# **United States History Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Reading: Indian Voices, 1805- 1810 Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

DIRECTIONS: Read the following speeches from two prominent Indian leaders, Red Jacket (Chief of the Seneca) and Tecumseh (leader of the Shawnee in Ohio).

## Red Jacket, 1805

BROTHER: Listen to what we say. There was a time when our forefathers owned this great island. Their seats extended from the rising to the setting sun. The Great Spirit had made it for the use of Indians. But an evil day came upon us. Your forefathers crossed the great water, and landed on this island. Their numbers were small. They found friends and not enemies. They told us they had fled from their own country for fear of wicked men, and had come here to enjoy their religion. They asked for a small seat. We took pity on them; granted their request; and they sat down amongst us. We gave them corn and meat; they gave us poison in return.

BROTHER: Our seats were once large, and yours were small. You have now become a great people, and we have scarcely a place left to spread our blankets. You have got our country, but are not satisfied; you want to force your religion upon us.

**Tecumseh, 1810**

It is true I am a Shawnee. My forefathers were warriors. Their son is a warrior. From them I take only my existence; from my tribe I take nothing. I am the maker of my own fortune.

The being within, communing with past ages, tells me that once, nor until lately, there was no white man on this continent; that it then all belonged to red men, children of the same parents, placed on it by the Great Spirit that made them, to keep it, to traverse it, to enjoy its productions, and to fill it with the same race, once a happy race, since made miserable by the white people who are never contented but always encroaching.

The white people have no right to take the land from the Indians, because they had it first; it is theirs.

**Using the chart below, write down the complaints that Red Jacket and Tecumseh had about white Americans.**

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| **Red Jacket’s Complaints (1805)** | **Tecumseh’s Complaints (1810)** |
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**If you were an American Indian (Native American) in Tecumseh’s day, how would you respond to the problems that Tecumseh and Red Jacket described?**