

William Henry Harrison



Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. What do you know about William Henry Harrison?
2. What do you know about the first Northwest Territory, also called the Old Northwest?
3. Who was Chief Tecumseh?

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many meanings and words as you can before you read. Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on pages 2–3.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| ___ 1. enlist | a) the lowest ranking officer |
| ___ 2. ensign | b) win, the act of beating one's opponent |
| ___ 3. lieutenant | c) to join |
| ___ 4. victory | d) a union of parties or groups |
| ___ 5. treaty | e) a military officer with a high rank |
| ___ 6. confederation | f) soldiers |
| ___ 7. troops | g) a memorable marketing phrase |
| ___ 8. allies | h) a formal agreement |
| ___ 9. slogan | i) those who are on the same side |
| ___ 10. inaugural | j) the very first |

Reading

1. William Henry Harrison was the ninth president of the United States. He was born in Virginia in 1773. Harrison was born into a prominent family. His father was a wealthy planter who had served as governor of Virginia for three terms. His mother was also from a wealthy, well-known family.
2. Harrison received his early education from tutors. In 1787, when he was fourteen, he entered university. His plan was to study history and the classics. In 1791, he decided to study medicine. When his father died that same year, William didn't have the money to continue in medical school. He decided to **enlist** in the army. He was 18 years old.
3. Harrison's first rank in the army was **ensign**. He was sent to the Northwest Territory. At that time, the Northwest Territory included the present-day states of Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, and part of Minnesota. He was a good soldier and he rose quickly to the rank of **lieutenant**. He also served as aide-de-camp to an important general. In 1794, Lieutenant Harrison fought the British and Native Americans at the Battle of Fallen Timbers. The army's **victory** made it possible for white settlers to move into present-day Ohio and parts of Indiana.
4. In 1798, Harrison was appointed secretary of the Northwest Territory. He also served as governor of the Indiana Territory for 12 years. During that time, he made **treaties** with the Native Americans. Some of the treaties were unfair. Some were illegal. Because of these treaties, the Native Americans lost huge tracts of their land. Some Native American leaders accepted the loss of their lands. However, other Native American leaders, such as Chief Tecumseh, were very angry about it. Tecumseh wanted to stop white settlers from coming to the Northwest Territory. He and his brother organized a **confederation** of Native American tribes to fight the government and stop the settlers.



“There is nothing more corrupting, nothing more destructive of the noblest and finest feelings of our nature, than the exercise of unlimited power.”

—William Henry Harrison

Reading cont.

5. In 1811, Harrison led the army in the Battle of Tippecanoe. Harrison's **troops** planned to attack the Native Americans first. However, the Native Americans surprised them with an attack early in the morning. Even though the army lost a lot of soldiers, they still won the battle. This victory again opened a huge new area to white settlers, and Harrison became a national hero. In 1813, as part of the War of 1812, Brigadier General Harrison became a national hero again. In the Battle of the Thames, Harrison's troops defeated the British and their Native American **allies** and killed Chief Tecumseh.
6. In 1840, the Whig Party asked Harrison to run for president. The Whigs wanted a popular military hero as their candidate. In the campaign, the Whigs used catchy songs and **slogans**. They handed out campaign buttons. The campaign also created an image of Harrison as a rough, simple frontiersman. This wasn't true, but it helped Harrison to win the election.
7. On March 4th, 1841, President Harrison gave his **inaugural** speech. For almost two hours, he spoke outside in a snowstorm. He wanted to show how strong he was, so he refused to wear a coat or hat. A few weeks later, he caught a cold. The cold developed into pneumonia. Harrison died on April 4, 1841.
8. President Harrison is remembered as the second oldest president, after Ronald Reagan. He is also remembered as the president who served the shortest time in office.

Comprehension

A. True or False?

Read the statements below.

If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence.

If it is false, write F and correct the information in your notebook.

- _____ 1. William Henry Harrison came from a distinguished family.
- _____ 2. William Henry Harrison's father was the governor of Virginia.
- _____ 3. William Henry Harrison finished medical school before he joined the army.
- _____ 4. Harrison's lowest rank in the army was ensign.
- _____ 5. Harrison held several important political posts in the Northwest Territory.
- _____ 6. Tecumseh and Harrison fought on the same side in two battles.

B. Ask & Answer

Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner.

Then write your answers in complete sentences in your notebook.

- 1. What was William Henry Harrison's highest rank in the army?
- 2. Name four states that were part of the Northwest Territory.
- 3. Why was the Battle of Fallen Timbers important?
- 4. Why did Chief Tecumseh form a confederation of Native American tribes?
- 5. What was the last battle that Harrison fought against the Native Americans and the British?
- 6. What image did the Whig Party create for William Henry Harrison in the 1840 election?
- 7. How did William Henry Harrison die?
- 8. How long did Harrison serve as president of the United States?

Vocabulary Practice

A. Choose the Correct Word

Choose the word from the list that fits each definition.

Word List

- ensign
- lieutenant
- victory
- troops
- aide-de-camp
- treaty
- ally
- enlist
- battle
- brigadier general

#	Definition	Word
1	the lowest rank in the old army, eliminated in 1800	
2	an army rank below captain	
3	to join the army	
4	a country that helps another in a war	
5	a formal agreement between two sides in a war	
6	success in a battle or a war	
7	one of the highest ranks in the army	
8	a military officer who is an assistant to a high-ranking officer	
9	a military fight	
10	an organized group of soldiers	

Vocabulary Practice cont.

B. Complete the Sentence

Choose the word that best fits the meaning of the sentence.

1. The _____ family owned two apartments in New York and a beach house in Florida.
(wealthy / rough)
2. Although she was rich, her house was small and her furniture was _____.
(catchy / simple)
3. He had a severe cough, high fever, and chills. The doctor said that he had a case of _____.
(tract / pneumonia)
4. My cousin got a ticket because she parked in front of a fire hydrant.

It's _____ to park there.
(unfair / illegal)
5. Should we _____ the bride's children in the wedding ceremony?
(include / appoint)
6. They studied the _____ in college. That's why they know so much about ancient Greece.
(classics / confederation)
7. Every president of the United States gives an _____ address.
(inaugural / image)
8. Many _____ from the southern states came to Texas after the Civil War.
(settlers / timbers)
9. There were conflicts between the Native American _____ and the US Army in the Old West.
(planters / tribes)
10. A _____ for president usually has experience in government or the military.
(frontiersman / candidate)

Discussion

1. In the battles against the Native Americans in the Old Northwest, the US government was responding to raids on white settlements. Why do you think that the Native Americans were attacking white settlements?
2. Chief Tecumseh said, "A single twig breaks, but the bundle of twigs is strong." How does this quote relate to Tecumseh's activities and goals?
3. Many historians say that Harrison and the Whig Party ran the first modern political campaign. From the information in the story, do you see any similarities to a modern political campaign?

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

In this lesson, students read a short biography about the ninth president of the US. Students also learn about and discuss Chief Tecumseh.

LEVEL: Int – Adv

TIME: 1–2 hours

TAGS: William Henry Harrison, American Presidents, politics, Tecumseh, government

Pre-Reading

A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

1. William Henry Harrison was the ninth president of the United States. He was a military hero and a politician in the Northwest Territory. (Old Northwest)
2. The Northwest Territory (Old Northwest) was a region that included present-day states that are now part of the Midwest. (Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and part of Minnesota)
3. Chief Tecumseh was a Shawnee Native American leader. He and his brother, “The Prophet,” led a movement against the sale of Native American land and the white settlers who were streaming into the region.

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. c | 3. e | 5. h | 7. f | 9. g |
| 2. a | 4. b | 6. d | 8. i | 10. j |

Comprehension

A. TRUE OR FALSE?

1. T
2. T
3. F – He didn’t have the money to continue medical school.
4. T
5. T
6. F – Harrison fought against Techumseh in 1811 and 1813.

B. ASK & ANSWER

1. His highest rank was brigadier general.
2. States that were part of the Northwest Territory were Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and part of Minnesota.
3. The victory at the Battle of Fallen Timbers made it possible for settlers to come to the present-day states of Ohio and Indiana.
4. Chief Tecumseh formed a confederation of Native American tribes to fight against the loss of Native American land (to unfair treaties and large numbers of white settlers).
5. The last battle was the Battle of the Thames where Harrison’s troops defeated the British and Native American allies. The battle was part of the War of 1812.
6. The party created the image of a simple, rough frontiersman for Harrison.
7. He caught a cold that developed into pneumonia.
8. He served as president for a month (32 days) before he died.

(continued on the next page...)

Answer Key cont.

Vocabulary Practice

A. CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| 1. ensign | 6. victory |
| 2. lieutenant | 7. brigadier general |
| 3. enlist | 8. aide-de-camp |
| 4. ally | 9. battle |
| 5. treaty | 10. troops |

B. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. wealthy | 6. classics |
| 2. simple | 7. inaugural |
| 3. pneumonia | 8. settlers |
| 4. illegal | 9. tribes |
| 5. include | 10. candidate |

Discussion

Use these questions for writing or speaking practice. For writing practice, you can assign one to each student or allow students to choose one. For speaking practice, discuss in groups or as a class.

SPELLING NOTE:

This lesson shows the American spelling of the word *Practice*. Most other English-speaking countries spell this word this way: *Practise* (when used as a verb; *Practice* when used as a noun). Make it a challenge for your students to find this word in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spelling.