Divided in Winter

Trace how wartime choices affected Tribal communities.

OKH.C.3.1.A "Describe the effect of intertribal division related to Tribal support of the Union or Confederacy, as exemplified by Opothleyahola and the Trail of Blood on Ice."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the two opposing wartime choices in the passage. Then number three effects on people from 1 to 3 to trace how division led to the Trail of Blood on Ice.

The Trail of Blood on Ice

1. In 1861, the Civil War reached Indian Territory, where leaders of several Tribal nations faced pressure to choose a side. United States troops had left military posts in the territory, and Confederate officials offered treaties and promises of protection. Some Tribal leaders signed agreements with the Confederacy. Others opposed those agreements or wanted to remain loyal to the Union. Within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, this disagreement divided communities rather than placing the entire nation on one side. A choice made by a government leader did not settle the beliefs of every family.

2. Muscogee leader Opothleyahola opposed the Confederate alliance and gathered people who wanted to avoid Confederate control or support the Union. His followers included people from several Tribal nations and people escaping slavery. As they traveled north through Indian Territory toward Kansas, Confederate forces pursued them. Those forces included soldiers from Texas and Confederate-allied Tribal units. The groups fought three battles in late 1861. In the last battle, at Chustenahlah, Confederate forces scattered Opothleyahola's camp. Opposing loyalties had brought Tribal fighters to opposite sides of the conflict and placed families on the move in danger.

3. After Chustenahlah, thousands of people fled toward Kansas in bitter winter weather. Many had lost blankets, food, and other supplies during the fighting. Some walked barefoot through snow and ice, while hunger, illness, and exposure killed many refugees. Their flight became known as the Trail of Blood on Ice. Reaching Kansas did not end their hardship: refugee camps lacked enough shelter and supplies. The division over the war had consequences far beyond battlefield losses. It drove families from their homes, put Tribal fighters on opposing sides, and left refugees dependent on scarce aid.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did different choices about Confederate agreements affect unity within the Muscogee Nation?

2. How did opposing wartime loyalties affect Opothleyahola's followers as they traveled north?

3. How did the battle at Chustenahlah make the refugees' flight more dangerous?

4. Why did reaching Kansas not end the effects of the division on the refugees?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a museum label of 70 to 100 words titled “A War Within Communities.” Explain how divided loyalties affected both Tribal fighters and civilians, using Opothleyahola and the Trail of Blood on Ice as evidence. Show at least two cause-and-effect links.

ANSWER KEY

Divided in Winter

HIGH SCHOOL · OKH.C.3.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the two opposing wartime choices in the passage. Then number three effects on people from 1 to 3 to trace how division led to the Trail of Blood on Ice. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did different choices about Confederate agreements affect unity within the Muscogee Nation?	**Some leaders signed Confederate agreements, while others opposed them or remained loyal to the Union. The disagreement divided Muscogee communities.**
2	How did opposing wartime loyalties affect Opothleyahola's followers as they traveled north?	**Confederate forces, including Confederate-allied Tribal units, pursued his followers and fought them in three battles.**
3	How did the battle at Chustenahlah make the refugees' flight more dangerous?	**Confederate forces scattered Opothleyahola's camp. Many refugees lost supplies and fled through winter weather, where hunger, illness, and exposure killed many.**
4	Why did reaching Kansas not end the effects of the division on the refugees?	**After being driven from their homes, refugees still lacked enough shelter and supplies in Kansas camps.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A War Within Communities

When some Tribal leaders made agreements with the Confederacy and others supported the Union, communities did not face the war as one united group. Opothleyahola opposed the Confederate alliance, so Confederate forces, including Tribal units, pursued his followers and fought them. After a defeat at Chustenahlah, families fled toward Kansas without enough food or warm supplies. Their dangerous winter journey became known as the Trail of Blood on Ice. Divided loyalties thus placed Tribal fighters on opposing sides and drove civilians from their homes.

For the marking job, accept either order for the two opposing choices if the numbered effects form a supported chain. For the museum label, accept varied wording that accurately links divided loyalties to fighting and to civilian displacement or hardship.