

Braddock's Blunder

Several more small battles took place in the Ohio Valley before war was officially declared. In 1755 an army of about 2,000 British soldiers and 450 colonial troops set out to capture Fort Duquesne. General Edward Braddock commanded the expedition. Among his aides was George Washington.

Though Braddock was a brave and experienced soldier, he was used to European battle tactics, where soldiers lined up in neat rows and fought in open fields. Washington warned Braddock that his style of fighting would not work well in the forests against the French and their Native American allies.

Braddock did not listen. He even insisted on dragging heavy cannons along muddy trails. The results were disastrous for the British. On July 9, 1755, the red-coated British were ambushed near Turtle Creek. As the French fired from the woods and hills, many British soldiers panicked. About 1,000 soldiers were killed. Braddock himself was wounded and died a few days later.

1. Who was the commander in charge of capturing Fort Duquesne?
2. Explain what General Braddock is experienced in?
3. Explain how Braddock's experience may not be helpful.
4. How did the French attack the British?
5. Do you think Braddock regrets not listening to George Washington's warning? Explain why.

Name: _____

Block: _____

HR: _____

Document Based Questions (DBQ): Quarter 1

Source: General Braddock and the Delaware Indians

...That he with 5 other Chiefs of the Delaware[,] Shawnee & Mingo Nations (Being 2 from Each Nation) had applied to General Braddock and Enquired what he intended to do with the Land [the Ohio Country] if he Could drive the French and their Indians away To which Braddock replied that the English Shoud Inhabit & Inherit the Land, on which Shingas asked General Braddock whether the Indians that were Friends to the English might not be Permitted to Live and Trade Among the English and have Hunting Ground' sufficient to Support themselves and Familys as they had no where to Flee Too But into the Hands of the French and their Indians who were their Enemies (that is, Shingas' Enemies).

On which General Braddock said that No Savage Should Inherit the Land.... [After asking him again on the following day and receiving the same answer,] Shingas and the other Chiefs answered That if they might not have Liberty To Live on the Land they would not Fight for it[,] To which General Braddock answered that he did not need their Help and had No doubt of driveing the French and their Indians away.

On which Shingas with the other Chiefs went away from General Braddock....

DBQ Text Analysis

1. Who is the Speaker? (Not looking for a person's name. Looking for a perspective.)
2. What major event does this relate to?
3. Who is the speaker writing this for and/or providing information to? (Who is he talking/writing to?)
4. What is the purpose (subject/main idea) behind this text?
5. Provide one piece of evidence from the text to support your claim on what the subject/main idea is?