Peace for Whom?

Read the goals and limits of Grant's Peace Policy

OKH.C.3.1.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 the words that show what Grant wanted his policy to accomplish. Circle two actions the government planned to take, then number two details that show the policy did not undo displacement.

The Limits of a Peace Policy

1. In 1869, President Ulysses S. Grant announced a "Peace Policy" for relations between the United States and American Indian nations. For decades, federal officials and settlers had pushed many nations from their homelands. Some had been relocated to Indian Territory, in present-day Oklahoma. Others still faced demands to leave land desired by settlers, soldiers, and railroad companies. Grant argued that repeated wars were costly and deadly. He wanted to reduce fighting by changing how the government dealt with tribes. But his plan did not promise to return seized homelands or let nations decide freely whether to move.

2. Under the policy, the government appointed members of Christian religious groups as agents to run many reservations, hoping they would be more honest than previous agents. Officials promised food, supplies, schools, and farming instruction to people living on reservations. Grant also sought to keep settlers from entering lands reserved for tribes. These measures were meant to replace warfare with federal supervision and to encourage American Indians to adopt the language, religion, and farming practices favored by federal leaders. Even when an agent intended to help, the policy treated Indigenous cultures as something to change rather than protect.

3. For families driven from their homelands, the difference between peace and freedom mattered. A reservation might offer promised rations and some protection, but federal officials still expected people to remain there, often far from their own lands. Promises of supplies and protection were not always kept, and pressure for land continued. Some nations resisted confinement and the loss of their ways of life. Grant's Peace Policy aimed to stop costly conflict and manage displacement through reservations, aid, and assimilation, not to undo removal. Its language of peace could hide the unequal power behind decisions about where American Indians could live.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In one sentence, summarize what Grant hoped to change about conflict and displacement.

2. How were religious agents and promised supplies supposed to help carry out Grant's goal?

3. Why did the Peace Policy not mean that displaced nations could return to their homelands?

4. How did Grant's goal of "peace" differ from allowing American Indian nations to decide where and how to live?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 65 to 85 word museum caption for a display titled "Peace for Whom?" Explain Grant's intended solution to conflict and displacement, name two tools of the policy, and show why its promise of peace did not mean freedom to return home. Write for a visitor who has not read the passage.

ANSWER KEY

Peace for Whom?

HIGH SCHOOL · OKH.C.3.1.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the words that show what Grant wanted his policy to accomplish. Circle two actions the government planned to take, then number two details that show the policy did not undo displacement. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In one sentence, summarize what Grant hoped to change about conflict and displacement.	**Grant hoped to reduce warfare by managing displaced American Indians through reservations and federal supervision rather than returning their homelands.**
2	How were religious agents and promised supplies supposed to help carry out Grant's goal?	**Grant expected religious agents to run reservations more honestly, while supplies and instruction would support reservation life and encourage the changes federal leaders wanted.**
3	Why did the Peace Policy not mean that displaced nations could return to their homelands?	**The policy did not promise to return seized land; officials expected many people to remain on reservations away from their homelands.**
4	How did Grant's goal of "peace" differ from allowing American Indian nations to decide where and how to live?	**Grant sought to reduce fighting through federal control of reservations and pressure to adopt federal leaders' preferred customs, not through free choice about land and ways of life.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

President Grant called his plan a Peace Policy because he hoped to reduce wars between the United States and American Indian nations. Federal officials placed many people on reservations and used Christian agents to oversee aid and schooling. These measures aimed to manage displacement and push people toward the customs federal leaders preferred. Yet the policy did not restore seized homelands, and families could still be expected to live far from home. Peace on federal terms was not the same as freedom.

Accept summaries that distinguish Grant's stated aim of reducing warfare from the policy's continued displacement and pressure to assimilate. Do not accept claims that the policy restored homelands or ended forced confinement.