

Name _____

Date _____



Tecumseh

History favors the victors,
But you need the whole story to paint a full picture.
Tecumseh is a name that you may not know,
A Shawnee warrior and a war hero.
Back in his day, the US was trying to expand.
Manifest Destiny: westward was the plan.
This land is your land? This land is my land.
White men snatching up as much as he can.
Tecumseh's big bro and his dad were killed by settlers
Who were buying land from tribes, like you better move.
So Tecumseh felt a type of way about white men,
Didn't want chiefs selling their land to them.
Then his younger brother began having intense visions.
They called him The Prophet, and his religion
Preached Native culture and rejecting white norms.
Prophetstown is the place the two brothers formed.
It was a confederacy uniting all the tribes.
To recruit, Tecumseh traveled far and wide.
There's strength in numbers, and their main enemy
Was William Henry Harrison, buying up land with treaties.
Tecumseh didn't like this, so much so,
Him and his army ran up on Harrison at his home.
I said, Tecumseh didn't like this, so much so,
Him and his army ran up on Harrison, like let's go.

So you want to sell the country?
Might as well sell the great sea.

Might as well sell the air and the breeze,
The earth and the trees, all that we breathe.
Didn't the great spirit make them,
Make them for all of his children?
All that we breathe,
All that we be, all that we breathe.

Tecumseh's like, look, man, this is our land.
The chiefs that sold it to you had no right to do that.
He wasn't backing down. He was taking a stand.
His refusal to surrender made Harrison mad.
One day, Tecumseh went away to scoop new recruits,
And Harrison approached Prophetstown with his troops.
The Prophet got spooked and ordered an attack,
And even though they did their best to fight back,
The town was burned to the ground, and many men were killed, too.
This fight is known as the Battle of Tippecanoe.
The game has high stakes, so what's the next move?
The War of 1812 loomed.
Tecumseh decided they should side with
The British army, since they had the same enemy.
Thinking, if the British win we get to keep our land.
They put up a strong fight, but it didn't last.
A year into the war, the British had to retreat,
On the run from none other than Harrison's army.
They ended up in Canada fighting again.
This defeat became known as the Battle of the Thames.
Tecumseh's British allies further retreated,
Leaving his confederacy easily defeated.
They were outnumbered, and he didn't survive.
The union he was working towards also died.
Divided, his people lost their land over time.

Tragically, it turns out Tecumseh was right.

I said, divided, his people lost their land over time.

I guess Tecumseh was right.

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