Promises and Boundaries

Comparing Tribal experiences during the Second Indian Removal

OKH.C.3.1.D "Describe the period known as the Second Indian Removal, comparing experiences of Tribal Nations, and explain justifications made for establishing the reservation system."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two reasons officials gave for reservations. Circle one detail about the Navajo and one about the Cheyenne and Arapaho, then number two effects of reservation boundaries.

Different Paths, New Boundaries

1. In the mid-1800s, the United States began another wave of forcing Tribal Nations from their lands, often called the Second Indian Removal. Unlike earlier removal from the Southeast, this wave reached Nations across the West and Plains. Federal officials wanted land for settlers, railroads, and ranching. They said fixed reservations would separate Native communities from newcomers, prevent fighting, and make it easier to distribute food and teach farming. Those claims presented confinement as protection, even as the government took land.

2. The Navajo and the Cheyenne and Arapaho faced different routes into the reservation system. In 1864, U.S. soldiers forced thousands of Navajo to walk to Bosque Redondo in New Mexico, where hunger and disease killed many people. A treaty in 1868 allowed survivors to return to a reservation on part of their homeland. For many Cheyenne and Arapaho, an 1867 treaty assigned a reservation in Indian Territory, far from lands they had used on the central Plains.

3. Treaties did not make these changes equal choices. Officials often negotiated while the Army threatened force and settlers occupied Native lands. The government promised supplies and protection, but deliveries could fail and reservation borders restricted hunting and travel. Some communities resisted, while others used treaties to preserve a place to live under harsh pressure. These experiences show a shared loss of control over land, but not a single path: Navajo survivors returned home after exile, while many Cheyenne and Arapaho were assigned land farther away.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What loss did these Tribal Nations share, despite their different paths into the reservation system?

2. How did the locations of their reservations differ in relation to their earlier lands?

3. What two purposes did officials claim reservations would serve? Whose interests did the policy also advance?

4. How did life under reservation boundaries contrast with the government's promises?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a museum label for visitors who think all Tribal Nations followed the same route during the Second Indian Removal. In one paragraph, explain the period, compare the experiences in the passage, and weigh one federal claim for reservations against an effect on Tribal Nations.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · OKH.C.3.1.D

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two reasons officials gave for reservations. Circle one detail about the Navajo and one about the Cheyenne and Arapaho, then number two effects of reservation boundaries. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What loss did these Tribal Nations share, despite their different paths into the reservation system?	**Both lost control over land as the United States forced or pressured them onto reservations.**
2	How did the locations of their reservations differ in relation to their earlier lands?	**Navajo survivors returned to a reservation on part of their homeland. Many Cheyenne and Arapaho were assigned a reservation far from lands they had used on the central Plains.**
3	What two purposes did officials claim reservations would serve? Whose interests did the policy also advance?	**Officials claimed reservations would prevent fighting and make it easier to distribute food or teach farming. The policy also advanced the interests of settlers, railroads, and ranchers seeking land.**
4	How did life under reservation boundaries contrast with the government's promises?	**The government promised supplies and protection, but deliveries could fail, and boundaries restricted hunting and travel.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Second Indian Removal did not send every Tribal Nation along the same path. During this wave of displacement across the West and Plains, soldiers forced Navajo people to Bosque Redondo; a later treaty let survivors return to part of their homeland. A treaty assigned many Cheyenne and Arapaho a reservation farther from their Plains lands. Officials claimed reservations would prevent fighting, but restricted hunting and travel reduced Tribal control. The policy opened land to newcomers even as officials described confinement as protection.

Accept comparisons that distinguish the Navajo return to part of their homeland from the Cheyenne and Arapaho assignment to Indian Territory. Students should distinguish officials' stated reasons from the effects of confinement and land loss.