Land and Resistance

Federal decisions, military force, and Lakota responses after the Civil War

SS24.US1.14c "Explain the effects of federal policies and military actions on Native Americans after the Civil War and describe Native American resistance to these actions."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two federal decisions or military actions and circle an effect of each. Number two different ways Native Americans resisted, then use your marks to explain the connections.

The Black Hills and the Lakota

1 In 1868, the United States signed the Fort Laramie Treaty, recognizing the Great Sioux Reservation, including the Black Hills, as Lakota land. Yet a U.S. Army expedition into the Black Hills in 1874 found gold, and miners entered land the treaty protected. Federal efforts to keep miners out failed. In late 1875, the government ordered Lakota and Northern Cheyenne groups living outside reservations to report to agencies by January 31, 1876. Winter travel made that deadline difficult. Those who did not comply faced military force. A treaty meant to protect land had become a source of conflict.

2 Some Lakota and Northern Cheyenne resisted the order because they did not want to abandon treaty-protected hunting grounds or life outside the agencies. In June 1876, warriors led by leaders including Crazy Horse fought U.S. soldiers near the Little Bighorn River. They defeated the troops commanded by George Armstrong Custer, but the victory did not end the army's campaign. More soldiers pursued Native groups, while dwindling bison herds made life outside the agencies harder. By 1877, many had surrendered. Congress then passed a law taking the Black Hills, although the Lakota had not freely agreed to surrender them.

3 The pressure continued on reservations. In 1889, Congress authorized the breakup of the Great Sioux Reservation into smaller reservations and opened millions of acres to non-Native settlers. Federal officials promoted individual land allotments as a way to encourage farming, but allotment weakened tribal control. In 1890, many Lakota joined the Ghost Dance, a religious movement that promised renewal amid hunger and land loss. Officials feared the gatherings signaled rebellion. In December, soldiers tried to disarm a Lakota group at Wounded Knee Creek, and gunfire erupted. U.S. soldiers killed hundreds of Lakota people, including women and children. The dance expressed hope and cultural resistance, not a military attack.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the discovery of gold in the Black Hills affect the protection promised by the 1868 treaty?

2. How did Lakota and Northern Cheyenne warriors resist the government's 1876 order, and how did the army respond after their victory?

3. How did federal actions in 1877 and 1889 change Lakota control of land?

4. Why was the Ghost Dance a form of resistance, and what happened when soldiers confronted a Lakota group at Wounded Knee Creek?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four- or five-sentence editor's note explaining why calling Lakota resistance simply "unprovoked violence" would mislead readers. Connect two federal decisions or military actions to their effects, and describe both armed and nonviolent resistance.

ANSWER KEY

Land and Resistance

GRADE 10 · SS24.US1.14c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two federal decisions or military actions and circle an effect of each. Number two different ways Native Americans resisted, then use your marks to explain the connections. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the discovery of gold in the Black Hills affect the protection promised by the 1868 treaty?	**Miners entered treaty-protected land, and federal efforts to keep them out failed.**
2	How did Lakota and Northern Cheyenne warriors resist the government's 1876 order, and how did the army respond after their victory?	**Warriors fought and defeated Custer's troops at Little Bighorn. The army continued its campaign and sent more soldiers to pursue Native groups.**
3	How did federal actions in 1877 and 1889 change Lakota control of land?	**A law took the Black Hills without the Lakota freely agreeing to surrender them. Later, Congress authorized the breakup of the Great Sioux Reservation and opened millions of acres to settlers.**
4	Why was the Ghost Dance a form of resistance, and what happened when soldiers confronted a Lakota group at Wounded Knee Creek?	**The dance expressed hope for renewal and cultural resistance amid hunger and land loss. When soldiers tried to disarm a Lakota group, gunfire erupted, and soldiers killed hundreds, including women and children.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Calling Lakota resistance "unprovoked violence" leaves out the government's actions. After gold was found in the Black Hills, miners entered land protected by a treaty, and federal efforts to stop them failed. Lakota and Northern Cheyenne warriors later fought soldiers at Little Bighorn, but their victory brought further army pursuit. Congress also authorized the breakup of the Great Sioux Reservation, reducing Native control of land. The Ghost Dance expressed hope and cultural resistance without being a military attack.

Accept explanations that accurately link federal action to land loss, military pressure, or a Native response. Students should distinguish the armed resistance at Little Bighorn from the spiritual resistance of the Ghost Dance.