

Explore More—Indian Conflicts

Directions: Listen to your teacher talk about conflicts between different Indian groups in North America. Circle any words you don't understand. Underline or highlight important ideas in the text. Write notes in the margins to help you understand key points. Then answer the questions in your own words.

Why did Indian nations in North America fight each other?

Indian nations in North America fought for many of the same reasons that people all over the world throughout time have fought. They disagreed about territories, trade, power and influence, as well as honor and prestige. Often, Indian groups made agreements with other Indian groups to support and protect one another.

What happened between the Iroquois and the Huron Indians?

In the late 1640s, the Iroquois attacked the Huron and killed many of them. The Hurons were taken by surprise and the Iroquois were armed with about 300 Dutch-made muskets, which is a kind of gun. The Hurons had a few muskets, but not nearly as many as the Iroquois. The Hurons who survived fled in all directions. Some went north to Quebec. Others went to what are now the states of Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, and Ohio.

How did this conflict involve the Sioux (or Lakota) Indians?

Some of the fleeing Hurons went to Sioux territory. The Sioux gave them protection for a while. However, after some time, the Hurons were no longer welcomed by the Sioux.

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What happened as a result of this conflict?

In the long term, the fighting among Indian nations gave an advantage to Europeans who were moving into North America. Infighting among the Indian nations made it easier for the English to settle beyond the coastal areas where they initially set up colonies. This created disruption and instability among Indian nations, which had an effect on their ability to maintain their traditions, economy, and culture. And, as more and more Europeans came into contact with Indians, increasing numbers of Indians died from the diseases that Europeans unknowingly spread. ❖

YOUR TURN!

1. Think of at least two causes and two effects of the fighting between different American Indian groups. Record them in the chart.

Causes	Effects

2. Why do different groups of people fight each other today? Are the reasons the same or different than the reasons the American Indian groups fought each other? Explain your answer.
