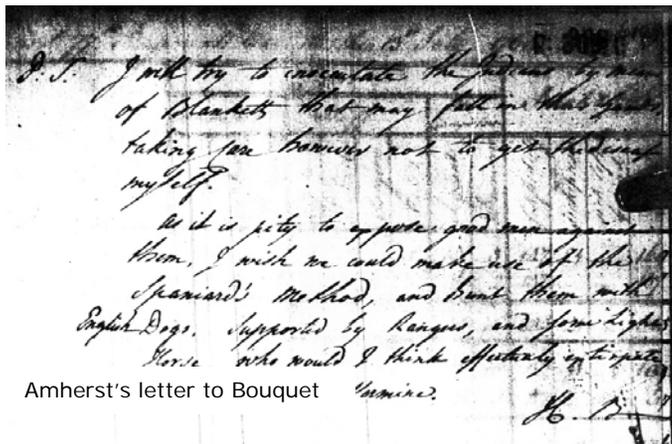


The Effects of Pontiac's War on Tribal Sovereignty Placard 3

Directions: Read the following article about Pontiac's War. Use the information to answer the questions below. Be prepared to share these responses with the class or your teacher.



Pontiac was a famous leader of the Ottawa Indians. In 1763, he led a number of Indian tribes in an attempt to drive the British from their lands [that were secured through The Proclamation of 1763].

"Tribes invited partners against the British by sending war belts, [and later] they sent peace belts to broker peace. Though the allied Indians won every war with the British Colonists except Bushy Run, they were defeated. All those tribes were not accustomed as allies and the confederacy grew fragile. Many tribes, at the protest of Pontiac, wanted peace. By November Pontiac had lost his power and hacked to pieces his peace belt. He was urged by British commanders to bury the hatchet of peace [but chose not to]. He did not accept a peace belt until 1765 and was either shot in the back by a Peoria Indian [spurred on] by a trader, two other Indians or in a drunken brawl. He still serves as a symbol of Indian resistance to white encroachments.

"The defeat at Bushy Run was the beginning of the end for the Native Americans in their war for independence...Since the Indians were supplying their warriors with munitions captured from British forts, they were not able to obtain additional gunpowder or shot and simply ran out of bullets once they stopped capturing forts, roughly ten weeks before Bushy Run. Moreover, they lost warriors in a smallpox epidemic. (Dillon 48) "...General Amherst had written to Bouquet [captain of Fort Pitt] in May 1763, 'You will do well to try to inoculate the Indians, by means of Blankets, as well as to try every other method, that can serve to extirpate this execrable race.' <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/ppet/bushyrun/page3.asp?secid=31>

In June at Fort Pitt, a party of Delawares came to broker peace. Capt. Simeon Ecuyer rejected their peace demand and gave them gifts of smallpox infested blankets and handkerchiefs. The Delawares—and their hopes of victor—began to die.

Be The Expert:

Many authors refer to Pontiac's War of 1763 as a **rebellion**, **conspiracy**, or **uprising**. What does each of those words imply? How does the use of those terms affect our views and opinions of this war?

Explain at least two reasons why Pontiac's War failed.

Respond to the military's purposeful smallpox infection of the Delawares.

Why would Indians today consider Pontiac a symbol of the fight for tribal sovereignty?

Additional Sources:

http://www.nativeweb.org/pages/legal/amherst/lord_jeff.html

American Indian Wars (Richard H Dillon, 19830Brompton Books, Greenwich CT) p48

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pontiac's_Rebellion

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Elementary US History, American Revolution