# Whose West?

Land, development, and American Indian perspectives in the late nineteenth century

**USH.C.1.3.C** "Examine American Indian perspectives on westward expansion and the end of the Indian Wars in the late nineteenth century, including the events at Wounded Knee Massacre, as expressed by leaders such as Red Cloud, Quanah Parker..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline two federal goals or policies, and circle a different response or concern for each named leader. Number the sentences that explain what happened at Wounded Knee and why calling it an end is incomplete.

### Expansion and Its Costs

1. In the late nineteenth century, federal officials sought land for settlers, railroads, and mining, goals they linked to national development. Treaties and military force helped open American Indian homelands to newcomers. Red Cloud, an Oglala Lakota leader, had forced the United States to abandon forts along the Bozeman Trail in 1868. The Fort Laramie Treaty that year recognized Lakota control of a large reservation, including the Black Hills. When gold seekers entered the Black Hills, the federal government failed to keep them out. Red Cloud protested the loss of treaty protections, viewing the land as a homeland, not simply a source of wealth.

2. For the Nez Perce, Chief Joseph confronted a different path to the same federal goal: gaining control of western land. In 1877, after officials ordered his band onto a smaller reservation, Joseph and other Nez Perce leaders led a long flight from U.S. troops. Their surrender did not erase Joseph's demands for his people's homeland and fair treatment. On the southern Plains, Quanah Parker, a Comanche leader, led his band to surrender in 1875 after years of warfare and the collapse of bison herds. He later negotiated with federal officials and defended Comanche land and rights as settlement expanded.

3. Federal policy also pressed Native communities to adopt farming and divide shared reservation land into individual parcels, especially under the Dawes Act of 1887. Officials called this a way to develop the West; many Native people saw it as another threat to land and self-rule. In December 1890, soldiers of the Seventh Cavalry tried to disarm a Lakota group at Wounded Knee Creek in South Dakota. Gunfire broke out, and soldiers killed more than 150 Lakota people, including women and children. The Wounded Knee Massacre is often treated as the end of the Indian Wars, but Native resistance and demands for justice continued.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Red Cloud's view of the Black Hills differ from the interests of gold seekers and federal officials?

2. How did Chief Joseph and Quanah Parker respond differently to U.S. control of western land?

3. Why might federal officials and Native people have viewed the division of reservation land differently?

4. Why does the passage challenge the idea that Wounded Knee marked a complete end to the Indian Wars?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 75 to 100 word museum label titled “Whose West?” Compare how two leaders responded to federal expansion, connect their perspectives to one federal development goal, and use Wounded Knee to challenge a simple story that the conflict ended there.

# Whose West?



## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two federal goals or policies, and circle a different response or concern for each named leader. Number the sentences that explain what happened at Wounded Knee and why calling it an end is incomplete. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How did Red Cloud's view of the Black Hills differ from the interests of gold seekers and federal officials? | **Red Cloud viewed the Black Hills as part of a Lakota homeland protected by treaty. Gold seekers wanted its resources, while federal officials sought western land for national development.** |
| 2 | How did Chief Joseph and Quanah Parker respond differently to U.S. control of western land? | **Joseph and other Nez Perce leaders led a flight from troops after an order to move, and Joseph continued to demand a homeland and fair treatment. Parker later negotiated with officials and defended Comanche land and rights.** |
| 3 | Why might federal officials and Native people have viewed the division of reservation land differently? | **Officials described dividing shared land into individual parcels as a way to develop the West. Many Native people saw it as a threat to their land and self-rule.** |
| 4 | Why does the passage challenge the idea that Wounded Knee marked a complete end to the Indian Wars? | **Although Wounded Knee is often treated as an ending, Native resistance and demands for justice continued after the massacre.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Whose West? Federal officials wanted western land for settlement and railroads, but that land was already home to Native nations. Red Cloud protested when the government failed to protect Lakota treaty rights in the Black Hills. Chief Joseph and other Nez Perce leaders fled troops after an order to move, and Joseph continued to demand a homeland and fair treatment after surrender. Their actions show that expansion meant loss of land to the people living there. The Wounded Knee Massacre is often called an end to the Indian Wars, yet Native demands for justice continued.

Accept accurate comparisons that distinguish each leader's response from federal goals. For the museum label, look for two named leaders, a specific development goal, and an explanation that Native demands continued after Wounded Knee.