

Tribalism Notetaking Chart

Use this notetaking chart as a model and a guideline. You may not be able to fit all the information for each group. You are welcome to create some of your own categories. Each person in the group needs one set of notes.

<p style="text-align: center;">The People's Temple</p> <p>Tribal History: What is the origin? How did it come into being?</p> <p>Philosophy or point of view?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group was founded by Rev. Jim Jones in the 1950's in Indiana • Inspired by the ideas of a society that could put an end to racism and poverty • Called the People's Temple, they believed in elements of Christianity along with communist and socialist ideal and racial equality • Started out in Indiana and later moved to California • The temple created a settlement in Guyana in South America that was called Jonestown • Jonestown was seen by Jones as an escape from media scrutiny • The land was leased in 1974
<p>Tribal Bonding What do they have in common? Why are the members a "group"? Does age/gender matter?</p> <p>Rules? Motto?</p> <p>Power: Who controls the tribe? How is power/authority distributed?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The temple claimed to have over 20,000 members, however it is more likely that there were around 3000 to 5000 • Jim Jones controlled the tribe and was pretty much the sole leader • A large number of the population of the temple were African-Americans • The tribe was formed to show an escape from America's problems, especially racism

<p>Rites of Passage and Initiation</p> <p>Membership: How do people become members? Do people join freely? Is there coercion? Intimidation? Manipulation? Can they leave when they like?</p> <p>Initiation Rites and Ceremonies:</p> <p>Oaths of Allegiance:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jones encouraged members to join him in Guyana. By 1978, over 900 people were living there • Members joined freely, but were manipulated and forced into doing many things they didn't agree to • Members could not leave when they tried to escape Jonestown • Members were convinced to come to Jonestown because they were told it was a paradise free of the evils in America • On November 17th, 1978, a US congressman named Leo Ryan went to Jonestown to investigate abuse claims • November 18: members tried to escape with Ryan, but were shot at by temple security. Ryan, 3 journalists, and 1 member died • That evening, all members were forced into drinking grape Kool aid laced with cyanide
<p>Emblems of Allegiance</p> <p>Dress or style: (e.g. uniforms, clothes, tattoos, hair, etc.)</p> <p>Symbolic Objects (e.g. crucifixes, Harley Davidson motorcycles)</p> <p>Food Ceremonies or special diets:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 918 people died in the mass murder/suicide including 276 children • This ceremony, known as the Jonestown Massacre, was the largest deliberate loss of American civilian lives before 9/11 • Their logo shows a star along with the words "People's Temple of the Disciples of Christ" (fig. a)
<p>Making Connections:</p> <p>Is this a positive or negative tribe?</p> <p>Does it contribute to society, civilization or the well being of humans? Is it destructive?</p> <p>Is this a tribe that can go either way? Defend your position?</p> <p>How is this tribe similar or different to the tribalism in Lord of the flies? Give specific examples</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In its early days the temple spent a lot of time assisting the less fortunate, with food, housing, clothing, legal help, etc., which wasn't as common in those days as this kind of thing is today - The temple garnered a reputation for its racial and socioeconomical integration - Exploited the subconscious need for acceptance to brainwash people into suicide, taking the physiological tribalistic mindset and using it in the most negative way

fig. a

