**Americans Move West**

**Section 2**

**MAIN IDEAS**

1. As settlers moved to the Great Plains, they encountered the Plains Indians.
2. The U.S. Army and Native Americans fought in the northern plains, the Southwest, and the Far West.
3. Despite efforts to reform U.S. policy toward Native Americans, conflict continued.

**Key Terms and People**

- **Treaty of Fort Laramie**: first major agreement signed with northern Plains nations
- **reservations**: areas of federal land set aside for Native Americans
- **Crazy Horse**: Sioux leader who violently protested reservations
- **Treaty of Medicine Lodge**: southern Plains Indians agreed to live on reservations
- **buffalo soldiers**: nickname given by Indians to African American cavalry
- **George Armstrong Custer**: army commander who lost to the Sioux at Little Bighorn
- **Sitting Bull**: Sioux leader who defeated Custer at Little Bighorn
- **Battle of the Little Bighorn**: last great victory for Sioux, in which they defeated Custer
- **Massacre at Wounded Knee**: battle in which U.S. troops killed about 150 Sioux
- **Long Walk**: a 300-mile forced march of Navajo captives to a New Mexico reservation
- **Geronimo**: Apache leader who continued to fight against the U.S. Army until 1886
- **Ghost Dance**: religious movement predicting a coming paradise for Native Americans
- **Sarah Winnemucca**: Paiute against the government’s treatment of Native Americans
- **Dawes General Allotment Act**: act that took back almost 70 percent of reservation land

**Section Summary**

**SETTLERS ENCOUNTER THE PLAINS ININDANS**

The **Treaty of Fort Laramie** was one of the first treaties the government signed to keep peace with the Plains Indians. Other treaties created **reservations** for Indians. Many Indians refused to move to the reservations. In 1864 U.S. soldiers killed about 200 Cheyenne in the Sand Creek Massacre. In 1866 **Crazy Horse** and his Sioux warriors killed about 81 soldiers. By the 1867 **Treaty of Medicine Lodge**, most southern Plains Indians agreed to go to reservations.
FIGHTING ON THE PLAINS

Native Americans of the northern Plains, Southwest, and Far West continued to resist reservations. The U.S. government sent buffalo soldiers and other troops to force Indians to leave.

In 1874 gold was discovered in the Black Hills of the Dakotas. The government wanted the Sioux to sell their reservation. Sitting Bull and other Sioux refused. In response, Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer ordered his soldiers to attack the Sioux. The Sioux won what became known as the Battle of Little Bighorn. In the last great battle of the Plains Indians, 150 Sioux were killed in the Massacre at Wounded Knee.

Other Native Americans also fought being forced onto reservations. The Navajo of the Southwest tried to resist, but facing starvation, began to surrender. They were led on a forced march to a reservation that became known as the Long Walk. Many died along the way. In 1886 Apache leader Geronimo and his warrior band surrendered, which ended Apache armed resistance.

CONFLICT CONTINUES

In the 1870s the Ghost Dance was a religious movement started by a Paiute leader named Wovoka. It predicted paradise for Indians. But officials feared this movement would lead to rebellion. Another Paiute, Sarah Winnemucca, lectured on problems with the reservation system. In 1887 Congress passed the Dawes General Allotment Act, which gave U.S. citizenship to Native Americans. However, it took back two thirds of the land originally set aside for them.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Write to Evaluate In a paragraph describe how you think the public reacted to Custer’s defeat.