

Reign of Terror: the Osage Indian Murders

Review Questions



VOCABULARY

A. communal	G. guardian	M. coroner	R. accomplice
B. mineral rights	H. ward	N. death certificate	S. life insurance
C. headright	I. incentive	O. collusion	T. diaspora
D. royalty	J. corruption	P. bribery	U. depravity
E. boom town	K. embezzlement	Q. prosecute	
F. oil & gas lease	L. fraud		

- _____ a town that experiences a sudden growth in business and population
- _____ an official who investigates violent, sudden, or suspicious deaths
- _____ official statement signed by a physician of the cause, date, and place of a person's death
- _____ each Osage's inheritable right to an ownership share of mineral interest (oil income)
- _____ the right to mine or produce underground minerals such as oil and gas, and rocks
- _____ insurance that pays out a sum of money at the end of the life of the insured person
- _____ regular payment to mineral right owner based on volume of oil extracted
- _____ institute legal proceedings against (a person or organization)
- _____ a person who helps another commit a crime
- _____ the scattering or dispersion of people from their homeland
- _____ legal agreement giving an oil and gas company (lessee) and its crew access to drill for oil and gas on the property of the lessor.
- _____ the person who has the legal authority and duty to care for the property interests of another person, called his/her ward.
- _____ a person who has a guardian appointed by the court to manage his/her property
- _____ generally, the use of a position of power for dishonest or criminal purposes
- _____ using deception, a trick or dishonest means to deprive another of their money or property
- _____ taking of money or property by someone to whom it was entrusted
- _____ moral corruption; wickedness
- _____ paying an official to influence his actions (i.e. not prosecute, falsify a document, etc.)
- _____ a community co-owning property without individual private ownership
- _____ a motivation or encouragement, almost an invitation- to do something
- _____ secret or illegal cooperation together, especially in order to cheat or deceive others

Source of Wealth: Reserved Mineral Rights

- The Osage kept communal ownership of their mineral rights so the rights would not be _____ or _____.

Oil Boom - Million Dollar Elm

2. Tell one fact or result from the Oil Boom era:

License to Steal - Corrupt Guardians

3. Why did the government create the guardianship system for the Osage?

4. How did this system “backfire”? _____

5. Tell one way that corrupt guardians stole from their wards:

Murders - the Reign of Terror

6. Why did the killers murder the Osage?

7. How were the murders covered up?

8. What were some of the methods of murder?

Lack of Justice

9. Why weren't the murderers prosecuted?

10. Who were three kinds of officials who got “blood money”? _____

11. What happened to local white people who tried to stop the murders?

12. Who finally helped bring a few of the murderers to justice? _____

13. How do you think the Osage people felt during this time?

14. Write a short personal response essay on this topic: What can we learn from seeing what happened to the Osage during this time?