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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chief Joseph</th>
<th>Geronimo</th>
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<tr>
<td>Name of the tribe: <strong>Nez Percé</strong></td>
<td>Name of the tribe: <strong>Apache</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Nez Percé were forced onto a reservation in Idaho</td>
<td>- Geronimo, a tribal leader, in the <strong>Southwest</strong> region.</td>
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<td>- Chief Joseph led a group of 750 Native Americans out of Idaho and escaped toward <strong>Canada</strong></td>
<td>- Geronimo fought against Mexico and the United States settlers.</td>
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<td>- US troops were ordered to bring Native Americans back to the reservation.</td>
<td>- Apache believed he had special powers - walk without leaving tracks</td>
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<td>- Chief Joseph and other were caught and surrendered at Bear’s Paw Mountain.</td>
<td>- After many battles, Apache were forced to surrender to U.S. in 1886 in Arizona.</td>
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<td>- His name is a synonym for <strong>bravery</strong></td>
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