

Native Americans Sioux

The Sioux Nation is a collection of many Great Plains tribes in the U.S. and Canada. The Sioux fall under three major divisions: the Dakota, Lakota, and Nakota.

Traditionally, they were formidable nomadic warriors who lived in teepees and hunted bison. Sioux religion centers on the Great Spirit, *Wakan Tanka*, and rituals such as the Sun Dance and Ghost Dance.

When American settlers invaded Sioux territory in South Dakota, warriors led by chief Red Cloud defeated U.S. troops in 1867. The U.S. then signed a treaty giving the land to the Sioux. However, when gold was discovered in South Dakota in the 1870s, miners flooded the region, breaking the treaty.

Both Sioux and Cheyenne fought back, defeating American troops at the famous Battle of the Little Bighorn. U.S. troops later overtook them and forced a surrender.



Even on reservations, the Sioux kept resisting until American soldiers killed over 200 men, women, and children at the Wounded Knee Massacre. At this time, the Ghost Dance emerged as a ritual meant to revive the dead and make white colonists leave.

A century later in 1980, the Supreme Court ruled that the American government had been wrong in breaking the treaty, and eight tribes were offered 106 million dollars. However, all tribes refused the settlement, instead wanting their land back. The money is still held in the Treasury Department and is now worth over 1 billion dollars.

Today, there are roughly 160,000 people of Sioux ancestry, and the Sioux Nation is made up of numerous tribes in South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Montana in the U.S. and Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba in Canada.

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Sioux

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Answer the following questions based on the passage you read.

1. What three divisions make up the Sioux?

2. What is the center of the Sioux religion?

3. How did the Gold Rush affect the Sioux?

4. Describe the "Wounded Knee Massacre".

5. How much money did the U.S. government offer the Sioux for breaking its treaty?

6. Where are the Sioux tribes located today?
