

8-3 Native Americans

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Culture of the Plains Indians

- Some settled and cultivated the land
- Others lived as nomads
- Main food source was buffalo
- Indian nations divided themselves into bands
- Bands of 500 were headed by councils
- Men hunted, traded, and supervised military life
- Women raised children, cooked, and prepared hides
- Religion consisted of a belief of spiritual power in nature



Under Pressure

- Ranchers, miners, and farmers competed for same lands
- Treaties would guarantee lands, then be broken
- Raiding of coaches and ranches would occur
- Major conflicts began with the Dakota Sioux Uprising of 1862
- Dakota Sioux agreed to live on a reservation in Minnesota in exchange for annuities

- 1862, Congress delayed annuities
- The Sioux, starving, were denied assistance or credit by traders
- Chief Little Crow led the uprising
- Hundreds of settlers died before US troops arrived to put down the uprising
- 38 Dakota Sioux were sentenced to death



Lakota Sioux

- The US Army sent patrols into the Northern Great Plains following the 1862 uprising
- Brought troops into contact with the Lakota Sioux
- They wanted to keep their hunting grounds
- Led by Red Cloud, Crazy Horse, and Sitting Bull
- Red Cloud's forces attack and defeat a US Army attachment in Wyoming, Dec 1866
- Crazy Horse lured about 80 troops from the fort and into the trap set
- Fetterman's Massacre

Sand Creek Massacre

- Tensions in 1860s were rising in Colorado between miners/traders and the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes
- By mid 1860s, trade had come to a halt as wagons and settlers were being attacked
- Colorado governor John Evans called for the Native Americans to surrender at Fort Lyon
- November 1864, Chief Black Kettle brought a force of Cheyenne to the fort to negotiate
- They were told to go make camp at Sand Creek to await further instructions
- Instead, a force of army volunteers were ordered to attack them
- 14 soldiers died and between 69 and 600 Cheyenne

Indian Peace Commission

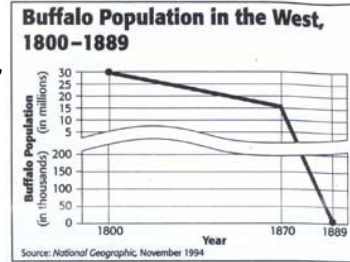
- Both conflicts convinced Congress something needed to be done
- 1867 formed the IPC which proposed to create two large reservations on the Plains
- 1-Sioux, 2-Other Plains Indians
- Chiefs were pressured to sign treaties with no guarantee from either side that hostilities would cease
- Bureau of Indian Affairs was to run the reservations but was highly corrupt

Answer #2

- What factors lead to growing distrust and violence between the groups of Native Americans and the government's forces?

The Fall of the Buffalo

- Buffalo were rapidly disappearing from the Plains
- Due in part to migration of settlers, gold and silver rushes
- After the Civil War, professional buffalo hunters killed off vast numbers of them for their hides or sport
- Railroad companies hired hunters to kill off buffalo that obstructed rail lines
- Seen as a positive way to get Native Americans to go to reservations instead of nomadic life



NATIVE AMERICANS IN THE WEST: MAJOR BATTLES AND RESERVATIONS

Battle of the Little Big Horn

- 1876, gold is discovered in the Black Hills in South Dakota
- Also the site of a Lakota Sioux reservation
- Miners disregard treaty, so the Lakota do as well
- Army responds by sending in troops
- June 25, 1876, expedition led by Lt Col George Custer launches an attack in broad daylight at Little Big Horn River
- Against a force of 2,500 Lakota and Cheyenne warriors
- Custer's force of 210, including Custer, are all killed
- Army sends in more troops, Sitting Bull flees to Canada

Wounded Knee

- Indian resistance came to an end in 1890
- The Lakota Sioux had been performing a Ghost Dance
- Belief of day when settlers disappear, buffalo return, and Native Americans reunite with their ancestors
- US government had ordered the Sioux to stop the Ghost Dance, and they refused
- Sitting Bull, returned from Canada, was blamed for the defiance
- Police went to arrest him
- In the resistance Sitting Bull was shot



- Those that were left fled
- US troops went after them
- Dec 29, 1890 troops caught up at Wounded Knee Creek
- Trying to disarm the Sioux, gunfire opened up
- 25 US soldiers died and 200 Lakota men, women, and children



Answer #3

- What was the ghost dance?
- Why did the US government's officials feel it needed to be stopped?

Assimilation

- Some believed the only solution was for the Native Americans to assimilate into American society
- Necessary to break up reservations and provide allotments for settlement
- 1887, Dawes Act
- Said for each household to get 160 acres, single would get 80 acres, 40 for children
- Remaining land would be sold to settlers
- Many Native Americans could not make profit on small acreage or did not have training to farm
- Assimilation proved to be a failure
- Buffalo were nearly wiped out
- Native American way of life was gone

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Idaho	17,911.00	24.45	Oregon	1,816.00	13.45
Kansas	1,694.00	23.45	South Dakota	120,445.00	14.55
Minnesota	11,054.00	9.96	Washington	4,479.00	41.37
Montana	5,642.00	26.65	Wisconsin	1,069.00	17.00
North Dakota	22,620.00	9.91	Wyoming	86,500	26.64

FOR THE YEAR 1901 IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 350,000 ACRES WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE

WALTER L. FISHER, ROBERT G. VALENTINE,

Answer #4

- Describe various events that brought the way of life of the Plains Indians to an end.