

Jay Silverheels

These questions can help to guide a student's viewing of the Jay Silverheels biography.

1. Why were Canadian Aboriginal families traditionally quite large?
2. List three aspects of life on the reserve where Jay Silverheels grew up.
3. What was the name of Jay's lacrosse team?
4. How did Harry J. Smith get the name Jay Silverheels?
5. Why did Jay leave Edna and Ron?
6. In what newspaper did Jay's modeling debut appear?
7. How did comedian Joe E. Brown help give Jay his Hollywood start?
8. What two adjectives would you use to describe Jay's housemate? Explain.
9. What evidence is there for the argument that Jay went through a "selfish" time?
10. Which character was the first Aboriginal person to star in a network television series?
11. In what ways did the producers of the "Lone Ranger" try to save production costs?
12. Approximately how much was Jay paid per week?
13. Describe Jay's "dressing room" protest. Was it effective? Explain.
14. Why did Tonto originally start speaking in "pidgin" English?
15. What special person did Jay get to see during his visit to Brantford?
16. Identify some major challenges to aboriginal actors today.
17. What organization did Jay found in 1956?
18. Why did Jay choose to create this group?
19. Which of Tonto's famous skills did Jay use in 1974?
20. What prevented Jay from accepting some big Hollywood roles?
21. What tribute to Jay can be found in Hollywood?
22. List three components of Jay's legacy, or three ways that he will be remembered. Which do you think is the most important?