

the dawes act of 1887 worksheet answers

the dawes act of 1887 worksheet answers provide essential insights into one of the most significant and controversial pieces of legislation affecting Native American communities in the late 19th century. This act, officially known as the General Allotment Act, aimed to assimilate Native Americans into American society by dividing tribal lands into individual allotments. Understanding the context, provisions, and consequences of the Dawes Act is crucial for students and educators alike. The worksheet answers help clarify complex historical themes, legal implications, and the lasting impact on Native American tribes. This article will comprehensively explore the Dawes Act of 1887, offering detailed explanations and accurate answers typically found in educational worksheets. The content will cover the historical background, key terms, effects on Native American tribes, and common questions associated with the act.

- Historical Context of the Dawes Act of 1887
- Key Provisions and Objectives
- Impact on Native American Communities
- Common Worksheet Questions and Answers
- Legacy and Modern Perspectives

Historical Context of the Dawes Act of 1887

The Dawes Act of 1887 was enacted during a period of intense change for Native American tribes. Following decades of conflict, displacement, and forced relocation, the U.S. government sought new policies to manage Native American lands and populations. The act was part of a broader federal strategy aimed at encouraging assimilation and breaking up tribal sovereignty. Prior to the Dawes Act, Native American lands were held communally by tribes, which was incompatible with American ideas of private property. The government believed that allotting individual parcels of land to Native Americans would promote farming, self-sufficiency, and integration into American society. This section explores the circumstances that led to the passage of the Dawes Act and the attitudes driving federal policy at the time.

The Reservation System

Before the Dawes Act, Native American tribes were confined to reservations established through treaties and government orders. Reservations were often located on undesirable lands and were intended to isolate Native populations. The communal nature of land ownership on reservations conflicted with American legal traditions and economic interests. This system limited economic development and was viewed by policymakers as an obstacle to assimilation.

Assimilation Policies

The late 19th century saw a rise in assimilationist policies aimed at eradicating Native American cultural practices and integrating Native peoples into mainstream American society. Boarding schools, missionary efforts, and legal changes were all components of this approach. The Dawes Act became a cornerstone of these policies by targeting land tenure and ownership as tools for cultural transformation.

Key Provisions and Objectives

The Dawes Act contained several critical provisions designed to transform Native American landholding and societal structures. Its primary objective was to divide tribal lands into individual allotments, thereby undermining communal tribal identity and promoting an individualistic approach aligned with American values. The act authorized the President to survey tribal lands and allocate parcels to individual Native Americans, typically ranging from 40 to 160 acres per person. Excess lands remaining after allotment were opened to non-Native settlers, often leading to significant loss of tribal landholdings.

Allocation of Land Allotments

Each eligible Native American was to receive a specific allotment of land, with the size depending on factors such as family status and tribal agreements. The government held these allotments in trust for 25 years, after which full ownership and citizenship rights were granted. This process was intended to encourage farming and private land ownership, which policymakers believed would facilitate assimilation and economic independence.

Surplus Lands and Opening to Settlers

One of the most controversial aspects of the Dawes Act was the designation of surplus lands. After allotments were distributed, remaining lands were declared surplus and made available for purchase by non-Native settlers, often through land runs or sales. This provision resulted in the dramatic

reduction of Native-held lands and was a primary cause of tribal land loss during this period.

Citizenship and Legal Changes

The Dawes Act also provided a pathway to U.S. citizenship for Native Americans who accepted allotments and adopted "civilized" lifestyles. Citizenship was conditional and aimed at encouraging assimilation by linking land ownership to legal and political rights. This provision was a significant shift from previous policies that maintained Native Americans as separate political entities.

Impact on Native American Communities

The effects of the Dawes Act of 1887 on Native American tribes were profound and multifaceted. While the act was promoted as a means to improve Native livelihoods through individual land ownership, it often resulted in widespread dispossession, cultural disruption, and economic hardship. The communal social structures that had sustained many tribes were undermined, and the loss of land severely weakened tribal sovereignty and identity.

Land Loss and Economic Consequences

Between the passage of the Dawes Act and the early 20th century, Native Americans lost millions of acres of land. Much of this loss was due to the opening of surplus lands to non-Native settlers, fraudulent practices, and coercive sales. The fragmentation of landholdings made traditional farming and hunting difficult, leading to increased poverty and dependence on government aid.

Cultural and Social Disruption

The imposition of individual land ownership clashed with Native cultural values that emphasized community and collective responsibility. The act contributed to the erosion of tribal governance structures and social cohesion. Many Native Americans resisted these changes, but federal policies and economic pressures often forced compliance.

Resistance and Adaptation

Despite the challenges posed by the Dawes Act, Native American communities employed various strategies to resist and adapt. Some individuals and tribes sought to maintain cultural practices and communal ties while navigating the new legal environment. Others used legal challenges and political advocacy to

contest allotments and land loss.

Common Worksheet Questions and Answers

Worksheets on the Dawes Act of 1887 typically focus on understanding the act's provisions, historical context, and consequences. Below are common questions along with authoritative answers that align with educational standards and curriculum goals.

1. What was the main purpose of the Dawes Act of 1887?

The main purpose was to assimilate Native Americans by dividing tribal lands into individual allotments, encouraging private land ownership and farming.

2. How did the Dawes Act affect Native American land ownership?

It resulted in the loss of millions of acres of tribal lands by allotting individual parcels to Native Americans and opening surplus lands to non-Native settlers.

3. What role did the government play in managing land allotments?

The government surveyed the lands, distributed allotments, and held the land in trust for 25 years before granting full ownership to Native Americans.

4. What were some negative consequences of the Dawes Act?

Negative consequences included the erosion of tribal sovereignty, cultural disruption, economic hardship, and significant land loss.

5. How did the Dawes Act relate to Native American citizenship?

Native Americans who accepted allotments and adopted individual land ownership were granted U.S. citizenship after a trust period.

Legacy and Modern Perspectives

The Dawes Act of 1887 remains a pivotal and often criticized chapter in U.S. history. Its legacy continues to influence contemporary discussions about Native American rights, land ownership, and federal policy. Modern perspectives emphasize the act's role in facilitating land dispossession and

cultural loss while acknowledging the resilience and persistence of Native communities.

Policy Reversals and Legal Changes

By the mid-20th century, federal policies began to shift away from allotment and assimilation. The Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, for example, sought to restore tribal governments and halt further land loss. These policy reversals indicate recognition of the Dawes Act's failures and the need to support tribal sovereignty.

Continued Impact on Native Land Holdings

Despite policy changes, the impact of the Dawes Act persists in fragmented land ownership patterns and ongoing legal disputes. Many Native Americans still face challenges related to land titles and jurisdiction resulting from allotment-era policies.

Educational Importance

Understanding the Dawes Act through worksheet answers and classroom discussions is essential for educating new generations about this complex history. It highlights the importance of critical examination of government policies and their long-term effects on marginalized communities.

Frequently Asked Questions

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

The main purpose of the Dawes Act of 1887 was to assimilate Native Americans into American society by dividing tribal lands into individual allotments for Native American families and individuals.

How did the Dawes Act affect Native American land ownership?

The Dawes Act resulted in the allotment of tribal lands to individual Native Americans, with the surplus land sold to non-Native settlers, which led to a significant loss of tribal land ownership.

What was a key consequence of the Dawes Act on

Native American communities?

A key consequence was the breakdown of tribal social structures and communal landholding, as land was divided and tribal lands were reduced, undermining Native American culture and sovereignty.

How were the allotments distributed under the Dawes Act?

Allotments were typically distributed as 160 acres for heads of families, 80 acres for single adults, and 40 acres for children, with the remaining tribal land declared surplus and sold.

Did Native Americans have full ownership rights to their allotments immediately?

No, the government held the allotments in trust for 25 years, after which Native Americans were granted full ownership and U.S. citizenship.

What impact did the Dawes Act have on tribal sovereignty?

The Dawes Act weakened tribal sovereignty by imposing individual land ownership and breaking up communal lands, which diminished tribal governments' authority.

Why is the Dawes Act considered controversial today?

The Dawes Act is considered controversial because it led to extensive loss of Native American land, disruption of their cultures, and forced assimilation policies that harmed Native communities.

Additional Resources

1. The Dawes Act and Native American Land Rights

This book offers a comprehensive overview of the Dawes Act of 1887, exploring its intentions and consequences on Native American communities. It delves into how the act aimed to assimilate Native Americans by redistributing tribal lands into individual allotments. The book also discusses the long-term impacts on tribal sovereignty and cultural identity.

2. Broken Promises: The Dawes Act and Its Effects on Indigenous Peoples

Focusing on the broken promises behind the Dawes Act, this text highlights the legal and social ramifications for Native Americans. It provides detailed answers to common questions about the act, making it a useful resource for students and educators. The book also includes historical documents and primary sources related to the legislation.

3. *Assimilation and Resistance: Native American Responses to the Dawes Act*
This book examines the varied responses of Native American tribes to the Dawes Act, including both resistance and adaptation. It discusses how different communities navigated the pressures of assimilation policies while trying to preserve their heritage. The narrative is supported by case studies and firsthand accounts.

4. *Land, Law, and Legacy: Understanding the Dawes Act*
Aimed at high school and college students, this book simplifies the complex legal language surrounding the Dawes Act. It includes worksheet-style questions and answers designed to reinforce understanding of the act's provisions and effects. The book also contextualizes the act within broader U.S. government policies toward Native Americans.

5. *The Dawes Act: A Worksheet Companion for Students*
This workbook provides detailed answers and explanations to common questions about the Dawes Act. It is structured to complement classroom lessons and includes activities that engage critical thinking. The resource is ideal for teachers seeking ready-made materials for lesson planning.

6. *Native American History and the Dawes Act: A Study Guide*
Serving as an educational guide, this book offers concise summaries and analysis of the Dawes Act within the broader scope of Native American history. It features review questions, worksheet answers, and timelines to help learners grasp the historical context and significance of the act.

7. *The Impact of the Dawes Act on Tribal Lands and Cultures*
This detailed study explores how the Dawes Act led to the loss of millions of acres of tribal land and disrupted Indigenous cultures. The book provides answers to frequently asked questions about land allotment and its effects on tribal governance. It also discusses subsequent legislation that attempted to address these issues.

8. *Educational Worksheets on the Dawes Act: Answers and Explanations*
Designed for educators, this book compiles a variety of worksheets focused on the Dawes Act, complete with answer keys and explanatory notes. It covers key topics such as the purpose of the act, its implementation, and its legacy. The resource helps facilitate classroom discussions and assessments.

9. *From Treaties to Allotments: The Dawes Act in American History*
This historical analysis traces the transition from treaty-making to allotment policies exemplified by the Dawes Act. It explains the political motives behind the act and assesses its impact on Native American tribes. The book includes review questions and detailed worksheet answers to support student learning.

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

Related Articles

- [the capital word find answers](#)
- [technology swiped by millions](#)
- [the complete history of blacks in the bible](#)

[Back to Home](#)