Policies and Hunger

Trace how Soviet policies harmed peasant communities.

TOT.C.8.2.I "mass murder of peasants ("dekulakization"), genocidal starvation of Ukrainians (Holodomor)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline actions officials took during dekulakization. Circle actions that deepened the famine in Ukraine so you can compare how the two campaigns harmed families.

Two Campaigns Against Rural Communities

1 In 1929, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin pushed peasants to join large farms controlled by the state. Officials called some households *kulaks*, meaning supposedly wealthy farmers who opposed this change. The label was often applied to families with little property, including people who resisted giving up their land or animals. During *dekulakization*, officials seized homes and supplies, deported millions to remote regions, and executed tens of thousands. Many more died during deportation or in harsh settlements.

2 In 1932 and 1933, a devastating famine struck Soviet Ukraine. Harvests were poor, but Soviet policies made hunger far worse. Officials demanded grain amounts that many villages could not provide, then searched homes and took stored food and seed. The government cut off trade and supplies to some villages. It also blocked many hungry peasants from leaving Ukraine to seek food. Without food or a way to escape, families faced starvation even as the state continued to collect grain.

3 Millions of Ukrainians died in the famine known as the *Holodomor*. The Soviet government also attacked Ukrainian political and cultural leaders during this period. These actions show more than a crop failure: leaders took food, restricted escape, and targeted Ukrainians as a national group. Many historians and governments recognize the Holodomor as genocide. Dekulakization targeted peasants labeled as class enemies across the Soviet Union; the Holodomor devastated Ukrainians through state-imposed starvation. Both campaigns used state power to punish and control rural communities.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How could the *kulak* label put a family with little property at risk?

2. Which two facts show that dekulakization caused deaths, not just changes in farming?

3. How did taking stored food and blocking travel work together to deepen the famine in Ukraine?

4. How did the targets and main methods of dekulakization and the Holodomor differ?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a museum label of 75 to 95 words explaining how these Soviet campaigns harmed rural families. Include one similarity, one difference, and a cause-and-effect link for each campaign, using only facts from the passage.

Policies and Hunger

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline actions officials took during dekulakization. Circle actions that deepened the famine in Ukraine so you can compare how the two campaigns harmed families. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How could the *kulak* label put a family with little property at risk?	**Officials applied the label even to families with little property if they resisted giving up land or animals. Those families could then face seizure, deportation, or execution.**
2	Which two facts show that dekulakization caused deaths, not just changes in farming?	**Officials executed tens of thousands, and many more people died during deportation or in harsh settlements.**
3	How did taking stored food and blocking travel work together to deepen the famine in Ukraine?	**Taking food left families hungry, while travel restrictions prevented many from leaving to seek food.**
4	How did the targets and main methods of dekulakization and the Holodomor differ?	**Dekulakization targeted peasants labeled as class enemies across the Soviet Union through seizure, deportation, and execution. The Holodomor devastated Ukrainians through state-imposed starvation.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Soviet leaders used state power against rural families in both dekulakization and the Holodomor. During dekulakization, officials labeled some peasants as enemies, seized their property, and deported them. Executions and harsh conditions killed many people. In Soviet Ukraine, officials took food and seed from homes and stopped many hungry peasants from leaving. Those policies left families with fewer ways to survive the famine. The campaigns differed in their main methods: dekulakization relied heavily on deportation and execution, while the Holodomor devastated Ukrainians through state-imposed starvation.

Accept equivalent wording that connects each policy to its effects. For the museum label, check for an accurate similarity, difference, and cause-and-effect link for each campaign.