Shingas, a Delaware Speaks

Background: Following Washington's defeat at Fort Necessity, some Ohio Valley Indians continued to support the English. Yet the Ohio Indians eventually went to war against the British. Shingas, a Delaware leader, explained why in a speech to white prisoners in 1757. His words were recorded by Charles Stuart, who was taken prisoner three months after Braddock's defeat.

Shingas:
Riseing up From his seat with Appearance of Deep Concern on his Countenance he addressed his Prisoners with Great Solemnity[,] Telling them that he was sorry For what had happened Between them and the English But that the English and not the Indians were the Cause of the Present War...[H]e then Proceeded to give Account of those Causes and said...That he with 5 other Chiefs of the Delaware[,] Shawnee & Mingo Nations (Being 2 from Each Nation) had applied to General Braddock and Enquired what he intended to do with the Land [the Ohio Country] if he Could drive the French and their Indians away To which Braddock replied that the English Shoud Inhabit & Inherit the Land, on which Shingas asked General Braddock whether the Indians that were Friends to the English might not be Permitted to Live and Trade Among the English and have Hunting Ground sufficient to Support themselves and Familys as they had no where to Flee Too But into the Hands of the French and their Indians who were their Enemies (that is, Shingas' Enemies).

On which General Braddock said that No Savage Should Inherit the Land.... [After asking him again on the following day and receiving the same answer,] Shingas and the other Chiefs answered That if they might not have Liberty To Live on the Land they would not Fight for it[.] To which General Braddock answered that he did not need their Help and had No doubt of driveing the French and their Indians away.

On which Shingas with the other Chiefs went away from General Braddock.... [The chiefs returned to their people some of whom immediately joined the French. Others remained neutral and waited to see what would happen when Braddock fought the French.] But after the French had ruined Braddocks Army[,] they immediately compelled the Indians To join them and let them know that if they refused they wou'd Immediately cut them off, On which the Indians Joined the French for their Own Safety...They However sent Captain Jacobs [another Delaware chief] with some other Indians to Philadelphia to hold a Treaty with the Government But on their returning home From Philadelphia without meeting with the necessary Encouragement the Indians agreed To Come out with the French and their Indians in Parties to Destroy the English Settlements....

Source: Bond, Beverly W. Jr. "The Captivity of Charles Stuart, 1755-57," *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, Vol. 13, No. 1 (Jun., 1926), pp. 58-81.

Guiding Questions:

1. Why did King Shingas refuse to aid Braddock?
2. What did King Shingas and his do after Braddock's defeat at the Monongahela?
3. How did Braddock's defeat change relationships among British colonists and Indians of the Ohio Valley?

Shingas, a Delaware Speaks

Inhabit: live in
Inherit: take over

Liberty: freedom or independence

compelled: forced

Settlements a person in a business or of people in a new region

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Guiding Questions:

1. Should we trust Charles Stuart?

2. What will General Braddock do with the land after he defeats the French?

3. What does Shirgas want?

4. How does General Braddock treat Shirgas and other Indian chiefs?

5. Why does Shirgas and other chiefs attack the English?

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Countenance appearance, expression on one's face
Solemnity seriousness

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