Peace and Control

Read how Grant's policy worked on reservations.

USH.C.1.3.B "Describe Grant's Peace Policy including the establishment of reservations and the use of religious organizations to assimilate American Indians through religious instruction and agricultural training."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three federal actions in the passage, circle one stated goal, and box one effect on Native communities.

Grant's Peace Policy

1. In 1869, President Ulysses S. Grant announced a Peace Policy for federal relations with American Indian nations. Federal officials hoped to reduce warfare and corruption in the agencies that handled Indian affairs. The policy did not mean that Native nations would control their own futures. Instead, the government continued to push many communities onto reservations, areas set aside under federal authority. Confined to smaller lands, families often faced restrictions on hunting and travel.

2. Grant's administration also turned to Christian religious organizations to run many reservation agencies and schools. Officials thought church workers would be less likely than political appointees to steal supplies or cheat families. These groups helped select agents and offered religious instruction, expecting Native people to adopt Christianity and abandon their own beliefs. The government called this change assimilation: replacing Native languages, customs, and ways of life with those favored by white Americans.

3. Agricultural training was another part of that plan. At some agencies, instructors taught farming with plows and fenced fields rather than supporting traditional ways of obtaining food. Officials expected families to farm on reservations and depend less on hunting across wider homelands. Conditions differed across reservations, and Native people responded in different ways. Many resisted pressure to give up their cultures. Though called a peace policy, this approach tied promises of peace to federal control of land and daily life.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did reservations serve the government's Peace Policy, and what did they limit?

2. How and why did Grant's administration involve Christian organizations in reservation agencies?

3. How did religious instruction and agricultural training each support the government's goal of assimilation?

4. Why might Native people have opposed a policy the government called peaceful?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A museum displays a plow used at a reservation agency during Grant's presidency. Write a four-sentence caption connecting the plow to reservations, religious organizations, agricultural training, and Native self-rule.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three federal actions in the passage, circle one stated goal, and box one effect on Native communities. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did reservations serve the government's Peace Policy, and what did they limit?	**Reservations placed many Native communities on land under federal authority and limited their hunting and travel.**
2	How and why did Grant's administration involve Christian organizations in reservation agencies?	**Christian groups ran many agencies and schools and helped select agents. Officials believed church workers would be less likely to steal supplies or cheat families.**
3	How did religious instruction and agricultural training each support the government's goal of assimilation?	**Religious instruction encouraged Native people to adopt Christianity instead of their own beliefs. Agricultural training encouraged farming on reservations instead of traditional ways of obtaining food.**
4	Why might Native people have opposed a policy the government called peaceful?	**The policy restricted land use and pressured Native people to give up their beliefs and ways of life.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

This plow represents agricultural training at a reservation agency under Grant's Peace Policy. Federal officials pushed many Native communities onto reservations and expected families to farm there. Christian organizations ran many agencies and schools, where they offered religious instruction intended to replace Native beliefs. Officials called the policy peaceful, but these pressures restricted Native control over land and culture.

Accept answers that distinguish the government's stated goals from the policy's effects on Native communities. Students need not claim that every reservation had the same conditions.