

Native American Relations

- In the late 19th century

A Change in Policy

■ 1830- Indian Removal Act

- Forcibly removed Native Americans who lived east of the Mississippi River
- Why?
- http://www.slate.com/blogs/the_vault/2014/06/17/interactive_map_loss_of_indian_land.html?wpsrc=sh_all_mob_tw_top

■ 1850s, Policy Changes.....

- White settlers interested in “Indian territory”
- Government began seizing land and moving Native Americans to reservations

New Policy Creates Problems

- Most of the Plains Indians had grown accustomed to their environment and their civilizations were thriving.
 - Buffalo: main source of food and clothing
 - Required constant movement with their herds
 - Why does being placed inside a reservation create a conflict with this lifestyle?
- Buying and Selling of Land
 - White settlers wanted to claim this “new” land for themselves
 - Land ownership was not an issue in the Plains Indians societies.....why?
 - Led many white settlers to believe the land was ‘up for the taking!’

■ The constant conflict over land led to a series of disputes known as the Indian Wars.

Indian Wars

Sand Creek Massacre	Battle of Little Bighorn	Wounded Knee Massacre
When?		
Who?		
Why?		
Result?		

■ The constant conflict over land led to a series of disputes known as the Indian Wars.

Indian Wars

Sand Creek Massacre	Battle of Little Bighorn	Wounded Knee Massacre
1864	1876	1890
US Army & Cheyenne	US Army & Sioux	US Army & Sioux
Troops attacked group that had been asked to return to reservation	Ordered Sioux to leave to stop raids on settlers	Army troops captured Sitting Bull's followers and demanded their rifles
Congress condemned actions but did not punish	Custer's men were slaughtered by Sitting Bull's followers- last victory for Native Americans	Many tried to flee including women and children- 300 killed- ended Native American resistance

Reservation Life

- Bureau of Indian Affairs established to ‘manage’ the Native American reservations.
- U.S. government took on a policy known as **Americanization** to deal with those on the Indians reservations.
 - The abandoning of traditional culture and identify and live your life as a white American.
 - BIA set up government schools for Indian children- students had to speak English and could not wear traditional clothing



Further Americanization..

- **Dawes Act (1887):** government action that broke up some reservations and divided the land among individuals.

- **Problems:**

- Native American tribes communally 'owned' land, individual land distribution went against their culture
- Government sold the rest of the allotted land to white settlers.....and it was often the best land!
- Many could not afford supplies needed to farm and make a profit from the land