

# **SSUSH12: EVALUATE HOW WESTWARD EXPANSION IMPACTED THE PLAINS INDIANS AND FULFILLED MANIFEST DESTINY.**

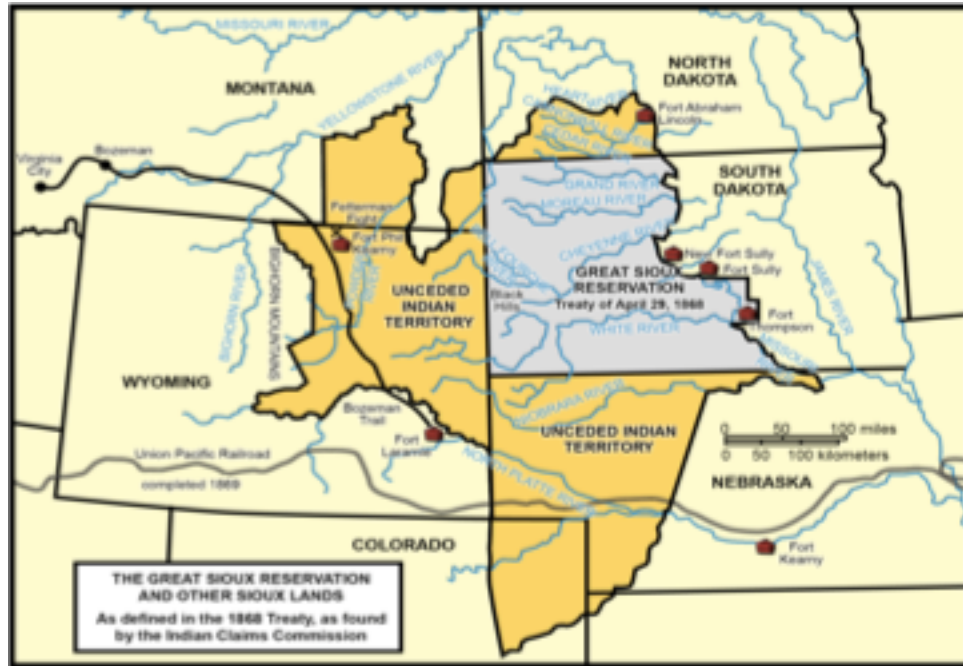


***ELEMENT C: Explain the Plains Indians' resistance to western expansion of the United States and the consequences of their resistance.***

# Western Expansion

□ In 1868, the United States government reached an agreement with many of the Plains Indian tribes when they signed the Fort Laramie Treaty.

- The provisions stated that in exchange for receiving land set aside for them in the Black Hills of the Dakotas, the Plains nations agreed to not harass or threaten western settlers.
- The treaty was not very effective after gold was discovered in the Black Hills in 1875.
  - Settlers flooded the area searching for gold in violation of the treaty and warfare broke out.



# The Great Sioux War



- ❑ The Great Sioux War of 1876-1877 culminated in the Battle of the Little Big Horn that resulted in the deaths of most of the United States' Seventh Cavalry Unit. Even though the Plains Indians won the battle, they still faced insurmountable challenges with the superior numbers and organization of the U.S. Army.
- ❑ The United States government challenged the American Indians by targeting the buffalo and wiping out the Plains tribes' main food supply.
  - While some American Indian bands escaped to Canada, most of the surviving Plains tribes were forced to live on reservations.
  - One of the great American Indian leaders of the period was the Lakota leader, Sitting Bull (*Tatanka-Iyotanka*).
    - He became a noted warrior as a result of the fighting between the United States and the Lakota in 1863.
    - After continued incursions into Lakota Territory in 1876, Sitting Bull led the coalition of Plains tribes against the U.S. Army. The resulting conflict was the Battle of the Little Big Horn.
    - Afterward, a large force of U.S. Army troops relentlessly pursued the Plains bands subduing some groups but Sitting Bull led his people into Canada.
    - After five years in exile and unable to feed his people, Sitting Bull returned to the United States and finally agreed to settle on a reservation.



# Battle at Wounded Knee



- ❑ About ten years later, Sitting Bull's tribe was urged to join the new Ghost Dance religious movement that was sweeping through the Plains tribes.
  - The American Indians believed their ceremony would reestablish their ancestral lands and repopulate the buffalo herd, thus restoring the Sioux's lost greatness.
  - As some of Sitting Bull's followers were ordered to be brought back to the reservation, a confrontation with elements of the Seventh Cavalry ensued.
    - As the soldiers began to confiscate weapons from the Sioux, a shot was fired.
    - Some of Sitting Bull's followers may have been convinced that their Ghost shirts would protect them as they resisted the soldiers.
- ❑ This tragic gun battle at Wounded Knee ended in the deaths of over 300 Sioux, including women and children.
- ❑ This was the last major conflict between American Indians and the U.S. Army and signaled the end of resistance to white settlers' westward expansion.

