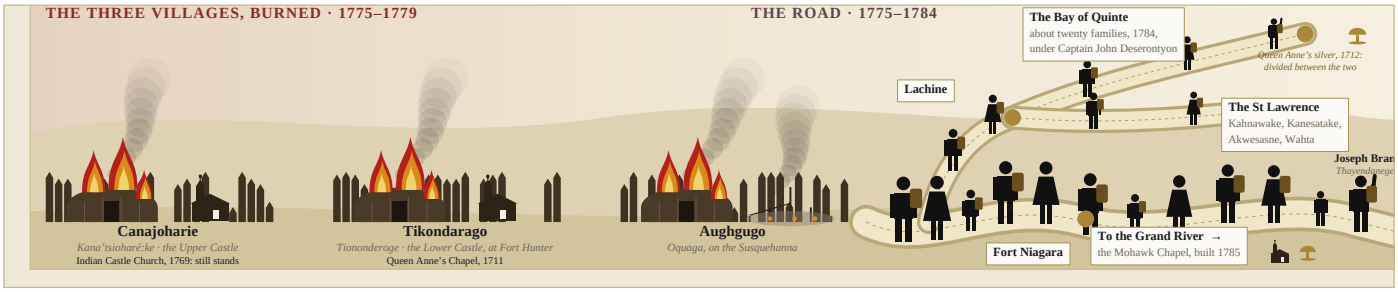
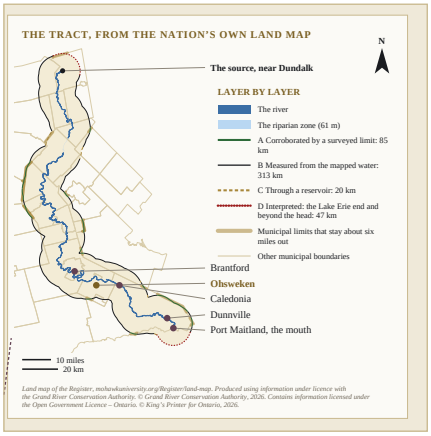
# The Three Villages

*Three villages. One promise. A line that never ends.*




*The three villages burn, and the people take the road: to Fort Niagara and the Grand River, and by Lachine to the Bay of Quinte and the St Lawrence.*




*The Tract, from the Nation's own land map: six miles from each bank of the Grand River, mouth to source. GRCA data.*

**1** **1775 · The promise**

At a council at Montreal, Sir Guy Carleton asks the nations to defend their country, and promises that any losses in the war will be replaced.

**2** **1775–1779 · The loss**

The Mohawks of the Valley withdraw north to fight beside the King's forces. Their villages are occupied or burned: "Ruined by the Rebels".

**3** **1779 · The ask, and the Pledge**

On 7 April the Mohawks of Canajoharie, Tikondarago and Aughgugo ask Haldimand that the promise stand. He ratifies it.

**4** **1783 · The peace**

The Treaty of Paris gives the Mohawk Valley to the United States and says nothing of the villages.

**5** **1784 · The Grand River**

On 25 October Haldimand sets apart six miles each side of the Grand River for the Mohawk Nation and such others of the Six Nations as wish to settle there. A census in 1785 counts 548 Mohawks.

**6** **1789 · The Mark of Honour**

Lord Dorchester marks those who adhered to the Unity of the Empire, and their descendants by either sex, with the letters U.E.

**7** **1796 · The oath**

Simcoe's Register Proclamation: the mark is ascertained on oath before a magistrate.

From the poster The Three Villages, Mohawk's Printer for Grand River, ISBN 978-1-0680559-5-9.
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TEACHER NOTES

# The Three Villages: notes, questions and answers

For ages 12 and up. The handout tells one story in seven steps: a promise made in war, kept in land, and carried by a line of descent that has no edge. It belongs to history, geography and civics. Allow one lesson for the story and the map, and a second for the questions.

## Before you start

Ask: what does a promise mean when the people it was made to can no longer go home? Have the class find the Grand River and the Mohawk Valley on any map, about 500 km apart.

## Questions, with answers

**Why did the Mohawks of the three villages lose their homes?**

They stood by the King in the American Revolution. Their villages were occupied or burned, and the Treaty of Paris of 1783 gave the valley to the United States without a word for them.

**What did Haldimand promise, and when?**

On 7 April 1779 he ratified Sir Guy Carleton's promise of 1775: that the villages would be restored at the government's expense "to the state they were in before".

**Why is the Grand River six miles wide on each side?**

That is what the Proclamation of 25 October 1784 sets apart: six miles deep from each bank, from the mouth at Lake Erie to the source. The Nation's map measures it from the river's own banks.

**Who was the land for?**

"The Mohawk Nation and such others of the Six Nation Indians as wish to settle in that quarter", and their posterity, for ever. That sentence names two groups, and it is one reason the villages' people are mistaken for the Six Nations today.

**What is the UE after a name?**

The Mark of Honour. Lord Dorchester ordered in 1789 that those who adhered to the Unity of the Empire, and all their descendants by either sex, be distinguished by the letters U.E.

**Can a descendant living far away still be one of the posterity?**

Yes. The line passes by either sex, in marriage or out of it, wherever a person lives. Most descendants do not know. What matters is the line back to a Loyalist Mohawk of one of the three villages, and a record that proves it.

## Activities

- Trace the road. On the handout's picture, follow one family from a village to the Grand River, and another to the Bay of Quinte. How far did each go? (About 500 km, by Fort Niagara.)
- Read the sentence. Copy the Proclamation's sentence about who the land was for, and underline the two groups it names.
- Count the census. In 1785 there were 1,843 people on the Grand River: 548 Mohawk, 281 Cayuga, 262 Oneida, 145 Onondaga, 109 Tuscarora, 98 Seneca and about 400 others. Draw the figures as a bar.
- Measure six miles. On the Nation's map, find Brantford or Ohsweken and check that the Tract's edge is about ten kilometres from the river.

## Sources

Haldimand's Pledge, 7 April 1779; the Haldimand Proclamation, 25 October 1784; Lord Dorchester's Order in Council, 9 November 1789; Simcoe's Register Proclamation, 6 April 1796; Isabel Thompson Kelsay, Joseph Brant, 1743–1807 (1984), for the census of 1785; Nelson Greene, History of the Mohawk Valley (1925), for the castles; the Register's land map, mohawkuniversity.org/Register/land-map. The National Books of the Mohawk Nation of Grand River, Books I, IV and VI.

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