

The Dawes Act Of 1887 Worksheet Answers

Name: _____

Westward Expansion



Dawes Act of 1887

The Dawes Act of 1887, also known as the General Allotment Act, was a landmark piece of legislation in the United States aimed at assimilating Native American tribes into mainstream American society by dividing their communal lands into individual allotments. Sponsored by Senator Henry L. Dawes, the act reflected the prevailing assimilationist policies of the late 19th century.

The primary objective of the Dawes Act was to encourage the adoption of individual landownership among Native Americans, with the belief that this would lead to agricultural prosperity and integration into the American economic system. Under the provisions of the act, tribal lands were surveyed and divided into allotments for individual tribal members, with the surplus land declared as "surplus" and made available for public purchase.

Each head of a Native American family received a plot of land, typically around 160 acres for farming, while single individuals were allotted 80 acres, and children received 40 acres. The idea was to promote the development of private property, agriculture, and a sedentary lifestyle among Native Americans, in stark contrast to their traditional communal practices.

Despite the seemingly benevolent intentions, the Dawes Act had severe consequences for Native American communities. The division of communal lands disrupted traditional tribal structures and undermined the collective nature of Native American societies. Many tribal members, unfamiliar with the concept of individual landownership, sold or lost their allotted lands, often falling into poverty and dependency.

Moreover, the surplus lands that were not allotted to Native Americans were opened up for non-Native settlement. This resulted in the loss of vast stretches of tribal territory, as settlers, speculators, and corporations acquired these lands, further diminishing the size of Native American reservations.

The Dawes Act also aimed to eradicate indigenous cultures by compelling Native American children to attend boarding schools, where they were taught English and European-American customs, often at the expense of their native languages and cultural practices. The assimilationist approach reflected the broader government policy of cultural homogenization.

Over time, the negative consequences of the Dawes Act became increasingly evident. By the early 20th century, it was clear that the act had failed to achieve its intended goals. Instead of fostering prosperity and assimilation, it resulted in widespread poverty, loss of tribal lands, and the erosion of traditional Native American ways of life.

In the face of these failures, the Dawes Act underwent significant amendments in subsequent years, acknowledging the need for tribal self-determination and recognizing the importance of preserving indigenous cultures. The Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, in particular, marked a

The Dawes Act of 1887 Worksheet Answers are essential for understanding the impact of this significant piece of legislation on Native American tribes and their lands. The Dawes Act, also known as the General Allotment Act, was signed into law by President Grover Cleveland and aimed to assimilate Native Americans into American society by allotting them individual plots of land. This article will provide a comprehensive overview of the Dawes Act, its effects, and how to analyze the worksheet answers related to this critical historical document.

Understanding the Dawes Act of 1887

The Dawes Act of 1887 represented a pivotal shift in U.S. policy regarding Native Americans. Prior to the act, Native American tribes were recognized as sovereign nations with collective landholdings. However, the Dawes Act sought to change that by promoting individual land ownership among Native Americans, which was seen as a way to facilitate their integration into American society.

The Main Objectives of the Dawes Act

The Dawes Act aimed to achieve several key objectives:

1. **Assimilation:** The U.S. government believed that individual land ownership would encourage Native Americans to adopt Western lifestyles and abandon their communal ways.

2. **Reduction of Tribal Land:** By allotting land to individuals rather than tribes, the Act aimed to reduce the overall land held by Native Americans. This would free up land for white settlers and expansion.
3. **Economic Independence:** The government hoped that individual land ownership would lead Native Americans to become self-sufficient farmers, thus promoting economic independence.
4. **Cultural Change:** The act was part of a broader strategy to change the cultural practices of Native Americans, promoting Western values over traditional tribal customs.

The Provisions of the Dawes Act

The Dawes Act contained several important provisions:

- **Allotment of Land:** Each eligible Native American male was granted 160 acres of land, while females received 80 acres. Families could receive additional land based on the number of dependents.
- **Trust Period:** The allotted land was held in trust by the government for 25 years, during which the Native Americans could not sell or transfer the land. After this period, they would receive full ownership.
- **Citizenship:** Native Americans who accepted the allotments and agreed to abandon their tribal affiliation would be granted U.S. citizenship.
- **Surplus Land:** Any land not allotted to Native Americans would be declared surplus and made available for settlement by white Americans.

The Impact of the Dawes Act

The Dawes Act had profound and lasting effects on Native American communities:

1. **Loss of Land:** The Act resulted in the loss of millions of acres of tribal land. Native American tribes lost about 90 million acres of their original land holdings.
2. **Fragmentation of Tribes:** The emphasis on individual land ownership undermined tribal cohesion and identity, leading to a breakdown of traditional social structures.
3. **Economic Struggles:** Many Native Americans were not familiar with farming practices or land management, leading to economic difficulties and increased poverty.
4. **Cultural Erosion:** The push for assimilation resulted in the loss of languages, customs, and traditions as Native Americans were pressured to adopt Western ways of life.

Analyzing the Dawes Act Worksheet Answers

When examining the **Dawes Act of 1887 worksheet answers**, it is important to consider various aspects of the Act and its implications. Here are some key points to focus on:

Key Questions to Consider

- What were the primary goals of the Dawes Act? Understanding the intent behind the legislation can help contextualize its impact.
- How did the Dawes Act change the relationship between the U.S. government and Native American tribes? This question explores the shift from recognizing tribes as sovereign entities to viewing them as individuals.
- What were the immediate and long-term effects of the Dawes Act on Native American communities? Analyzing these effects helps to grasp the broader consequences of the policy.
- How did the Act affect land ownership and economic viability for Native Americans? This question allows for a discussion on the practical implications of land allotment.

Worksheet Activities

To engage students or learners with the Dawes Act effectively, consider incorporating the following activities into the worksheet:

1. **Timeline Creation:** Have students create a timeline of key events related to the Dawes Act, including its passage, major consequences, and subsequent policies affecting Native Americans.
2. **Comparative Analysis:** Ask students to compare the Dawes Act with other policies aimed at Native American assimilation, such as the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934.
3. **Debate:** Organize a debate on the effectiveness of the Dawes Act in achieving its goals, encouraging students to research and present various perspectives.
4. **Reflective Essay:** Encourage students to write an essay reflecting on the cultural impact of the Dawes Act on Native American communities, emphasizing personal and societal changes.

Conclusion

In summary, the **Dawes Act of 1887 worksheet answers** serve as a gateway to understanding one of the most significant and controversial pieces of legislation in U.S. history. By examining the Act's objectives, provisions, and impacts, students and learners can gain insights into the complexities of U.S.-Native American relations. The Dawes Act not only reshaped the landscape of Native American lands but also had lasting effects on their cultures and communities. Understanding this pivotal act is crucial for anyone interested in American history and the ongoing struggles faced by Native American tribes today.

Frequently Asked Questions

What was the primary purpose of the Dawes Act of 1887?

The primary purpose of the Dawes Act of 1887 was to assimilate Native Americans into American society by allotting them individual plots of land and granting them U.S. citizenship, thereby promoting private land ownership.

How did the Dawes Act impact Native American land ownership?

The Dawes Act resulted in the loss of significant amounts of Native American land, as it divided communal tribal lands into individual allotments, leading to the sale of surplus land to non-Native settlers and a drastic reduction in Native American landholdings.

What were the consequences of the Dawes Act for Native American tribes?

The consequences of the Dawes Act for Native American tribes included the fragmentation of tribal lands, erosion of cultural practices tied to communal land use, and a decline in the economic stability of many tribes as they struggled to adapt to individual land ownership.

What was a significant criticism of the Dawes Act?

A significant criticism of the Dawes Act was that it undermined Native American cultures and social structures by promoting individualism over communal living, often leading to poverty and loss of identity among Native American populations.

Did the Dawes Act have any long-term effects on Native American communities?

Yes, the Dawes Act had long-term effects on Native American communities, including ongoing economic challenges, land loss, and a continued struggle for sovereignty and recognition of tribal rights, contributing to the complexities of Native American issues in modern times.

Find other PDF article:

<https://soc.up.edu.ph/44-slide/files?trackid=uha55-6589&title=old-town-albuquerque-history.pdf>

[The Dawes Act Of 1887 Worksheet Answers](#)

Amazon Payment Products Amazon Visa Amazon Store Card Amazon Secured Card Amazon Business Card Shop with Points Credit Card Marketplace Reload Your Balance Gift Cards Amazon Currency Converter Let Us Help You Your Account Your Orders Shipping Rates & Policies Amazon Prime Returns & Replacements Manage Your Content and Devices Recalls ...

Amazon.com: Amazon Prime

Can I share my Prime benefits with other household members? Prime members can share certain benefits with another adult in their Amazon Household. Prime for Young Adults does not include Household sharing of Prime benefits.

Amazon.com

Manage your Amazon account settings, orders, payments, and preferences for a personalized shopping experience.

Amazon.com: : All Departments

Amazon Basics Hypoallergenic Quilted Mattress Topper Pad, 18 Inches Deep, Twin, White \$1664
Amazon Basics Electric Kettle with Glass Carafe for Tea and Coffee, BPA-Free, Fast Boiling, Auto Shut-Off, 1.8 Quarts, 1500W, Black and Silver \$2519 Amazon Basics 3-Tier Rolling Utility or Kitchen Cart, Lockable Wheels, Multifunctional Storage, Dusty ...

Amazon.com Best Sellers: The most popular items on Amazon

Discover the best in Best Sellers. Find the top 100 most popular items in Amazon Best Sellers.

Amazon Sign-In

By continuing, you agree to Amazon's Conditions of Use and Privacy Notice. Need help? New to Amazon?

Amazon Prime Membership

Jul 8, 2025 · An Amazon Prime membership comes with much more than fast, free delivery. Check out the shopping, entertainment, healthcare, and grocery benefits, plus updates available to members.

Amazon Business Login

Access exclusive deals & bulk discounts! Log in to your Amazon Business account for instant savings on a vast selection of supplies.

Amazon Shopping on the App Store

Amazon Shopping offers app-only benefits to help make shopping on Amazon faster and easier. Browse, view product details, read reviews, and purchase millions of products.

Amazon FBA (Fulfillment by Amazon) | Sell on Amazon

Start selling with Fulfillment by Amazon (FBA) and let Amazon handle storage, picking, packing, and delivering customer orders while you focus on growing your business.

Get started with Google Maps - Android - Google Maps Help

Get started with Google Maps This article will help you set up, learn the basics and explain various features of Google Maps. You can use the Google Maps app on your mobile device or ...

Get directions & show routes in Google Maps

You can get directions for driving, public transit, walking, ride sharing, cycling, flight, or motorcycle on Google Maps. If there are multiple routes, the best route to your destination is blue. All ...

Buscar ubicaciones en Google Maps

Buscar ubicaciones en Google Maps Puedes buscar sitios y ubicaciones en Google Maps. Si inicias sesión en Google Maps, obtendrás resultados de búsqueda más detallados. Puedes ...

Ver rotas e mostrar trajetos no Google Maps

Você pode ver rotas de carro, transporte público, a pé, transporte por aplicativo, bicicleta, voo ou motocicleta no Google Maps. Se houver vários trajetos, o melhor para seu destino será ...

Use navigation in Google Maps

Use navigation in Google Maps To get easy, turn-by-turn navigation to places, use the Google Maps app. Maps shows you directions and uses real-time traffic information to find the best ...

Obtenir et afficher les itinéraires dans Google Maps

Google Maps vous permet d'obtenir des itinéraires en voiture, en transports en commun, à pied, en partage de course, à vélo, en avion ou à moto. Si plusieurs itinéraires vers votre destination ...

Bắt đầu sử dụng Google Maps

Bắt đầu sử dụng Google Maps Bài viết này sẽ giúp bạn thiết lập, tìm hiểu các khái niệm cơ bản và giải thích các tính năng của Google Maps. Bạn có thể dùng ứng dụng Google Maps trên ...

Obtenha direções e mostre trajetos no Google Maps

Pode obter direções de condução, transportes públicos, trajetos a pé, partilha de viagens, trajetos de bicicleta, voos ou motociclos no Google Maps. Se existirem vários trajetos, o melhor trajeto ...

Search locations on Google Maps - Computer - Google Maps Help

Within Google Maps Your interactions with places on the map, including Google maps that you use on other sites. Your recent searches, including searches for directions. If you don't want to ...

Routebeschrijvingen opvragen en routes tonen in Google Maps

Met Google Maps kun je routes opvragen voor de auto, het openbaar vervoer, lopen, ritdiensten, de fiets, het vliegtuig en de motor. Als er meerdere routes zijn, is de beste route naar je ...

Unlock your understanding of the Dawes Act of 1887 with our comprehensive worksheet answers. Learn more about its impact and key concepts today!

[Back to Home](#)