

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MURAL VIDEO FROM THE INDIANA STATE LIBRARY

Question: When settlers came to Indiana, was the land empty and free for the taking?

Answer: No.

Question: Who was here?

Answer: Native Americans, British, French

Question: Who was fighting in the Revolutionary War and why was it being fought?

Answer: The Americans and the British were fighting because the Americans wanted independence.

Facilitator Note: Even though most people associate the Revolutionary War with the thirteen colonies, the war reached other parts of the country, like the land that would become Indiana, at Fort Sackville.

Question: Before Indiana became a state it was a what?

Answer: Territory

Question: Who can tell me what “Indigenous” means?

Answer: Indigenous means the same thing as “native,” to be born or grown in a particular place.

Facilitator Note: There are many different names for people who lived on the land that became the United States and their decedents, like Native American, Indian, or Indigenous person. Some people like being called a Native American or an Indian, but others don’t like those names and prefer Indigenous person.

Question: Aside from Tecumseh and Mihsihkinaahkwa (Mish-eee-kahn-eee-kwa), do you notice that everyone else in both of the murals is white? Why do you think that is?

Answer: These murals were painted in 1934 when this building was being built. That is well before the Civil Rights movement began, and, in the past, many were only concerned with the stories of white men.

Facilitator Note: Indiana was wishy-washy about the issue of slavery. It was illegal to buy and sell slaves in Indiana, but slaves could be brought into the state that were purchased elsewhere and they remained slaves. In some states, slaves became free as soon as they entered their borders, but Indiana was not one of those states. Before slavery became illegal, free blacks also lived in Indiana, as well as other people of color.

Question: Similarly, the only women found in these murals are symbolic figures representing justice, liberty, and education. There are no actual women from Indiana’s history. Why do you think that is?

Answer: These murals were painted in 1934, just fourteen years after women got the right to vote. At that time, women’s history was not considered important, but women were contributing to Indiana’s history, laws, and industry.

Question: What are natural resources? Can you think of a natural resource that comes from Indiana?

Answer: Natural resources are substances that occur in nature, like wood, water, and minerals, that can be sold. Limestone, sandstone, Walnut wood, wood.

Question: Indiana is well known for farming. What are some of the things Indiana farmers grow?

Answer: Corn, soybeans, peppermint, tomatoes, and watermelon.

Question: Two of the events depicted in *The Winning of the State* took place in the capitol of the Indiana Territory. What was the name of that town?

Answer: Vincennes

Question: Does anyone have any questions for me about the murals?