

Napoleon's Exile to Elba

Instructions: Examine the cartoon. Read the background. Answer the questions.



Background: In the early 1800s, Napoleon conquered much of Europe before an alliance of nations eventually defeated him. The treaty that sent Napoleon Bonaparte to the island of Elba was called the Treaty of Fontainebleau, signed in 1814. By this time, Napoleon had been defeated by an alliance consisting of Britain, Prussia, Russia, and Austria. The treaty said that Napoleon had to give up his throne as emperor of France and leave the country. He was exiled to the island of Elba off the coast of Italy. The leaders of the nations that defeated Napoleon were motivated not to execute him, despite his aggression across Europe, for the following reasons: First, killing a former emperor could have made him a martyr, which means people might remember him as a hero and rise up to again go to war. Also, they thought Napoleon was finished politically and no longer a threat. Yet, Napoleon escaped Elba and tried to lead France again. He was defeated at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. He was exiled again, this time to the island of St. Helena. He died there of natural causes in 1821.

1. How did the Treaty of Fontainebleau impact Napoleon?

2. Why didn't the alliance of nations that defeated Napoleon just execute him for the wars he caused?

3. What happened to Napoleon after his exile to the island of Elba?

Answers:**1. How did the Treaty of Fontainebleau impact Napoleon?**

It asserted he had to be exiled to Elba and could no longer lead France.

2. Why didn't the alliance of nations that defeated Napoleon just execute him for the wars he caused?

First, killing a former emperor could have made him a martyr, which means people might remember him as a hero and rise up to again go to war. Also, they thought Napoleon was finished politically and no longer a threat.

3. What happened to Napoleon after his exile to the island of Elba?

Napoleon escaped Elba and tried to lead France again. He was defeated at the Battle of Waterloo and exiled again, this time to the island of St. Helena. He died there of natural causes in 1821.