

Native
Real American Heroes

Helping the US

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Ben Franklin and Mohawks

Lesson 1

Tiyanogo and Canasstego

Tiyanogo and Canasstego helped to make the US. The idea for the US came from them. Tiyanogo was a Mohawk. He was a Wolf clan chief. Canasstego was an Onondaga chief. Many colonists were their friends.

Ben Franklin was their friend. He came to visit often. He visited the council meetings. He learned freedom of speech. He learned freedom of religion. He learned all he needed to make the US.

Tiyanogo and Canasstego urged the colonists to unite. They urged them to become free. They visited the councils of the colonists. They met with the leaders. Ben Franklin understood the Great Law of Peace. The Great Law of Peace governed all five Iroquois nations. Ben Franklin wanted the colonists to unite. He wanted a union like the Iroquois had.

The Constitution borrowed many ideas from the Great Law of Peace. Do you know what it left out? It left out equal rights for women. The Great Law of Peace has this. Iroquois women are very important. They select the leaders. What do you think of that?

You might say, “Tiyanogo and Canasstego are ‘fathers’ of our country.”

Words

Find out what each word means in this reading. Write the best definition and use each word in two sentences.

colonists _____

councils _____

governed _____

Find out more

The five Iroquois nations were the Mohawk, Oneida, Seneca, Onandaga, and Cayuga. Use the internet to find where these nations are today.

Find out more about the Mohawk. Write a report.

Find out more about the Onandaga. Write a report.

What do you think?

Why did Tiyango and Canasstego help the colonists?

Write an answer.



Mohegan and Colonists

Lesson 2

Mohegans/The Stockbridge Indians

The year was 1778. Washington did not have enough troops. The colonists might lose the war. He wanted Indians to fight with him. Some Indians did. The Delaware fought. Some Oneida fought. Hundreds of Indians helped to win the Revolutionary War.

The Mohegans from Stockbridge fought. They had always been friends to the colonists. They had their own Army corps. Their leader was Nimham. He was their chief. The war was not going well for the colonists. One day in 1778, the Mohegans were ambushed by 500 British troops. Only two lived.

It was a terrible loss, and it almost wiped out all of Stockbridge. It was a great loss for the colonists too. Washington needed help from Indians to win the war. Fortunately, the French decided to help Washington.

After the war, the Mohegans moved to Wisconsin. Today they are called the Stockbridge Indians. They were true heroes. They helped to make the US and win its freedom. Maybe you could write a story about these brave soldiers.

Words

Find out what each word means in this reading. Write the best definition and use each word in two sentences.

corps _____

ambushed _____

troops _____

Find out more

The Mohegans lived in Massachusetts before they moved to Wisconsin. Find Massachusetts on a map. Find Wisconsin on a map. How far did they have to travel to get to Wisconsin? (Use the legend on the map to measure the miles.)

Find out more about the Mohegans and the Stockbridge Indians.

What do you think?

Why were the Mohegans true heroes?
Write your answer.



Nan'yehi Talks to the Cherokee

Lesson 3

Nan'yehi

Nan'yehi was an Overhill Cherokee. They lived in Tennessee. In 1755, the Cherokee were fighting the Creek. They were enemies. When her husband was killed, she led the warriors into battle. They won. She was only eighteen. After that, she became Ghighua. She became the Beloved or War Woman.

Her people listened to her. The year was 1778. The colonists were fighting for their freedom. They were fighting the British. The British and the Cherokee were friends. Nan'yehi asked her people not to fight. They did not. This allowed the colonists to win.

The Cherokee kept the peace with the colonists. During this time of peace, Nan'yehi showed them how to raise dairy cattle and weave. Soon they were becoming richer and richer. They became a rich nation, and they kept the peace with the new US. Later, some Cherokee helped the US fight against the British during the War of 1812.

Soon the Cherokee had schools. They were learning how to read and write. They had their own newspaper and government. Nan'yehi was one of their leaders when they became a rich nation.

Words

Find out what each word means in this reading. Write the best definition and use each word in two sentences.

beloved _____

dairy _____

government _____

Find out more

The Overhill Cherokee lived in Tennessee. They are over the hills from North Carolina. Find Tennessee on a map. Find North Carolina on a map. Measure the distance between these two states. How many days do you think it would take to walk or ride a horse that far?

Find out more about the Cherokee. Write a report.

What do you think?

Why did the Cherokee warriors listen to Nan'yehi?

Were you surprised that Nan'yehi was a woman. Why?
Write your answers.



Andrew Jackson and Pushmataha

Lesson 4

Pushmataha

It was 1813. The U.S. was fighting for its independence for the second time. They were fighting the British. Pushmataha was a Choctaw chief. The Choctaw were a great Indian nation. He and 3,000 Choctaw fought for the U.S. They helped the U.S. win their second war against the British.

Pushmataha was a friend to General Andrew Jackson. They fought together against the British and their allies. They won the War of 1812 together.

Pushmataha went home. He asked the U.S. for schools for the Choctaw and to let the Choctaw stay in their homes. The Choctaw lived in Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana. They did not want to leave. They loved their homes.

Andrew Jackson wanted the Choctaw to move west. He wanted them to leave their homes. Pushmataha went to Washington, D.C. to meet with Congress. He wanted to speak for the Choctaw and ask Congress to help them.

While there, he died of pneumonia, a disease of the lungs. Many Americans loved him. His funeral march was a mile and a half long. He was truly an American hero. He helped the U.S., and he helped the Choctaw.

Words

Find out what each word means in this reading. Write the best definition and use each word in two sentences.

independence _____

allies _____

pneumonia _____

Find out more

Find Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana on a map of the United States.

Find Washington, DC, on a map.

Find out more about Andrew Jackson. Write a report.

Find out more about the Choctaw. Write a report.

What do you think?

Why was Pushmataha a hero?

Do you think that the US should have helped the Choctaw? Why?

Write your answers.



Neengay, Schoolcraft, and His Guide

Lesson 5

Neen-gay

Neen-gay was a Chippewa woman. You may know the Chippewa by another name—Ojibway. They live around the Great Lakes.

Neen-gay's grandfather was a warrior chief. He was Big Foot or Loon Foot. Her father and her brother were also warriors. She knew all the Chippewa ways.

Neen-gay had a vision. It showed her helping the Chippewa people.

After the War of 1812, many Chippewa people needed help. They came to her, and she helped them. She also helped to keep peace when US troops came. The year was 1829.

Neen-gay's daughter married a Mr. Schoolcraft. He became famous for finding where the Mississippi River begins. Neen-gay helped him. The Chippewa knew where the river began. Neen-gay asked one of her relatives to guide him.

No one wrote down the name of the Chippewa guide. They only wrote down Schoolcraft's name. He is famous for finding where the Mississippi begins. Do you know what year Schoolcraft found the headwaters of the Mississippi river? Maybe you can find out. Do you remember who helped him?

Words

Find out what each word means in this reading. Write the best definition and use each word in two sentences.

vision _____

relatives _____

headwaters _____

Find out more

Find the Great Lakes on a map. Find the headwaters of the Mississippi River.

Find out more about the Chippewa. Write a report.

What do you think?

Why doesn't anyone remember the guides's name?

Do you think that history books should mention the Chippewa guide? Why? Write your answer.

The End