

**Impact on Native Americans****name:**

Westward Expansion &amp; Populism

Unit 2

**Key Idea:**

Review the Native American experience. (2.7)

A) Rewrite the Key Idea as an investigative question.

**Directions:** Read and Annotate the summary below and complete the activities on the back. Remember: No Annotation, No Grade.

Westward expansion was positive for many Americans, but it had a negative impact on one group of people –the American Indians. As westward expansion began the American Indians were generally tolerant of the whites as they crossed their lands. Before long homesteaders, ranchers and railroad men began to claim the land as their own. As settlers took over more land in the Plains, conflict grew. Westward Expansion would forever change the Native Americans' way of life.

American Indians on the Great Plains relied on **buffalo** to provide most of their basic needs. Buffalo was their main food source (buffalo tongue and heart were often favorites among Indians), but provided much more than just food. Buffalo hides were used for clothing and shelter. Stomachs and bladders were turned into bags and buckets. Bones were turned into weapons and tools. Even dried buffalo dung was used as fuel for fires. Every part of the buffalo was used, nothing was wasted. As settlers moved to the Plains they devastated the buffalo population. Settlers used the buffalo as a food source, but also valued the hides, which could be sold in the East. Some settlers simply killed the animals for sport. In 1800, the population of buffalo on the American Plains was about 60 million. By 1890, due to European and American hunters only 750 remained. The slaughtering of buffalo meant death for the American Indians and their way of life.

The U.S. government tried to ease the conflicts between settlers and Native Americans. **Treaties**, or formal agreements, were created to prevent fighting, but success was limited. The government created **reservations**, or areas of land that were set aside for Native Americans, to help the situation. Reservations had limited success as well. Native Americans were often tricked into moving to reservations. They were promised supplies or food that they often did not receive. The goods they did receive were usually of poor quality. Many reservations were located on poor land that settlers didn't want. Assimilation was another attempt to solve the Native American issue. **Assimilation** is the process of blending one culture into another. Reformers hoped Indians could be taught to become more like white settlers and give up their own distinctive culture. They encouraged Indians to cut their hair, learn to speak English, and dress as whites. With the decline of the buffalo, American Indians were encouraged to become farmers. However, many Indians had no knowledge of farming and others had no interest in it. Assimilation proved unsuccessful, largely because most Indians did not want to give up their unique way of life. As attempts at peaceful resolutions failed, conflicts continued to grow.

The Black Hills of the Dakotas was sacred land to the Sioux Native Americans and was set aside as a reservation. But white settlers flooded the area when they heard the hills contained gold. The government offered to buy the land, but **Sitting Bull**, the leader of the Lakota Sioux, refused to sell the land. In 1876, Lieutenant Colonel **George Armstrong Custer** attacked the Sioux and their allies at the Little Bighorn River. During the **Battle of Little Bighorn**, Custer and his men were surrounded and killed by Indian warriors. News of the army's defeat shocked the nation. Although the Indians won a great battle, the victory grabbed the attention of the nation, causing an increased focus by the U.S. army on American Indians.

The U.S. government continued to use force against other Indian tribes. In 1877, the Nez Perce Indians were told they must leave their lands in Oregon and relocate to a small reservation in Idaho. The Nez Perce leader, **Chief Joseph**, refused to go to a reservation. He led 800 men, women, and children in an attempt to escape to Canada. The Nez Perce were pursued by the U.S. army for 1,700 miles before finally surrendering 30 miles from the Canadian border. Chief Joseph ordered his people not to fight and gave a famous speech in which he said "My heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever."

In the Southwest, the Apache and Navajo Indians fought back against settlers that took their lands. The U.S. army forced most onto reservations, however several small groups refused to obey. Led by the Apache leader **Geronimo**, these small bands of Indians continued to raid new settlements. Geronimo frustrated the U.S. army for years, finding ways to escape capture. Eventually, Geronimo was the last Indian to formally surrender to the United States government.

The last armed conflict between the U.S. Army and Indians during the "Indians War" was in 1890, at the **Battle of Wounded Knee**. A band of Sioux were gathered at a creek called Wounded Knee. The army arrived and demanded the Sioux to surrender their weapons. A deaf Indian did not understand what was happening and when a soldier tried to take his weapon a struggle began. Somehow the gun was fired. The soldiers opened fire, killing 300 Native American men, women, and children in a massacre.

Westward expansion led to the decline of the Native American population. The two leading causes were **warfare** and **disease**. Thousands of Indians lost their lives during the hundreds of battles fought. Settlers introduced diseases unknown to American Indians leading to thousands of deaths. The killing of buffalo, army attacks, and reservations all contributed to changing the Native Americans' way of life forever.

1) Why were buffalo so important to Great Plains Native American?

2) Identify the following terms by writing a description OR drawing a picture to show the meaning of the word.

Treaties	Reservations	Assimilation

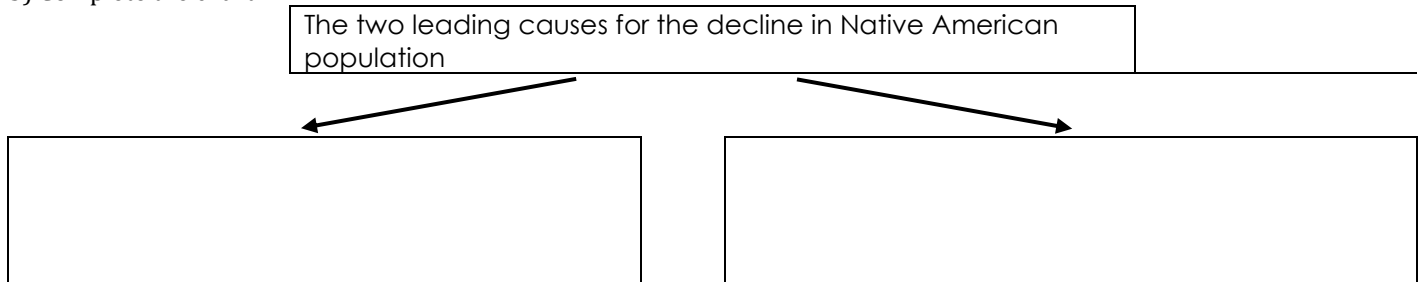
3) Complete the chart below.

	List the leader of each side.	Who attacked first?	What was the result?
The Battle of Little Big Horn			

4) Identify the Native Americans in the chart below.

	Sitting Bull	
	Chief Joseph	
	Geronimo	

5) Complete the chart.



6) How did Westward Expansion impact Native Americans?