6.5 The American West, c1835-c1895: Changes to the Plains Indians' Way of Life, c1862-1868: 30-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 1HI0 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Write in full sentences for Questions 1, 2 and 3. You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on this pack.

1 Explain two consequences of the destruction of the buffalo herds for the Plains Indians.

(Total for Question 1 is 8 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

2 Write a narrative account analysing how relations between Plains Indian nations and the US government changed between the Sand Creek Massacre (1864) and the Fort Laramie Treaty (1868).

You may use the following information in your answer:
- the Fetterman Fight (1866) during Red Cloud's War
- the terms of the Fort Laramie Treaty agreed in 1868

You should also use information of your own.

(Total for Question 2 is 8 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

3 Explain two of the following:

(a) the importance of the Sand Creek Massacre (1864) for relations between Plains Indian nations and the US government

(b) the importance of the destruction of the buffalo for the Plains Indians' way of life

(c) the importance of the Fort Laramie Treaty (1868) for the Lakota

You must answer on TWO parts.

(Total for Question 3 is 16 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

Mark scheme · 6.5 The American West, c1835-c1895: Changes to the Plains Indians' Way of Life, c1862-1868: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

Level 1 Identifies one or two general consequences of the destruction of the buffalo herds, with little or no supporting detail or explanation. **1-2**

Level 2 Identifies and begins to explain one consequence, supported by accurate detail. **3-4**

Level 3 Explains two consequences of the destruction of the buffalo herds, each supported by accurate and relevant detail. **5-6**

Level 4 Explains two consequences in a well-developed, logically structured way, supported throughout by precise and accurate detail, showing how the consequences connect. **7-8**

Indicative content:

- The loss of the buffalo removed the Plains Indians' main source of food, hide for shelter and clothing, and materials for tools, undermining the practical basis of the nomadic way of life that had depended on the herds for generations.
- As buffalo numbers collapsed, Plains nations became increasingly dependent on government rations and supplies on reservations, since they could no longer support themselves through hunting alone, which increased the US government's practical control over them.
- Because so much religious and cultural life, including ceremonies such as the Sun Dance, had been closely connected to the buffalo and the hunting way of life, its loss also weakened long-standing social and spiritual structures within Plains Indian communities.
- The destruction of the buffalo strengthened the position of US officials who wanted to force Plains nations onto reservations and into farming, since without the buffalo, nomadic hunting was no longer a viable way of life on anything like its earlier scale.

Question 2

Level 1 Simple, generalised statements, with little organisation or sense of change over time. **1-2**

Level 2 Some accurate knowledge is deployed, with limited organisation into a sequence; the account may be more a list of events than a developed narrative. **3-4**

Level 3 The account is organised and mostly coherent, and shows some analysis of how the situation changed, with accurate supporting detail. **5-6**

Level 4 The answer demonstrates a coherent, well-organised narrative that analyses connections between events across the period, showing clearly how the situation changed, fully supported by precise and accurate detail. **7-8**

Indicative content:

- In November 1864, US soldiers under Colonel John Chivington attacked Black Kettle's Cheyenne and Arapaho camp at Sand Creek, Colorado, which believed itself to be under US protection, killing around 150 to 200 people, most of them women, children and elderly people.
- News of Sand Creek spread among Plains nations and deepened distrust of US promises, contributing to the outbreak of Red Cloud's War (1866-68), fought over US forts built to protect the Bozeman Trail through Lakota hunting grounds.
- In December 1866, Lakota, Cheyenne and Arapaho warriors led by Red Cloud ambushed and killed Captain William Fetterman and around 80 soldiers near Fort Phil Kearny, one of the heaviest US army defeats of the conflict.
- Facing continued resistance and unable to secure the Bozeman Trail, the US government agreed in 1868 to a new Fort Laramie Treaty, closing its forts on the trail and establishing a Great Sioux Reservation, including the Black Hills, for the Lakota's exclusive use.
- Overall, the narrative moves from a devastating attack on a Plains Indian camp in 1864, through sustained and effective Lakota-led resistance in 1866, to a negotiated settlement in 1868 that, for a time, secured significant terms for the Lakota, illustrating how military resistance shaped the US government's approach to the Plains nations in these years.

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

Question 3

Level 1 For each part answered: identifies a general point of importance, with little or no supporting detail or explanation.	**1-4**
Level 2 For each part answered: begins to explain importance, supported by some accurate detail.	**5-8**
Level 3 For each part answered: explains importance clearly, supported by accurate and relevant detail, with some analysis of consequences.	**9-12**
Level 4 For each part answered: explains importance in a well-developed, analytical way, fully supported by precise and accurate detail, showing clearly why the event or development mattered for the outcome named.	**13-16**

Indicative content:

- (a) The Sand Creek Massacre was important because the killing of around 150 to 200 people in a camp that had been promised protection was widely seen among Plains nations as proof that US promises could not be trusted, hardening resistance and contributing to further conflict, including Red Cloud's War.
- (b) The destruction of the buffalo was important because it removed the practical foundation of the nomadic Plains Indian way of life (food, shelter materials and much of its religious and cultural life), making Plains nations far more dependent on the US government and increasingly vulnerable to policies that pushed them onto reservations.
- (c) The Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868 was important because it closed US forts on the Bozeman Trail and established the Great Sioux Reservation, including the Black Hills, as a significant, if temporary, victory for Lakota resistance, though the discovery of gold in the Black Hills in 1874 soon placed the treaty's terms under severe strain.
- A strong answer on any two parts explains a clear causal chain from the event or development named to its stated importance, using precise dates and detail, and treats both sides' actions as matters of historical cause and consequence rather than moral judgement.

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk