

# Frontier Wars *Grade Level*

## *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 \_\_\_\_\_*  
*\_\_\_\_\_.*

*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 the cause of the Red River War?
  - a. 700 Plains tribes led an unprovoked attack 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 \_\_\_\_\_*

*\_\_\_\_\_*

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

*\_\_\_\_\_*

*\_\_\_\_\_*

*\_\_\_\_\_*