator and later governor of Ohio.

LESSON PLAN

Focus As settlers continued to move into Native American lands, different groups tried to deal with the United States in different ways. Ask what those ways were. How successful were they?

Instruct Explain why it was difficult for Native American groups to adopt a united policy for dealing with the United States. (*Groups spoke different languages and observed different customs, and some had been enemies for generations.*)

Discuss the major Native American leaders. Ask students to identify each leader’s group and highlight the ideas of each for dealing with the United States.

Assess/Reteach Ask students to consider the issues and concerns of Native Americans today versus those of Native Americans in the nineteenth century. What problems still exist? What situations have improved? What situations have gotten worse?

ACTIVITY

Connecting with History and Conflict

In 1810 Tecumseh replied to an attempt by William Henry Harrison to have him cede lands in the Ohio Country to the United States: “Why not sell the air, the clouds, and the great sea, as well as the earth?” Ask students how a negotiator for Harrison might have replied to Tecumseh. In what other ways might the United States have dealt with the Native American claims to western lands? Have students make a web graphic organizer that shows their responses. (**Logical/Mathematical; Verbal/Linguistic**)

CAPTION ANSWERS

Viewing History (a) The defeat of the Native Americans at the Battle of Fallen Timbers forced them to accept the treaty. (b) Native Americans lost the southern two thirds of Ohio and also lost their former southern boundary at the Ohio River, which had formerly separated their lands from the lands of white settlers. The status of Native Americans was greatly weakened.



TEST PREPARATION

Have students read the section “Native American Reactions” and then answer the question below.

Which statement best summarizes the points of view of Little Turtle and Handsome Lake toward settlers?

- A Both were in favor of cooperating.
- B Neither was in favor of cooperating.
- C Little Turtle was against cooperation; Handsome Lake supported cooperation.
- D Both were in favor of cooperation, but Handsome Lake wanted to preserve Seneca culture.

ACTIVITY

Connecting with History and Conflict

Direct students to locate the texts of Tecumseh's speeches. Have them perform dramatic readings of selected portions for the class. (**Bodily/Kinesthetic**)

BACKGROUND

A Diverse Nation

More than two centuries before the Articles of Confederation, the Iroquois nation forged the first viable confederate government in North America. The Iroquois Confederacy (or League) united five Native American groups in the area of today's New York State into a defensive alliance, much as the Articles united the newly created states.

READING CHECK

To protest the methods by which Harrison and others were acquiring Native American lands, and to warn against the consequences of future acquisitions.



VIEWING HISTORY The Shawnee prophet, Tenskwatawa, called on his followers to return to their ancient ways and obey the Master of Life. He said the Master of Life had told him: "If you Indians will do everything which I have told you, I will overturn the land, so that all the white people will be covered and you alone shall inhabit the land." **Recognizing Ideologies** According to Tenskwatawa, how did assimilation threaten Native Americans?

READING CHECK

Why did Tecumseh meet with Governor Harrison in 1810?

Handsome Lake urged Native Americans to abandon war and instead to give more attention to traditional Indian rituals. While holding on to age-old beliefs, Handsome Lake and his followers adopted white American notions about land, agriculture, and family life. While Little Turtle's way was acceptance, Handsome Lake's was acceptance on Native American terms. As he told President Jefferson:

“Our lands are decaying because we do not think on [about] the Great Spirit, but we are now going to renew our Minds and think on the great Being who made us all. . . . Dear Brother, the Lord has confidence in your people as well as ours, provided we can settle all our Business.”

—Handsome Lake

Returning to Indian Traditions In Indiana, another leader arose among the Shawnee, Delaware, and Miami. Tenskwatawa, also known simply as “the Prophet,” called for a return to traditional Native American ways and a total rejection of European values. He strongly opposed **assimilation**, the process by which people of one culture merge into and become part of another culture.

In 1808, Tenskwatawa established Prophetstown on the Wabash River (near present-day Lafayette, Indiana). There, he offered his followers a sense of dignity and the promise of a stable life together. He also adopted an increasingly warlike attitude toward the United States. In this he was aided by his older brother, Tecumseh.

Taking Military Action Born in 1768, Tecumseh had fought against the United States in the 1780s and 1790s and had earned a reputation as a talented war chief. In 1795, he refused to participate in the talks that led to the Treaty of Greenville.

Tecumseh believed that the Indians' only hope of resisting U.S. expansion was to unite by overcoming local and group differences. He and Tenskwatawa acted on this belief by rallying opposition to the Treaty of Fort Wayne. In this treaty, negotiated in 1809 by Governor William Henry Harrison of the Indiana Territory, Native Americans had given up much of south-central Indiana. Like many treaties with Native Americans, this settlement made use of a legal trick. Because Native Americans held their land in common, they all had to agree before the status of the land could change. United States government officials would first persuade a few individuals to sign away their people's land, and then ignore protests from the rest of the group.

In August 1810, Tecumseh and several dozen warriors met with Governor Harrison to protest such a trick. Tecumseh warned that if the government continued to purchase lands, “it will produce war among the different tribes and at last I do not know what will be the consequence to the white people.” Governor Harrison heeded the warning and moved first. While Tecumseh was in Alabama and Mississippi trying to get the Choctaw and the Creek to join in the resistance, Harrison marched north from Vincennes to Prophetstown with roughly 1,000 militia and soldiers.

Just before sunrise on November 7, 1811, Tenskwatawa sent his warriors to attack Harrison and his men. The **Battle of Tippecanoe** lasted about two hours. Neither side won, but the battle shattered Native American morale and eroded confidence in Tenskwatawa's leadership. Within a few days, Harrison burned an abandoned Prophetstown to the ground.

CAPTION ANSWERS

Viewing History Because assimilation into the culture of European settlers would make Native Americans forget their own traditions.

RESOURCE DIRECTORY

Teaching Resources

Units 1/2 booklet

- [Section 4 Quiz](#), p. 67

Guide to the Essentials

- [Section 4 Summary](#), p. 34

[Learning with Documents booklet](#) (Primary Source Activity) *Native American Politics*, p. 11

[Biography, Literature, and Comparing Primary Sources booklet](#) (Biography) *William Henry Harrison*, p. 11

Technology

TeacherEXPRESS™ Primary Source Activity *Native American Politics*, found on TeacherExpress™, uses excerpts from journals, letters, and speeches of both Native American and United States leaders to illustrate the pros and cons of westward expansion.

Exploring Primary Sources in U.S. History CD-ROM *Sell a Country! Why Not Sell the Air? Tecumseh*



Native American military resistance was not over, however. During the War of 1812 between the United States and Britain, Tecumseh rallied warriors to join the British in Canada. (See the next section.) When a British officer began to talk of retreat, Tecumseh responded:

“If you have an idea of going away, give [your weapons] to us, and you may go and welcome. As for us, our lives are in the hands of the Great Spirit. We are determined to defend our lands, and if it be his will we wish to leave our bones upon them.”

—Tecumseh

A few weeks later, on October 5, 1813, Tecumseh died in the Battle of the Thames in Ontario, Canada. Although Tecumseh and his brother did not accomplish their objectives, they left a vital legacy of defiance and respect for their people and their culture.

VIEWING HISTORY Native Americans suffered great losses in the Battle of Tippecanoe.

Drawing Inferences Why was this a turning point for Native American resistance?

Section 4 Assessment

Reading Comprehension

1. Many Native Americans were not interested in becoming assimilated into the culture of white settlers. The most inflammatory issue was the tendency of white Americans to expand into Native American lands. Several Native American groups came together to forcibly resist further territorial expansion by white settlers.
2. Native Americans were forced to relinquish the southern two thirds of Ohio and to recognize that the Ohio River was no longer a permanent boundary between their lands and those of the white settlers, leaving the Native Americans in a greatly weakened condition.
3. Tenskwatawa strongly opposed assimilation by Native Americans into European culture, whereas Handsome Lake supported a blending of Native American customs with those of white Americans.
4. Neither side won, but the battle dissolved Native American morale and shattered confidence in Tenskwatawa's leadership.

Critical Thinking and Writing

5. Answers will vary, but should be supported with facts from the section.
6. Students' outlines should include the following points: White Americans wanted to transform the land into European-style farms. These settlers also kept demanding more and more land on which to grow crops. Native Americans were being pushed off their lands and tricked into unfair treaties. Some Native American cultures required large amounts of forest and untouched grassland to support their way of life.

Section 4 Assessment

READING COMPREHENSION

1. What were the causes of conflict between the United States and Native Americans in the Old Northwest?
2. How did the **Treaty of Greenville** affect Native Americans?
3. How did Tenskwatawa differ from Handsome Lake on the issue of accepting white American ideas and beliefs?
4. What was the outcome of the **Battle of Tippecanoe**?

CRITICAL THINKING AND WRITING

5. **Drawing Conclusions** Which of the Native American ways of dealing with United States expansion do you think was most successful? Explain your answer.
6. **Writing to Inform** Write an outline for an essay about the basic sources of conflict between Native Americans and Americans of European descent.

Go Online
PHSchool.com

For: An activity on the Treaty of Greenville
Visit: PHSchool.com
Web Code: mrd-2064

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CUSTOMIZE FOR ...

Less Proficient Writers

What are other ways in which the United States might have dealt with Native Americans? Have students create a web graphic organizer that shows their responses.

Go Online
PHSchool.com

Typing the Web Code when prompted will bring students directly to detailed instructions for this activity.

CAPTION ANSWERS

Viewing History The battle shattered Native American morale and eroded confidence in Tenskwatawa's leadership.