

Pontiac's Rebellion Reading Comprehension

Name _____

Pontiac's Rebellion was a war waged by natives of the Great Lakes region against British rule after the French and Indian War. The natives, who had formed alliances with the defeated French, were dissatisfied with treatment from British officials. Unlike their French allies, British officials entrusted with native relations refused to offer gifts to tribal leaders such as guns, gunpowder, and ammunition. Furthermore, English settlers began displacing them from their land. While French settlers and natives seemed to live in relative harmony, the sheer number of English settlers that descended on the region prompted many Indians to support war. The natives began to feel as if the British were preparing for war against them. The rebellion lasted three years, from 1763 to 1766. Much of the war's terrible violence occurred in 1763; the remaining years were spent formulating peace treaties. The war was named after Pontiac, chief of the Ottawa tribe. Indians from many tribes including the Ottawa, Ojibwa, Shawnee, Miami, Huron, Seneca and Potawatomi participated in the uprising.

The war started in May of 1763 when natives unsuccessfully besieged Fort Detroit. British reinforcements soon arrived, but were soundly defeated at the Battle of Bloody Run on July 31, 1763. Meanwhile, other native groups were taking forts in present-day Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Many attacks followed the same routine: Indians would trick the settlers into allowing them access to the forts, and then capture or kill the inhabitants. On June 22, 1763, a group of Delaware natives attacked Fort Pitt and killed dozens of British settlers. On September 14, 1763, a group of 300 Seneca, Ojibwa, and Ottawa Indians attacked a supply train near Fort Niagara. In what came to be known as "Devil's Hole Massacre," 72 soldiers were killed. In present-day Franklin County, Pennsylvania, four Delaware native warriors killed a school teacher and her ten students. Native raids throughout Ohio Country began to intensify, as did raids conducted by local militias on peaceful native tribes. One local militia group, known as The Paxton Boys, traversed the Pennsylvania countryside in 1763 and 1764 searching for natives to kill.

Soon, British officials realized that a more diplomatic solution could expedite the ending of the war. Many Indian leaders, who realized the British were not going away, and whose people were decimated with diseases such as Smallpox, were also in favor of ending the conflict. Through a combination of diplomatic and military solutions, aimed at the reclamation of Forts Niagara, Pitt, and Detroit, the British finally succeeded in ending the conflict. On July 25, 1766, a peace treaty was signed by Pontiac himself. It is important to note that the treaty was not a native surrender, as no prisoners were exchanged, and no land was ceded.

1. What caused Pontiac's Rebellion?

- A. Poor relations with the French
- B. The unsuccessful attempt to besiege Fort Detroit
- C. The increasing number of British settlers who took land
- D. The terrible violence that occurred in 1763

- 2. What was a contributing factor to the start of Pontiac's Rebellion?**
- A. Poor relations with the French
 - B. The refusal of British officials to offer gifts
 - C. The failed peace treaties from 1764-1766
 - D. The natives and their alliance with the British
- 3. Which of the following best describes the timeline of Pontiac's Rebellion?**
- A. 1763 was peaceful, and 1764-1766 was violent
 - B. 1763, 1764, 1765, and 1766 were all very violent
 - C. Most of violence occurred in the later years
 - D. Most of the violence occurred in 1763
- 4. Which of the following is NOT true?**
- A. The British and settlers scored a major victory at the Battle of Bloody Run
 - B. Native warriors killed 72 soldiers in the Devil's Hole Massacre
 - C. Native attacks occurred in present-day Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, and other states.
 - D. The natives of the region were able to mostly live in harmony with the French

- 5. What could be a synonym for the word "diplomatic" in the following sentence?**

Soon, British officials realized that a more diplomatic solution could expedite the ending of the war.

- A. Military
 - B. Peaceful
 - C. Technical
 - D. Complicated
- 6. What was the effect of Pontiac's Rebellion?**
- A. The natives were forced to give up land and stop fighting
 - B. The natives were forced to exchange prisoners
 - C. It's hard to say as the natives did not surrender or give up land
 - D. The Paxton Boys traversed Pennsylvania looking for natives to kill
- 7. What question is NOT answered in the final paragraph?**
- A. Why did many natives prefer ending the rebellion?
 - B. When was the treaty signed that ended the rebellion?
 - C. How did the British reclaim its forts?
 - D. What was the peace treaty that ended the rebellion called?