

Name - _____

Date- _____

Class- _____

Canassatego – In His Own Words

Canassatego was a chief of the Onondaga Nation and a diplomat for the Iroquois Confederacy. In 1740, Benjamin Franklin printed excerpts from Canassatego's speeches. As you read Canassatego's speech, underline the main ideas from the text and try to understand his position on the relationship between the Iroquois people and the local colonists. Be sure to keep track of Canassatego's point of view and describe your own thoughts as you fill in the chart below.

. . . We know our lands are now become more valuable: the white people think we do not know their value; but we are sensible that the land is everlasting, and the few goods we receive for it are soon worn out and gone. For the future we will sell no lands but when Brother Onas [the proprietor of Pennsylvania] is in the country; and we will know beforehand the quantity of the goods we are to receive. Besides, we are not well used with respect to the lands still unsold by us. Your people daily settle on these lands, and spoil our hunting. . . .

If you have not done anything, we now renew our request, and desire you will inform the person whose people are seated on our lands, that that country belongs to us, in right of conquest; we having bought it with our blood, and taken it from our enemies in fair war. . . .

It is customary with us to make a present of skins whenever we renew our treaties. We are ashamed to offer our brethren so few; but your horses and cows have eat the grass our deer used to feed on. This has made them scarce, and will, we hope, plead in excuse for our not bringing a larger quantity: if we could have spared more we would have given more; but we are really poor; and desire you'll not consider the quantity, but, few as they are, accept them in testimony of our regard. . . .

Our wise forefathers established union and amity between the Five Nations. This has made us formidable. This has given us great weight and authority with our neighboring nations. We are a powerful Confederacy, and by your observing the same methods our wise forefathers have taken you will acquire fresh strength and power; therefore, whatever befalls you, do not fall out with one another.

Key Ideas

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Vocabulary & Meanings		Significant “Quotes” and Interpretations
<p><i>Example-</i> “sensible”</p>	<p>- reasonable, understanding, accepting</p>	<p>Quote “ ”</p> <p>I think Canassatego meant</p> <hr/> <p>Quote “ ”</p> <p>I think Canassatego meant</p> <hr/> <p>Quote “ ”</p> <p>I think Canassatego meant</p>
<p>Questions I still have . . .</p>		<p>I think that Canassatego’s statements on the relationship between the Iroquois and the colonists was _____ (convincing /questionable), because</p>