

## Investigation 4: Breaching the Ft. Laramie Treaty



Custer's 1874 Expedition into the Black Hills

### 1. How was the Ft. Laramie Treaty broken by the US Government?

Railroads gave millions of acres of land to settlers, enticing them to move west. Buffalo was shot for sport and to feed railroad crews. Soon, it was thought that the extermination of the buffalo was the only way to “bring lasting peace and allow civilization to advance.” In 1873 the economy suffered a collapse, hurting railroads. They demanded that all Indians be removed to reservations in order to allow for more development out west.

### 2. How did Colonel Custer get involved in the Indian wars?

After the civil war Custer went to Kansas to protect railroad workers from Indian attacks. In 1868 he gained a reputation as a great Indian fighter in the battle of Washita. In 1874 Custer led an expedition to the Black Hills to protect gold speculators there.

### 3. How did Crazy Horse react to the 1874 Expedition?

Crazy Horse was suffering the illness of his wife. He would disappear into the Black Hills for days. Often the bodies of white men were found in the areas in which he roamed.

### 4. How did Sitting Bull react to the white presence in the Black Hills?

Sitting Bull refused to negotiate with the US Government, saying that the white man’s word was no good.

### 5. Why did President Grant order all Lakota to the reservations?

Grant wanted to buy the Black Hills from the Lakota, but couldn’t agree on a price. He and General Sherman decided to order all Sioux to reservations to end the Indian “problem.”

