

# Westward Expansion – Impact on Native Americans

**MAIN IDEA:** Native American life changed dramatically as a result of Westward expansion

## ***I. How did Westward Expansion impact Native Americans?***

### **Impact on Native Americans #1: Forced to Reservations & Government Breaks Treaties**

#### **Forced to Move to Reservations**

- Settlers felt justified in taking Native Americans land because they felt they were making the land more productive
- Treaties forced millions of Native Americans onto reservations
- Reservation: a small piece of government land set aside for Native Americans.

#### **Government Breaks Treaties**

- After tribes made treaties that relocated them to reservations, the US Government and settlers frequently broke these treaties and took even more land from Native Americans

### **Impact on Native Americans #2: Killing the Buffalo**

- Deliberate reduction of buffalo herds to force them to move off their hunting grounds to reservations

### **Impact on Native Americans #3: Lifestyle changes because of forced Assimilation**

- Assimilation: to blend into another culture to accept that culture as one's own
- Efforts to get Native Americans to become settled farmers - settlers wanted the land to be used more “productively”
- Dawes Act - Reservation land was divided into 160 acre plots and given to individual families to farm for a profit
- Missionaries attempted to convert Native Americans to Christianity
- Indian Boarding Schools - Children were sent to schools to focus on skills such as carpentry and housekeeping
- Native Americans were not considered citizens until 1924

## II. How did Native Americans Respond to Westward Expansion?

- American Indians previously occupied the west and viewed settlers as invaders.
- Many heroic American Indians made courageous efforts to save their people.

### THREE HEROIC LEADERS:

#### **Sitting Bull and the Battle of Little Bighorn**

Name of the tribe: Sioux (Lakota)

Circle one: **FOUGHT** or RAN

- Gold was discovered on the Sioux Reservation in South Dakota.
- Many Sioux (Lakota), including Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse, refused to go to a reservation to Montana.
- General George Custer and U.S. troops were sent to drive the Native Americans back to their reservation.
- They met 2,000+ warriors (largest Indian force ever gathered in the Plains)
- Custer was killed

#### **Massacre at Wounded Knee**

- After Custer was defeated at Little Bighorn, U.S. Army was sent in to attack American Indians.
- **Sitting Bull** was killed along with 120, 230 women and children at a creek called **Wounded Knee**
- Massacre at Wounded Knee was the last major episode of violence in Native American wars.

#### **Chief Joseph**

Name of the tribe: Nez Percé

Circle one: FOUGHT or **RAN**

- Nez Percé were forced onto a reservation in Idaho
- Chief Joseph led a group of 750 Native Americans out of Idaho and escaped toward Canada
- US troops were ordered to bring Native Americans back to the reservation.
- Chief Joseph and other were caught and surrendered at Bear's Paw Mountain.

#### **Geronimo**

Name of the tribe: Apache

Circle one: **FOUGHT** or RAN

- Geronimo, a tribal leader, in the Southwest region.
- Geronimo fought against Mexico and the United States settlers.
- Apache believed he had special powers - walk without leaving tracks
- After many battles, Apache were forced to surrender to U.S. in 1886 in Arizona.
- His name is a synonym for bravery