



Different Cultures and Points of View

History

B. 1, Ind. 5

B. 7, Ind. 2

B. 7, Ind. 4

Literature

B.2, Ind. 3

1. Remind students that the entire reason for the existence of Fort Larned was to protect U.S. Mail traffic on the Santa Fe Trail. However, it eventually became the location of a U.S. government Indian agency whose purpose was to negotiate with Indians and see that they received compensation for the land they were willing to give up. Indians also traded at the sutler's store and received medical care from the post doctor.

Thus, it would seem that Fort Larned and the U.S. military had both a negative and a positive impact on the lives of the Indians living near. However, the eventual loss of their lands that the military presence helped bring about was the biggest negative of all.

In this activity, the students will read and analyze two primary source documents to help them understand that Indians and the U.S. military had very different ways of looking at some of the same events.



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2. Divide the class into 5 groups , giving them the following topics to research and report back to the class on:

A. The historical background and result of the Medicine Lodge Treaty.

B. A reading and then explanation of Ten Bears speech at the Medicine Lodge Treaty, focusing on the Indian view of land and why they were resistant to live on a reservation.

(Both of these groups can refer to historical document #10 and pgs. 95 and 96 of the text.)

C. The historical background and result of the Sand Creek Massacre.

D. A reading of analysis of Colonel John Chivington's report as to what he and his men did at Sand Creek on November 29, 1864.

E. A reading and analysis of testimony given by U.S. Indian Interpreter John Smith as to the events at Sand Creek on November 29, 1864.

(These groups can refer to pgs 81-85 in the historical documents packet)



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3. After students have presented their reports, have a class discussion on the following questions:

A. How was the Indians' view of land and land ownership different than that of whites?

What does Ten Bears say he and his people want to do with the rest of their lives?

B. Based on Colonel Chivington's report, do you think he felt he and his men did anything wrong at Sand Creek? Explain.

C. Obviously, John Smith has a very different view of the event at Sand Creek than Colonel Chivington.

What are some of the particular words he uses to get his point of view across that he believed this was an unjust massacre?

D. Why is it that Indians and military men saw these events in such a completely different way?

Assessment

There is no formal written test for this unit, as not all teachers will use all parts of the lesson plan. Base assessment on the successful completion of the attached worksheets, writing assignments, and/or their oral reports.