

Chief Pontiac's Speech

It is important for us, my brothers, that we exterminate from our lands this nation which seeks only to destroy us. You see as well as I do that we can no longer supply our needs, as we have done from our brothers, the French. The English sell us goods twice as dear as the French do, and their goods do not last. Scarcely have we bought a blanket or something else to cover ourselves with before we must think of getting another; and when we wish to set out for our winter camp they do not want to give us any credit as our brothers the French do.

When I go to see the English commander and say to him that some of our comrades are dead, instead of bewailing their death, as our French brothers do, he laughs at me and at you. If I ask for anything for our sick, he refuses with the reply that he has no use for us. From all this you can well see that they are seeking our ruin. Therefore, my brothers, we must all swear their destruction and wait no longer. Nothing prevents us: They are few in numbers, and we can accomplish it.

All the nations who are our brothers attack them – why should we not strike too? Are we not men like them? Have I now shown you the wampum belts [beaded belts symbolizing an agreement or treaty] which I received from our great father, the Frenchman [King Louis XV]? He tells us to strike them. Why do we not listen to his words? What do we fear? It is time.

- Chief Pontiac of the Ottawa tribe addressing a gathering of Ottawa, Huron, and Potawatomie Indians, May 5, 1763

1. What does Chief Pontiac say about...

...how the French treated the Indians?	...how the English treated the Indians?

2. Based on this speech, do you think Pontiac is pleased with the outcome of the French and Indian War? Why or why not?

3. What evidence from the text supports your answer to question 2?

4. What do you predict might happen based on Chief Pontiac's speech?