Peace and Displacement

Read closely to separate a policy's goals from its effects.

8.C.13.5.C "Summarize the intent of President Grant's Peace Policy on the displacement of American Indians from their homelands."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two goals of Grant's Peace Policy and circle two details showing that displacement continued. Use your marks to explain what the policy intended, and what it did not change.

What Did the Peace Policy Mean?

1. In 1869, President Ulysses S. Grant began a plan called the Peace Policy. At the time, settlers and federal troops were pushing many American Indian nations from their homelands. Broken agreements and fighting had caused deep suffering. Grant said he wanted to reduce warfare and make federal dealings with tribes less corrupt. His plan did not promise to return land already taken. Instead, federal officials expected many Native communities to live on reservations, often far from the places where their families had hunted, farmed, and gathered for generations.

2. Grant asked religious groups to recommend people to serve as federal agents on reservations. He hoped these agents would be more honest than some earlier agents who had stolen supplies meant for tribes. The government also supported schools and farming programs meant to push Native people toward English, Christianity, and the ways of white settlers. Officials called this change a path to peace. But these programs pressured American Indian nations to give up their own languages, beliefs, and ways of life rather than allowing them to decide their futures.

3. The word peace described the government's stated goal, not an end to displacement. As settlers sought more land, federal officials continued to confine tribes to reservations, sometimes using military force. Many Native leaders resisted losing their homelands and their right to govern their own communities. Grant's policy tried to replace some open warfare and dishonest management with supervised reservation life and forced cultural change. It aimed to make displacement less violent, not to stop the federal takeover of Native land. For families forced to move, a quieter policy could still mean a devastating loss.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did Grant propose a Peace Policy while American Indian nations were being displaced?

2. How were religious groups and new agents meant to change life on reservations?

3. What changes did officials intend through schools and farming programs, and what would Native people be pressured to give up?

4. Why did the Peace Policy not mean that tribes could remain on their homelands?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 55 to 75 word museum label explaining the intent of Grant's Peace Policy and its connection to displacement. Include what the policy aimed to change, what it did not change about homelands, and why its name could be misleading. Use your own words.

ANSWER KEY

Peace and Displacement

GRADE 8 · 8.C.13.5.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two goals of Grant's Peace Policy and circle two details showing that displacement continued. Use your marks to explain what the policy intended, and what it did not change. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did Grant propose a Peace Policy while American Indian nations were being displaced?	**He wanted to reduce warfare and corruption in federal dealings with tribes.**
2	How were religious groups and new agents meant to change life on reservations?	**Religious groups recommended agents whom Grant hoped would be more honest and less likely to steal supplies meant for tribes.**
3	What changes did officials intend through schools and farming programs, and what would Native people be pressured to give up?	**Officials intended to push Native people toward English, Christianity, and settlers' ways. The programs pressured them to give up their own languages, beliefs, and ways of life.**
4	Why did the Peace Policy not mean that tribes could remain on their homelands?	**It did not promise to return taken land or stop the federal takeover of more land. Tribes were still confined to reservations, sometimes by force.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

President Grant's Peace Policy aimed to reduce fighting and corruption in the federal government's dealings with American Indian nations. Religious groups recommended reservation agents, and officials promoted schools and farming programs to change Native lives. Yet the plan did not return taken land or let many communities stay in their homelands. Reservations, pressure to abandon cultural traditions, and continued military force show why a policy called peaceful could still cause harm.

Accept responses that distinguish the policy's stated goals from its continued displacement of Native communities. Students may describe the schools and farming programs as efforts to change Native cultures.