



## Tecumseh

Tecumseh was born on March 9, 1768, along the Mad River near Springfield, Ohio. His parents were Pucksinwa, a famous Shawnee war chief, and Methotasa. The name Tecumseh means "Panther Passing Across the Sky." His parents chose this name because a meteor or shooting star crossed the sky when he was born.



This is a portrait of Tecumseh, drawn by F. Brigden, circa 1790-1799.

Courtesy of the Ohio Historical Society

His father died in Lord Dunmore's War, which took place along the Ohio River in the spring of 1774. As he grew, Tecumseh learned how to be a warrior from his oldest brother, Chiksika.

Tecumseh began to be concerned that the Native American race was heading toward complete destruction. He was not happy with the way that the white people took control of the land. Tecumseh felt that there should be no sale of land to the white people without the agreement of all tribes. It was at this time that he became a Native American leader, whose purpose was to encourage all natives to unite against the white race. Tecumseh eventually called for violent resistance to white settlement of native land and refused to sign the Treaty of Greenville.

In 1808, to further unite his fellow Native Americans, Tecumseh and his brother Tenskwatawa built a village called Prophetstown. The village was located at the mouth of the Tippecanoe River near the Wabash River in Indiana. When Tecumseh left the town on a six-month trip a raid was planned on Prophetstown. On November 7, 1811, William Henry Harrison, governor of the Indiana Territory, gathered his men to attack the Native Americans. After a two-hour battle, the natives were forced to run away, and Harrison's men burned Prophetstown. This raid is known as the Battle of Tippecanoe.

During the War of 1812, Tecumseh and his followers partnered with the British. The British made Tecumseh a brigadier general. In Ontario, Canada on October 5, 1813 American forces attacked and defeated the Native warriors. Tecumseh was killed early in the battle.

