

An “Indian” Memorial at Little Big Horn?

The battle of little big horn happened in 1876. The Sioux joined other tribes to fight the US government soldiers under the control of General George Custer. The “Indians” won the day.

For many years a monument has stood to remember the deaths of so many soldiers. Recently the Native American community have discussed building a memorial to the Native Americans who also died that day. Unfortunately many Americans are against the idea and will not help to fund the initiative.

Planning has gone ahead anyway with private support.

TASK 1: THINKING

Why are there divisions between Native Americans and Americans even today?

TASK 2: WHO SAID WHAT?

Look at sentences 1-10 on the next page. Who do you think said each one?

- (a) A Native American
- (b) An American
- (c) Both

In your books copy and complete the table. Fill in your ideas as you go.

Comment number	NATIVE AMERICAN	AMERICAN	BOTH
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

1. "We should remember that it was the soldiers who lost that battle, not the Indians"
2. "Dead men lay on both sides, we should remember their spirit"
3. "The battle field is on the Sioux Reservations"
4. "Its to do with race-still there are problems in that area"
- 5 "White Americans have no respect for our dead"
6. "Such a memorial would only encourage more Indians to come into South Dakota"
7. "We won, yet they get a memorial. Why?"
8. "Why do they want to create a memorial now. They did not have one before?"
9. "Custer was a great leader and he has a stone to remember him, Crazy horse was a brave leader and is not allowed to be remembered"
10. "The tourists are frightened of the Indians"

TASK 3: WRITTEN RESPONSE

In pairs you will write a letter to the American President giving an opinion on the building of an "Indian" memorial. **Your teacher will tell you** which one of the **two** letters you will write. Don't worry, as you will eventually get to write both letters.

1. NATIVE AMERICAN PERSPECTIVE "We want the memorial"
2. AMERICAN PERSPECTIVE "We do not want the memorial"

20 minutes before the end of the lesson, pairs will be invited to read their letters and to discuss the reasons why some people are for the memorial and some people are not.

