

# Frontier Wars *Foundations*

## Unit 10: Cotton, Cattle, & Railroads

Name:

Date:

Period:

### The Civil War and the West Texas Frontier, 1861 – 1865

When the Civil War began in 1861, United States Army troops at Southern forts were removed from their posts. **This left Texas forts along the frontier defenseless.** During the war, **Texas Rangers** and **volunteers** struggled to defend the frontier from Indian raids.

When the Civil War ended in 1865, most Texas **volunteers on the frontier went home**, and the United States army **slowly** began to reoccupy Texas's western forts.

Without a strong military presence along the frontier, the **Comanche** and **Kiowa** Indians continued to carry out **raids** on frontier settlements.

1. How was the west Texas frontier affected by the Civil War?
  - a. Union military action was focused on many major frontier forts in Texas.
  - b. The Texas frontier was left largely undefended during the Civil War.
  - c. ~~American Indians occupied U.S. Army forts along the frontier.~~
  - d. American Indian raids decreased during the American Civil War.

### The Medicine Lodge Treaty, October 1867

American Indian **raids** along the Great Plains continued. **In response**, the U.S. government held a **meeting** with members of the Comanche, Kiowa, Apache, Cheyenne, and Arapaho tribes in October 1867 at **Medicine Lodge Creek in Kansas** to attempt **to negotiate a peace agreement**.

The **Medicine Lodge Treaty** was established at this meeting. The tribes who signed the treaty agreed to **give up their claims** to the **Great Plains** and to **live on federal reservations** in exchange for **food and supplies** from the U.S. government.

The Medicine Lodge Treaty had **limited** success. Some bands of Plains tribes **continued raiding** along the frontier.

2. What was the Medicine Lodge Treaty and was it successful in accomplishing its goals?

*The Medicine Lodge Treaty was (A) a meeting of tribes in Kansas (B) a peace treaty between tribes and the U.S. It was largely successful / unsuccessful. Evidence to support this claim is \_\_\_\_\_*

## The Salt Creek Massacre, Spring 1871

In May 1871, a **Kiowa** chief named **Satanta** led an **attack** against a twelve-man wagon train that was traveling from Fort Griffin to Fort Richardson in North Texas, **killing seven** of the twelve men. This event is often called the **Warren Wagon Train Raid** or the **Salt Creek Massacre**.

In response to the Salt Creek Massacre, the **United States Army began a military campaign against bands of Plains tribes** like the Comanche, Kiowa, and Apache who refused to live on the reservations in Oklahoma.

3. Check each **TRUE** statement about the Salt Creek Massacre.  
 It was an Indian attack on Anglo people and supplies.  
 It caused the death of seven American Indian men.  
 ~~It occurred on an Oklahoma Indian reservation.~~  
 The U.S. Army began to search for and fight the tribes who had been involved.

## The Destruction of the American Buffalo

Many nomadic tribes of the Great Plains like the Comanche and Kiowa **depended** on the American **buffalo** for food, clothing, shelter, and tools.

In the late 1800s, **leather** made from **bison hides** became widely **popular** in the **U.S. and Europe**. By the 1870s, white hunters in Texas and the rest of the Great Plains **increased hunting buffalo** to meet the growing demand for bison leather. By the 1880s, approximately **3.5 million** **buffalo** had been **killed** as a result. **This had a serious effect on Plains tribes who depended on the buffalo for survival.**

The **decrease of American buffalo** and the **increased pressure from the U.S. military** forced many tribes to **abandon the Plains** and **move to reservations in Oklahoma**.

The U.S. government had promised to provide **food** and **supplies** to tribes that moved to the reservations. However, the government often **failed to provide these supplies** to tribes on the reservations. Additionally, the government was **unable to prevent white settlers from entering reservation lands**, causing more **tension** between American Indians and the United States.

4. Circle **FOUR** issues that tribes of the Texas Great Plains faced during this era.
  - a. Tribes could not keep up with the high demand for bison leather hides in the U.S. and Europe.
  - b. ~~There was not enough space on Oklahoma reservations for all the tribes that wanted to live there.~~
  - c. The bison population was rapidly decreasing due to Anglo overhunting.
  - d. The U.S. Army engaged in fights with Plains tribes, forcing them onto reservations in Oklahoma.
  - e. Tribes on the reservations often did not receive supplies as they were promised.
  - f. Anglos often entered tribal reservations without permission.

## The Red River War, 1874 - 1875

Many Indians on the reservations were **frustrated** by **continued white intrusions on their land**. In June 1874, a Comanche leader named **Quanah Parker** led a war party of 700 Comanches, Kiowas, and Cheyennes in an **attack against bison hunters** camped at a place called **Adobe Walls** in the Texas panhandle.

The **U.S. Army responded** to the fight at Adobe Walls by sending 5,000 troops, including **Buffalo Soldiers**, to confront the last of the Plains Indians. **A number of small fights** occurred from summer **1874** to spring **1875**, including when the U.S. Army attacked the Plains Indians camped in the Palo Duro Canyon, killing several Indians, destroying five villages, and capturing 1,400 horses. **This period of time is known as the Red River War.**

Without food, shelter, or horses, **Quanah Parker** and his men **surrendered on June 2, 1875**, and moved to the reservation in Oklahoma. The Red River War was the **last major military action** that Plains tribes carried out against the U.S. Army.

By the end of the Red River War, **the U.S. Army** had driven the majority of American Indian tribes out of Texas, and **Comanche dominance of the Plains came to an end**.

The only tribes that remained in Texas in 1880 were the **Alabama-Coushatta** in east Texas and the **Tigua** in El Paso.

5. What was one cause of the Red River War?
  - a. 700 Plains tribes led an unprovoked attack on the U.S. Army at Adobe Walls.
  - b. The U.S. government formed the Medicine Lodge Treaty with Plains tribes.
  - c. White settlers and hunters entered Indian reservations without permission.
  - d. All answers are correct.
  
6. What was the outcome and significance of the Red River War?

*The outcome of the Red River War was (A) the U.S. Army surrendered (B) the Plains tribes surrendered (C) the tribes and U.S. Army signed a treaty ending the war and abandoned the Plains.*

*The Red River War was significant because \_\_\_\_\_*

---

---