

# Conflict

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## The path to destruction

In 1851. A council met at Fort Laramie, Wyoming, with members of the United States Government and the Plains Indians. The Government wanted to build roads to allow white settlers to travel to the West. They wanted the Indians to live within certain boundaries, and give the remaining land to settlers.

They offered money and goods. They could not understand that the Indians did not believe land could be owned. Shortly afterwards this treaty was broken.

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### TASK 1: Put facts A to G in the correct order.

Advice:

- This is a chronology exercise - you have to work out the order that these events happened. Try to think which event caused or led to another event.
- Use a pencil so you can change the order when we mark it.
- Begin with Fact A and end with Fact C.

A  
Treaty after treaty  
broken by the US  
government.

B  
Whites killed almost  
all buffalo.

C  
Indians could not  
succeed against  
technology of whites.

D  
Indians driven from  
their land when gold  
found.

E  
Indians forced to  
live on reservations  
on poor land.

F  
Thousands killed by  
European diseases.

G  
Both sides took up  
arms too easily.

H  
Railways drove the  
buffalo that still  
existed away.

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### TASK 2: Use your information and chronology to answer these questions:

- a) Explain what the US government wanted from the meeting at Fort Laramie.
- b) What could the US government not understand about the Native Americans?
- c) The discovery of what was the real reason why the Native Americans were driven from their land?

### TASK 3: Follow the instructions below:

- Put the subtitle: 'Lead up to Little Bighorn'
- Write out these events in the correct order of time - the correct chronology.
- A table would be a good way to present your chronology.

1876 ... *to be continued*

1862 War again. Indians defeated by US troops.

1851 Fort Laramie treaty agreed.

1854 White settlers accused of stealing Sioux cows. Situation got out of hand and led to war.

1866 Sioux defeated by US troops.

1868 Another Fort Laramie treaty. More US campaigns against the Cheyenne.

1855 US troops attacked Sioux.

1874 Gold discovered in Red Hills (sacred Indian land). Led to war. Final defeat of Commanche tribe.

1865 Indians give up more land in another treaty.

1848 Gold discovered in California.

1864 Cheyenne tribe members massacred at Sand Creek even though they had surrendered.

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### TASK 4: Create a journal:

Imagine you are a Sioux Indian. The year is 1876. Write an entry into your journal (a type of diary) looking back at the troubles you have encountered. Try to suggest what you (as a Native American) think should happen next.

Advice:

- Explain what other tribes, as well as yours, have gone through.
- Use or adapt the quotes given below.
- Use your previous work to explain your horror and outrage at the European settlers (e.g. killing almost all the buffalo compared to what your tribe does).

"They made us many promises, more than I can remember. They never kept but one: they promised to take our land and they took it."

Anonymous Native American



"Strangely enough they have a mind to plough the soil and the love of ownership is a disease with them. They claim this mother of ours, the earth, for their own; they deface her with their buildings and their refuse."

Chief Sitting Bull (Sioux tribe), 1877

"[They]...found much of the yellow metal that makes the white men crazy, and that made the bad trouble just as it did before."

Black Elk (Sioux tribe), 1874

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