

The Leadership role of Chief Tecumseh in the Defence of Upper Canada

Lesson Overview

Leadership is an important quality during wartime. What makes a leader? Chief Tecumseh played an important part in the defence of Upper Canada in the early stages of the war. In this lesson, students will examine his leadership qualities and the details of his life.

Grade Level

Grade 5 (can be modified for higher grades)

Time Required

Teachers should be able to conduct the lesson in one class.

Curriculum Connection (Province/Territory and course)

Northwest Territories -- Social Studies "Canada: The People and Stories of This Land".

This is brand new for the 2010-2011 school year, scheduled to be implemented in early 2011. The expectations are not available at this time, but the Department of Education stated that the War of 1812 will be included in this new grade 5 course.

NOTE: Northwest Territories is hoping to have new changes to their curricula by 2012.

Additional Resources, Materials and Equipment Required

- Access to a data projector, blackboard, whiteboard or chart paper and markers
- Appendix A –Tecumseh, Chief of the Shawnee (attached)
- Access to the internet

Websites:

The Phoenix Learning Group Inc. - "War of 1812" (YouTube video clip)

http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/war_of_1812/videos/

Canadian Atlas Online War of 1812 theme

<http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/atlas>

Main Objective

To help students understand the vital role of leadership in war. Students will realize the role of Chief Tecumseh before and during the war and understand how he was helpful in defending Upper Canada from the American invasion.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- identify the qualities of a successful leader;
 - examine the life of Chief Tecumseh and evaluate his leadership qualities;
 - understand the vital relationship between the British forces and the First Nations Alliance;
 - recognize the impact that white settlement had on the First Nations at the beginning of the 19th century.
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The Lesson

The Lesson		
	Teacher Activity	Student Activity
Introduction	<p>Ask students: "What makes a great leader?" Make a list of qualities that a leader (a person whom others are willing to follow) possesses.</p> <p>Ask students: "If you were to follow someone into a battle in a war, what are the three most important qualities that they should have from this list?"</p> <p>Discuss this as a class and check off which qualities are chosen by the students.</p>	<p>Answer the questions about the qualities of a leader.</p> <p>Record the three most important qualities of a leader.</p>
Lesson Development	<p>Ask students what they already know about "Canada and war". Make a master list (may have responses about Afghanistan, Iraq, WWII or many even WWI – note that all of these wars are examples of Canadian soldiers fighting in other countries). Ask if they know whether Canada has ever been attacked? Point out that while Canada was still a colony of England, we were attacked by the Americans and without the courage of ordinary men and women, Canada might have become part of the United States of America. (If students have already learned about the War of 1812, ask them to list what they know about the events/people of the time.)</p> <p>One of the key leaders in helping Canada defend against the Americans was a First Nations chief, Tecumseh.</p> <p>Divide the class into pairs/small groups of students. Distribute <i>Appendix A – Tecumseh, Chief of the Shawnee</i>. Assign students to work in pairs or small groups to answer the questions on page 2 of the handout.</p>	<p>Provide responses about war and how Canada has been involved. (They might be surprised to learn that Canada had been invaded by the United States and interested to learn about how ordinary people helped to defend our country).</p> <p>Work in pairs or small groups to answer the questions about Tecumseh from <i>Appendix A – Tecumseh, Chief of the Shawnee</i>.</p>
Conclusion	<p>Show students the War of 1812 video clip.</p> <p>Have the class refer to their answers to #4 on their worksheet. Discuss their responses as a class.</p>	<p>Watch the video.</p> <p>Participate in the class discussion.</p>

Lesson Extension

- Research other leaders from the War of 1812. List what leadership qualities they had and have student evaluate whether or not they were “good/successful” leaders.

Assessment of Student Learning

Assess students’ participation in class discussions and completion of *Appendix A – Tecumseh, Chief of the Shawnee*.

Further Reading

- *Canadian Geographic War of 1812* poster-map
- War of 1812 interactive map & timeline
<http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/war1812>
- Parks Canada
<http://www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/on/fortgeorge/edu/edua3.aspx#tecumseh>
- Canadian Encyclopedia
<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=A1ARTA0007898>

(Scroll down to the bottom of the page for links to many other sites with information about Tecumseh.)

Link to Canadian National Standards for Geography

Essential Element #1 – The World in Spatial Terms

- Location of major human and physical features on Earth

Essential Element #2 – Places and Regions

- Changes in places and regions over time

Essential Element #6 – The Uses of Geography

- Influences of physical and human features on historical events.

Geographic Skill #1 – Asking Geographic Questions

- Ask geographic questions – Where is it located?

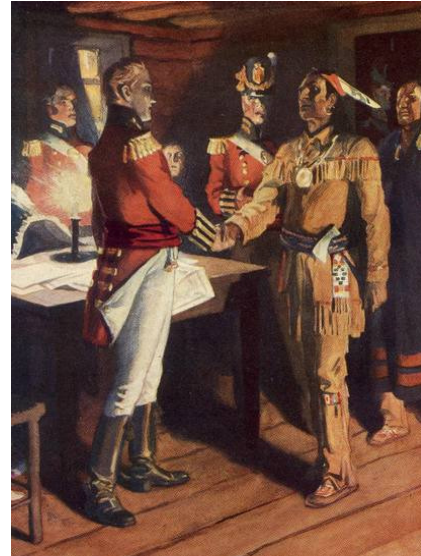
Geographic Skill #2 – Acquiring Geographic Information

- Locate, gather, and process information from a variety of primary and secondary sources including maps.
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Appendix A – Tecumseh, Chief of the Shawnee

Tecumseh was a famous leader of the Shawnee people. He spent much of his life attempting to rally First Nation tribes to defend their land from the advancing white settlers of the United States. Tecumseh was greatly admired in his day and is considered a national hero in Canada.

He was born in the Ohio Country of the United States (near present day Lafayette, Indiana) and belonged to the panther clan. He had a reputation for generosity and compassion and people who knew Tecumseh say he did not like acts of cruelty.



1 Tecumseh meets Sir Isaac Brock

Tecumseh dedicated his life to building an alliance of the First Nations west of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers at a time when white settlers were spreading into this area. He traveled tirelessly in order to spread his message of Indian unity. As an extremely talented public speaker, Tecumseh used these skills to convince the chiefs to join his cause. With the start of the War of 1812, he decided to join forces with the British. Without him, it is highly unlikely the British would have been able to defend Upper Canada at the beginning of the war.

Tecumseh joined British Major General Sir Isaac Brock to force the surrender of Detroit in August 1812, a major victory for the British. The Native Alliance was central to Brock's strategy during the first part of the war. The Americans crossed into Upper Canada in October, 1813 and won a victory over the British and the Native Americans at the Battle of the Thames near Chatham. Tecumseh was killed in the battle and, shortly after, the tribes of his confederacy surrendered to Harrison at Detroit.

Despite his defeat, Tecumseh is honored in Canada as a tragic hero who was a brilliant war chief and who, along with Brock, saved Canada from an American invasion when all seemed hopeless. However, he could not save his own people from losing their land. In a few short years following the war white settlers took over the lands that once belonged to Tecumseh's people.

Source: <http://www.mywarof1812.com/leaders/tecumseh.htm>

Questions:

Questions:

1. Where was Tecumseh born? (Find the Ohio River and the state of Indiana on a map of the United States)

2. If Tecumseh was "American" why did he join Canada to fight against the Americans when the war started?

3. What made Tecumseh a good leader? What leadership qualities did he have?

4. Why was the Native Alliance important to the outcome of the war?

