

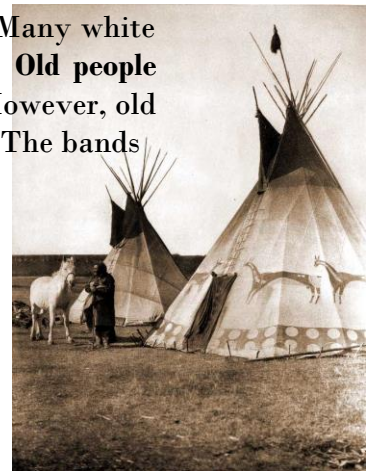
THE AMERICAN WEST, 1865-1895

The lifestyle of the Indians *topic 1*

The Plains and their original settlement – the plains themselves were flat, had a lack of trees, very windy and had a lack of water. Originally The Indians had come from Siberia across the great ice sheet through Alaska and then settled on the plains. Once The Indians acquired horses from Spanish invaders their lifestyle changed to one of hunting instead of farming and they were given much more mobility.

Tipi – Crucial to the survival of the Indians was their homes, the Tipi. It was made from Buffalo skins (held together with pegs) and owned by the women in tribe. It could be taken down and packed for transport in 10 minutes! This was ideal for Indians who were always on the move. The Tipi would also have flaps which could be opened to let out smoke or let in cool air during the summer. In winter it was warm as it had a fire in the middle and the floor was covered with furs. It was conical shaped which allowed resistance to strong winds. The tipi would also be beautifully designed with patterns and paintings of hunts and acts of bravery.

Family life – Most Indians lived within bands of approx 10 – 50 families. A **mans** role was to hunt, look after horses, and protect the women and children from attackers. Young Indian men would have to impress women with their bravery, skill and ability to provide horses (which showed how much he loved her and his ability to provide for a family). If he did this she might take his hand in marriage! **Women** were judged by their skills in crafts and in making a good home life. Women would prepare food and fetch water. They were highly respected as the bearers of children. Sometimes **Polygamy** existed as many men died during hunts and warfare and it was important for all women to be cared for. Divorces occurred but women kept the Tipi!! **Children** were highly valued as they were seen as the future and they needed to learn the life skills essential for survival e.g. using a bow, riding horses, making Tipi's. Many white commentators described Indian children as being wild and disobedient!! **Old people** were respected for their wisdom and advice and helped educate children. However, old people who were too weak would be left behind when the band moved on!! The bands survival was more important.



Tipi

Organisation was crucial for the survival of the plains Indians. There was a very strong sense of custom and tradition. E.g. if a person was caught stealing they would be shamed and humiliated in front of the band. **Chiefs** were not elected but usually became so because of their wisdom, spiritual power and skill as warriors and hunters. Important decisions were taken at **council** meetings where there were discussions until an agreement was made. While they talked the men would smoke as they felt this informed the spirit world. Indian culture was very democratic. **Warrior societies** were responsible for supervising hunting, travelling and protecting the band.

The Buffalo was extremely important to the Sioux Indians! Before a hunt they would do the *Buffalo Dance* which they believed called the spirit world and made the buffalo come closer to the tribe. Before there were horses Indians would **hunt** the buffalo by dressing up in wolf skins, creeping closer and shooting arrows at them. The Sioux would also *stampede* the buffalo so that they were driven over cliffs and killed. However, with the introduction of horses the Sioux were able to kill far greater numbers of buffalo. Warriors would gain honour and prestige from their skill in hunting as it was a dangerous task. The buffalo was **important to the Sioux for many reasons.**

- It was the main source of food for the Indians.
- The *rawhide* allowed clothes and the Tipi to be made.
- Fat was used for cooking, soap and for hair grease.
- Bones were used for arrowheads, brushes, tools and paint.
- The skull was used in religious ceremonies.
- Dung was used for fuel
- Hooves were used to make glue



Warriors

Warfare was an essential part of Sioux life. It mainly took the form of raids which were done to steal horses and seek revenge. There was often rivalry about living space and hunting areas. Warriors would decorate their body with paint for protection and also decorate their shields.

Fighting was an opportunity for men to prove their bravery and gain personal glory so they might attract a wife. They might be able to capture horses and weapons. Indians did not consider it heroic to die in battle. It was more important to stay alive and protect their family. War was very much like a ritual where **counting coup** (touching the enemy) was considered braver. Hunting actually caused more casualties. **Scalping** was done so that there was evidence of their success. A scalp would also be hung as a trophy. An enemy was scalped so that he could not seek revenge on you in the afterlife. *Mutilation* of the body was done for this reason as well.

Religion was also an integral part of Sioux life. Indians believed in the Great Spirit called Wakan Tanka which had created all life on Earth. The Sioux believed spirits could influence their lives. They believed in a **circle** of nature e.g. birth, childhood, adulthood, old age, second childhood and death, the circle of the horizon, the sun, the tipi. To the Sioux the land was **sacred** and they referred to it as their mother. As a result no one could own it! **The black hills** were sacred because they took their dead there for burial and because they were high and close to the spirit world. The Sioux were prepared to fight to the death over their sacred lands. The Sioux would contact the spirit world through the use of **visions** which they would gain from going to a *sweat lodge*. They would also starve before and then have their vision interpreted by the medicine man to gain their name. Women were especially respected for their ability to attain visions, especially when they menstruated at puberty. Visions also helped give Sioux warriors information about future battles. **Dances and ceremonies** were used to contact the spirit world e.g. to help a sick relative. *The Sun Dance* was used as a punishing test to test if a man could become a warrior.

The **medicine man** was believed to be able to cure sickness because he could use the power of the spirits. Medicine men also provided practical remedies with herbs which could cure illness. They were consulted about every aspect of tribal life e.g. war, and would give out **charms** to help protect a person's life. Plains Indians were mostly very fit because of their active life and there was no threat of pollution.

The Settlement of the plains *topic 2*

The Indians and white settlers had very different attitudes to land. The settlers believed they could own the land and they came to plough land and dig mines for one reason; wealth. They had no appreciation of the Indians beliefs and simply regarded them as savages. In many cases the Indians would not even negotiate with the U.S. government. White Americans believed in **manifest destiny**; that it was their God given right to conquer the plains and be a shining example to the rest of the world. Many people went to settle on the plains for various reasons, e.g.

- government offer of free land
- The aspect of adventure
- Advertising by railroad companies – Building of the *railways* and the growth of *stage coaches* helped travelling and settlement of the plains
- Europeans hoping to escape poverty
- Ex-slaves hoping to escape racism and persecution
- The building of trans-continental railroads that made it easy to get to the plains. They even sold land at each side of the tracks.

The **Timber culture Act of 1873** offered settlers 160 acres of free land
The **Desert Land Act of 1877** offered settlers 640 acres of land

The homesteaders moved on to the plains in order to farm the land. However, there were certain **problems** about living on the plains. The only available building material was earth due to a lack of trees. It was hard to stop them leaking. *Sod houses* were difficult to keep clean and were often infested with mice, fleas and snakes. *Disease* was naturally a common problem. This was because there was a shortage of water as well. Life was uncomfortable because of the *extremes of weather* e.g. cold winters, howling winds. There was a lack of fuel so the homesteaders had to use cow 'chips'.



Farming on the plains was very difficult. Lack of water could cause crops to fail and result in starvation. Drought in summer and cold in winter could destroy crops. *Ploughing* the land was difficult because of dense grass roots which often broke ploughs! It was hard to protect crops from straying Buffalo and there were often disputes over land boundaries. In the summer it was easy for crops to catch fire and grasshoppers might even eat them away!

Solutions to the homesteaders problems allowed them to survive. They adapted to the environment. *Windmills* were invented that pumped water from out of the ground. More and more land was ploughed so that a *surplus* of crops could be grown and then sold for a profit which allowed them to buy better equipment. They replaced corn with *hard winter wheat* and also kept animals (sheep + cattle). *Barb wire* was also very important in protecting crops from buffalo and stray cattle. From the 1880s new types of machinery enabled the homesteaders to farm larger areas of land e.g. *sod busters* could plough tough grass roots.

Women homesteaders had a hard life with many responsibilities. E.g. cooking for the family in harsh weather. Planting crops, collecting ‘cattle chips’ for fuel, teaching children, moving cattle away from crops, making soap and candles, making and repairing clothes, killing snakes!

How did the cattle industry develop?

Cattle were first brought to America by Europeans. The best breed was the hardy Texas Longhorns. Beef became a very popular food! At first the only way to sell cattle was to **drive** them to the markets in the eastern states. The Cattle ranchers often had problems from homesteaders (who might block them) who did not want their cattle infected with a disease called ‘Texas fever’. **Charles Goodnight** pioneered the idea of selling cattle to the U.S. army and Indian reservations. The main markets however remained in the eastern states. The solution = the railroads. **Cow towns** such as Abilene were created and used as shipping points for cattle to be taken east on the trains. **Cattle Drives** were often dangerous for the **cowboys** who looked after the cattle. They would face the threat of Indians, stampedes, hard rain, violent winds and freezing temperatures, threat of lightning, sun stroke, drowning in rivers and quite often a lack of food! Men could die of exhaustion.

The development of ranching on the plains

Ranching was seen as a solution to the blocking of cattle routes by the homesteaders. It was successful because

- The U.S. army had defeated the Plains Indians.
- There were hardly any Buffalo left on the plains.
- The winter on the plains would kill disease carrying ticks on the cattle.
- Railroads could take cattle to markets and *refrigerated* rail cars enabled this.
- Experiments in cattle breeding made the ‘Texas Longhorns’ better meat

Open range ranching often caused problems of establishing ownership of cattle and the fact that lots of cattle theft occurred. Branding was often used to deter rustlers. Open range ranching however ended with the winter of 1886-87. There were pressures on stocks of grass due to too many cattle and droughts. Demand for beef in the east began to fall. The winter was also extremely severe and killed thousands of cattle. The result was bankruptcy. Smaller, fenced off ranches were the only alternative and the life of the cowboy was destroyed forever. They led a boring life looking after cattle, patrolling the fences and shooting predatory wolves.



The Cattle drive

The Early Pioneers-The Mountain Men

The **Oregon Trail** was an important 2,000-mile (3,200 km) historic east-west wagon route that connected the Missouri River to valleys in Oregon and locations in between. It flourished from the 1840s until the coming of the railroad at the end of the 1860s. The trip on foot took four to six months. It was the oldest of the northern commercial trails and was originally discovered and used by *fur trappers* and traders in the fur trade from about 1811 to 1840. In its earliest days much of the future Oregon Trail was not passable to wagons but was passable everywhere only to men walking or riding horses. The coming of the railway eventually made its significance less important to settlers. Trading forts like the one at **Fort Laramie** were set up by big companies so that goods could be easily bought and sold by.

Once a year all the fur trappers (**Mountain Men**) agreed to meet at **the annual Rendezvous** where they would meet other traders who would give them guns, knives, whiskey, blankets, tobacco, coffee in return for the fur of beavers. It was also a place where the mountain men would gamble and drink away their money!!

The life of **Mountain Men** was hard and dangerous! They had to survive in the freezing, icy mountains also dodging grizzly bears! They had to adapt themselves to the harsh environment. Sometimes they even resorted to cannibalism. Some Indians were hostile but others more friendly and some of the men married Indian women. They would often give the Indians alcohol. They wore leather and furs to keep themselves warm and their hair was usually long and untidy. Eventually they moved out of the mountains as the Beaver population was decimated and their furs no longer popular anymore.



A MOUNTAIN MAN

The Mormons

Joseph Smith was the man who claimed to have had a vision from GOD in the form of a great white light. He was given gold plates that told how Jesus had visited America. Smith eventually founded the faith of Mormonism and with his charisma and great public speaking he gained many followers. In towns like Kirtland and Nauvoo the Mormons faced persecution and attacks; their temples destroyed. Part of the suspicion towards Mormons was because of their practice of *Polygamy* where the men had more than one wife. Smith was arrested and while in jail shot dead by an angry mob.



JOSEPH SMITH AND HIS FAMILY!!

The new leader *Brigham Young* decided to take his people west on the *Oregon Trail* and settle away from all the violence at the *Great Salt Lake*. Young was well prepared and the journey went well. However their first winter staying on the Missouri River saw the Mormons struggling in cold, draughty cabins while there was a shortage of fuel and food. 700 people died. Eventually they got to Salt Lake and Young was able to stop any quarrels over land. A great, successful city was built up. The Mormons dug irrigation ditches which allowed water to grow their crops and everybody was given jobs and responsibilities to work for the entire community.



SALT LAKE CITY

The Wild West!



A massive population growth of settlers was one of the main reasons why conflict arose on the plains. Towns quickly spread which meant that there was little provision of law and order. Towns like **Abilene** on the cattle drive trail were often places of trouble. Cowboys with lots of money flooded the population of the town and there were often scenes of drunken brawling in saloons! Cowboys would use prostitutes and also gamble their money in cards. It was often too much for Sheriff to cope with!

Conflict between cattle ranchers and homesteaders was often over who owned what land and who had access to it. Homesteaders often tried to stop cattle drives because of the damage to their crops and a fear of TEXAS FEVER infecting their own animals. The ranchers wanted access to water during the cattle drives and this led to quarrels with homesteaders who often fenced off their land and stopped access! Smaller ranchers often resorted to fence cutting so that they were not cut off from access to water.

The Johnson County war was caused by the fear and resentment of *Cattle Barons* over the influx of smaller ranchers and homesteaders into the state of Wyoming. Cattle prices had been falling so competition was fierce! The Cattle Barons accused the homesteaders of rustling their cattle and therefore decided to take the law into their own hands because it was so hard to convict the thieves. They planned a major invasion of Johnson County where there had been ongoing disputes. A death list of 70 names was drawn up and the Barons hired 24 gunfighters to capture the town of Buffalo. The invasion happened in 1892 with the cutting of telegraph wires to isolate Johnson County. However at KC ranch the attack went very badly wrong when Nate Champion held off the gunfighters all day. The danger was made clear to the people of Buffalo and they managed to corner the invaders until a US cavalry came to arrest them. Decisively the Cattle Barons never had the same power again.

Lawlessness and violence was very common in the West. Why?

- **Geographical factors** – The vast area of the west made it hard to enforce the law. Transportation was also very slow.
- **Political factors** – New towns sprang up so quickly and there was a shortage of reliable law enforcement officers. Politicians did not think spend enough money on employing and training more officers.
- **Social factors** – There were sources of conflict between different ethnic groups. After the American Civil War many soldiers found it hard adjusting to civilian life.
- **Values and attitudes** – The West was dominated by a primitive code of honour. Most men carried guns and would be happy to settle disputes through the use of violence.
- **Economic factors** – sources of conflict between economic groups e.g. cattle Barons and small ranchers, miners and hunters.

Types of Crime

- **Bank Robbery** – Ex-soldiers from the American Civil War turned to bank robbery. *The James Younger Gang* carried out a series of robberies between 1866 and 1882. Their raid in Northfield, Minnesota, 1876, went badly wrong as the townspeople armed themselves and fought back. Some of them were killed.
- **Cattle Rustling** – Brand marks could be altered and young cattle were often stolen before they were branded so a cowboy could start up his own ranch.
- **Fence cutting** – The cattle Barons tried to enclose vast areas which caused the homesteaders and ranchers to cut through the fences so that they had access to land and water.
- **Horse stealing** – This was regarded as a serious crime as a horse was regarded as essential for survival on the Great Plains. Hanging was usually the punishment!
- **Racial attacks** – Thousands of Chinese immigrants were victims of racial attacks in mining and cow towns. Blacks, Indians and Mexicans also suffered. At the town of Rock Springs in 1885, 51 Chinese were murdered.
- **Shootings** – Some men became famous as gunfighters although historians disagree about how many people actually died of ‘lead poisoning’.
- **Train robbery** – Between 1870 and 1880 gangs of outlaws regularly robbed trains. *Butch Cassidy and the wild bunch* were so successful that it forced the railroad companies to take counter-measures. E.g. they had to strengthen the doors on the trains and have armed guards. *The Pinkerton Detective Agency* (a private company) were hired and eventually hunted down and killed the gang with the help of Bolivian soldiers.

*Typical whisky drinking saloon.
A place of violence and saloon girls!!*



The forces of law and order

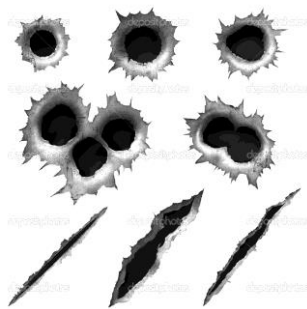
- **US Marshalls** were appointed by the President to oversee a State or territory.
- **Town Marshalls** were appointed by the people of a town on a yearly basis.
- **Sheriffs** were elected by the people of a county but often had to cover too wide an area to be effective.
- **Texas Rangers** were a small army of lawmen employed to enforce the law in the state of Texas.
- **Judges** were appointed by the President. There were too few and often prisoners were lynched before a trial took place.
- There were even strong female role models like **Calamity Jane** who became tough law enforcement officers.

Few men wanted to make a career out of being a lawman as it was poorly paid and very dangerous! Some Sheriffs could also be corrupt.

Vigilantes (people who took the law into their own hands) were a result of the crime and ineffectiveness of the law to protect citizens. They often lynched people who they believed to be guilty of a crime. However many people who were innocent were hanged and there could often be unfair racial bias towards Mexicans when they were 'tried'.

Billy the Kid

Billy's real name was Henry McCarty. Little is known of his early life. He worked as a gunfighter for businessman John Tunstall during the Lincoln county war of 1878. Billy gained a reputation as a top gunfighter and a violent man. He lived as an outlaw until he was eventually hunted down and shot by Sheriff Pat Garrett. A number of myths and legends grew about Billy after his death, E.g. that he killed 21 men, one for each year of his life. There were rumours that he was more of a hero to Mexicans. Most of Billy's violent reputation was created by Dime Novels, inaccurate biographies and scores of Hollywood films.

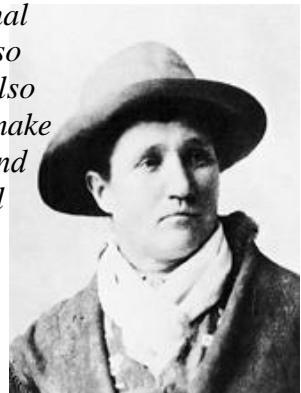


Wild Bill Hickock

Hickock was the town Marshall for Abilene and had been a successful gunfighter. Many of the town's citizens disapproved of him as he got drunk and lived with a lot of prostitutes! Some valued his ruthlessness and success in maintaining law and order but he once killed his own deputy by accident when arguing with another man. Eventually his contract was not renewed and he was shot in the back of the head by Jack McCall who's brother Bill had shot....

Calamity Jane

Calamity Jane (May 1, 1852 – August 1, 1903) was a famous woman, and professional scout best known for her claim of being an acquaintance of Wild Bill Hickock, but also for having gained fame fighting the Indians. She is said to have been a woman who also exhibited kindness and compassion, especially to the sick and needy. This helped to make her famous as well. However she was a tough woman in what was 'a man's world' and proved very good at riding horses and shooting a gun. She was an alcoholic and died because of her heavy drinking.



Jesse James

*Jesse Woodson James (September 5, 1847 – April 3, 1882) was an American Outlaw, gangleader, bank robber, train robber and murderer from the state of Missouri and the most famous member of **The James-Younger gang**. Already a celebrity when he was alive, he became a legendary figure of the Wild West after his death. A myth developed that his gang robbed money and gave to the poor but there is no real evidence of this. Eventually his gang was hunted down and many of them killed by officers of the law. Jesse was shot down while in hiding by one of his friends Bob Ford who did it to claim a reward for the killing!*



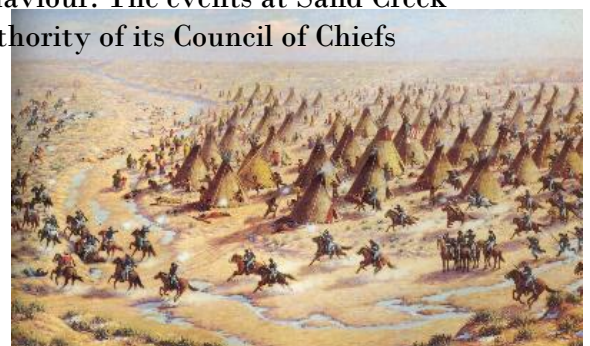
The Battle for the Great Plains topic 3

The conflict between the U.S government and the Indians was inevitable. With the white concept of Manifest Destiny the Indians were seen as occupying land that was wanted by settlers, ranchers and miners. Some Americans believed in **negotiation** with the Indians and an attempt to turn the Indians into good Christian farmers. Some believed in a policy of **extermination**. They simply wanted to destroy the Indians because they were considered savages and believed the U.S army should do the job.

The Sioux went to war with the Americans because The U.S government often broke peace treaties (such as *the Fort Laramie treaty of 1868* which gave the Indians possession of The Black Hills) with Indians when they failed to stop white settlers moving into Indian territory. Obviously the Sioux attacked the settlers who were then protected with force by the U.S army. The result was bloodshed and often the defeat of the Indians.

The Sand Creek Massacre

The Sand Creek Massacre was an incident in the Indian Wars that occurred in 1864, when a 700-man force of US soldiers attacked and destroyed a village of friendly Cheyenne and Arapho encamped in southeastern Colorado, killing and mutilating an estimated 70–163 Indians, about two-thirds of whom were women and children. Discovery of gold in the Rocky Mountains led to an influx of settlers which triggered many Cheyenne to attack them. In response US soldiers started attacking Cheyenne camps. Under the orders of Colonel John Chivington soldiers deliberately attacked a village at Sand Creek. This was an example of **TOTAL WAR** where civilians are also attacked. The massacre caused revenge attacks by the Cheyenne. However many white Americans were appalled at their army's behaviour. The events at Sand Creek damaged the traditional Indian system and the authority of its Council of Chiefs



Red Cloud's War (1865-68)

This started when gold miners broke a peace treaty and moved into the Rocky Mountains of Montana and built new towns such as Virginia City. The Sioux led by chief Red Cloud attacked the settlers. Negotiations started at first but then collapsed when the U.S army began to build a chain of forts along the *Oregon Trail*. The Indian warriors besieged the forts killing many U.S soldiers but suffering heavy casualties due to superior U.S firepower. Eventually an agreement was made and Settlers were not allowed to enter sacred Sioux land. The U.S Army had lost! HOWEVER, The Fort Laramie Treaty required the Sioux to live on *The Great Sioux Reservation*. Unlike Chief Red Cloud many Sioux did not agree with this treaty. Moving onto the Reservation slowly destroyed the Indians culture and moved them out of the way of white settlers.

The Great Sioux War (1876-77)

General Custer led a cavalry division into The Black Hills to protect the miners who were hungry for GOLD. The U.S government offered the Sioux 6,000,000 for The Black Hills. The Sioux refused because they were seen as sacred. The Sioux led by the fiery and charismatic **Sitting Bull** refused to go on the reservation. **Sitting Bull** proved himself to be an extraordinary leader who united the Indians to fight the U.S army. He defeated Custer at the **battle of Little Bighorn**. However a determined U.S military mounted a successful campaign against Sitting Bull. 2 new forts were built on the Yellowstone River and fresh reinforcements sent west. The various bands that had massacred Custer's men had now split up and were each relentlessly hunted and attacked throughout the autumn and winter. The Indians were outnumbered, burdened by protecting their women and children, short on ammunition and supplies. They simply gave in and returned to the reservation....**Chief Crazy Horse** had also by 1877 surrendered to the US Army. The armed resistance of the Sioux was finally over.



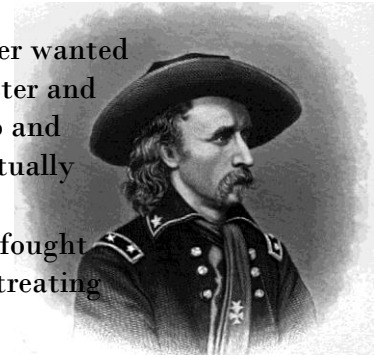
Chief Sitting Bull

The battle of the Little Bighorn 1876

American artists and writers have portrayed Little Big Horn as a heroic last stand by Custer and the U.S cavalry. However, it was the worst defeat of the U.S army by the Sioux Indians. Custer has often been described as an arrogant glory seeker who risked the lives of his men with reckless tactics. The original aim had been to trap Crazy horse and the Indians between 3 different US armies. Things went wrong for various reasons:

- There were no serious attempts to find out how many Indians there were. The U.S army underestimated the Strength of the Indians.
- When ordered to approach the Little Big Horn River Custer *refused* the offer of 180 extra men and Gatling guns.

- Custer then disobeyed orders and ensured that he arrived at The Little Big Horn a day early and before the other U.S armies. By doing this he had exhausted his men and their horses.
- Custer then split his own small force into 3 other separate units. Custer wanted the glory for himself in destroying Crazy Horse's force. However, Custer and his 260 men were cut off from the rest of his men led by Major's Reno and Benteen. All of the U.S soldiers were massacred. The Indians were actually better armed than the U.S cavalymen with better rifles.
- The brilliant leadership of Chief CRAZY HORSE used tactics which fought the Americans head on instead of attempting an ambush and then retreating to protect their families. This took the US army by surprise!



Why were the Indians finally defeated?

- **The destruction of the Buffalo herds** increased as more settlers came onto the Plains. The Buffalo were hunted for food (to feed the workers who built the rail lines) but also for sport when special excursion trains were run so that white people could shoot them. Buffalo habitat was also destroyed by farmers. The Buffalo was also hunted for the high quality leather that could be got from them. *Bone pickers* also wanted the Buffalo so that the bones could be ground into fertiliser and glue. = clearly The Indians were losing their food supply and slowly starving!!
- **Strength of U.S Army.** Ultimately the U.S Army had more soldiers than the Indians. They had the advantage of superior firepower, strong forts, artillery and rifles. The strategy of **Total War** which meant attacking the entire Sioux population was extremely effective. All animals, shelter, clothing was destroyed which made the Indians starve. The Sioux were also vulnerable to **winter campaigns** led by the U.S Army as they needed to conserve their food and stay in one place due to the freezing temperatures. The Indian tribes were often *divided* and helped the U.S Army fight their own people. The U.S Army also had a more effective officer command structure where orders were obeyed



The site of Custer's last stand....

- **The Reservations** were probably the final factor in destroying Sioux resistance as they became virtual prisoners on them, forced to become farmers. Unable to drive the white settlers out, defeat the U.S Army and basically starving from the lack of Buffalo many Indians were compelled to go into the protection of the reservation system. However, the land was usually of bad quality so the Indians were forced to live off government hand-outs of food which was demoralising.... **Rations** were usually inadequate, Indians were often **murdered**, **diseases** were rife and the Indians had their **weapons taken** from them. *The Sioux were simply too weak to fight back...*

Indian culture was then deliberately and systematically destroyed on the Reservations!!

- *The Sioux were split up into small groups which made them easier to control*
- *The influence of the chief was weakened. The U.S government took control of all legal matters*
- ***The Dawes Act of 1887** allowed Indians to have their own land which in essence destroyed the tribal structure and the power of the chiefs even more.*
- *The Economic foundations of Sioux life was eliminated as they could no longer hunt the Buffalo. The Sioux gradually lost knowledge of the hunt, the Tipi and the prestige of acquiring horses.*
- *Religious dances and ceremonies were banned and the medicine man lost his influence. Christian missionaries filled this spiritual 'gap' in the lives of the Sioux people.*
- *In education Indian children were forced to attend school and learn English which forced them away from their culture and their loyalty to it.*

The Ghost Dance Movement

The misery on the reservations led to an atmosphere of despair from which *The Ghost Dance* movement occurred. In 1889 a holy man named Wovoka received a vision in which he saw the coming of an Indian Messiah who would make all the whites disappear. This movement gained popularity across all the reservation system as the Sioux had their rations cut and their own crops had failed due to drought. The U.S army was called in and a number of Sioux arrested and killed, *Sitting Bull* among them. Others fled with **Chief Big Foot** but were soon surrounded by the U.S Army at a place called **Wounded Knee**. Here a scuffle broke out and the U.S army opened fire with destructive consequences. 147 Indian men, women and children were massacred. This terrible event effectively ended the resistance of the Indians and ensured white domination of the North American continent....

GOOD LUCK EVERYONE. DO YOUR BEST!!! Mr Higgins



The body of Chief Bigfoot
WOUNDED KNEE

MY OWN NOTES

What do I need to revise??

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dashed lines, typical of primary-ruled notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings present.

- White Americans believed in *manifest destiny* - that because of their Christian virtues (goodness) it was their destiny, given to them by God to conquer the plains and bring civilisation to the West.

The Indian Removal Act was passed by Congress in 1830 by President Jackson. The law authorized negotiations with Indian tribes for their removal to territory west of the Mississippi River. While the Indian removal was in theory voluntary, in practice great pressure was put on Native American leaders to sign removal treaties. The Indians refer to

the forced movement as the Trail of
Tears.

