

## Section

# 2

## War on the Plains

### Main Ideas

1. The Salt Creek Raid affected military policy toward American Indians on the frontier.
2. The spread of railroad lines west and the slaughter of the buffalo greatly affected life for Plains Indians.

### Why It Matters Today

The Plains Indians relied heavily on the buffalo for clothing, food, and shelter. Use current events sources to learn about how American Indian life today.



**TEKS:** 18, 6A, 8A, 9A, 9C, 20A, 20C, 21A, 21B, 21C, 21D, 21H, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D

### myNotebook

Use the annotation tools in your eBook to take notes on how the destruction of the buffalo affected Plains Indians.

### Key Terms and People

- Salt Creek Raid
- Quanah Parker
- Cynthia Parker
- buffalo guns

## The Story Continues

Fannie Beck's parents were away at the funeral of her cousin, Jesse, who had been killed by Texas Indians while hunting. Fannie and her brother Milton had been left over night to watch the younger children. They huddled together by the fire. "We suffered an agony of fear every time Sue, the baby, stirred. . . . We didn't want her to cry and let the Indians know there was a houseful of unprotected children."

### ★ The Salt Creek Raid

After the Treaty of Medicine Lodge, tensions between Plains Indians and settlers remained high. Indians living on the reservation were frustrated with the quality of life there. Other American Indians were upset by the continued westward movement of U.S. settlers into their hunting grounds. Some of these Indians began to attack Texas settlements. In July 1870 a large group of Kiowas attacked a stagecoach carrying mail near Fort Richardson. U.S. Army troops chased the raiders but were defeated in battle by the larger Kiowa force. Then in August a Kiowa leader named White Horse led a series of attacks. The Texas legislature complained to federal officials about these and other attacks.

In 1871 the U.S. Army sent General William Tecumseh Sherman to investigate Texans' complaints. Sherman doubted that American Indians posed a serious threat in Texas. However, early in May some 100 Kiowas and Comanches crossed into Texas. Led by Big Tree, Satank,



and Satanta, they attacked a wagon train near Salt Creek on May 18, killing seven men. A wounded survivor of this Salt Creek Raid made his way to Fort Richardson and reported the raid to Sherman. The general sent troops after the raiders and then traveled to Fort Sill near Indian Territory.

When the raiders came to the Indian Territory reservation for food supplies, Lawrie Tatum asked them about the attack. Satanta responded, "If any other Indian comes here and claims the honor of leading the party he will be lying to you, for I did it myself." Satanta defended the raid by charging that the government had not treated the Indians fairly. He also accused Tatum of stealing supplies. The hardships of reservation life would result in more attacks, warned Satanta.

When Sherman learned of Satanta's statements, he had Big Tree, Satank, and Satanta arrested in a tense confrontation at Fort Sill. Satank was later killed while trying to escape. Big Tree and Satanta were tried for murder and sentenced to death. Tatum and other supporters of the peace policy worried that hanging the men would only make matters worse on the frontier. Texas governor Edmund J. Davis shared this concern, and he changed the death sentence to life in prison. Big Tree and Satanta were released from prison on parole, or let go under condition of good behavior, in 1873.

**Reading Check Summarizing** What significant events occurred on the Texas frontier in the early 1870s?

## That's Interesting!

### General Sherman's Near Miss

On May 17, 1871, General Sherman's wagon train was on its way to Fort Richardson. Unknown to Sherman, a group of Kiowas and Comanches considered attacking the wagon train. Instead, they attacked the next wagon train in the Salt Creek Raid.







## BIOGRAPHY

### Cynthia Parker

(c.1825–1871) On May 19, 1836, Comanche raiders attacked Parker's Fort in what is now Limestone County. The Comanches captured five settlers, including Cynthia Ann Parker, who was then 10 or 11 years old. Parker remained with the Comanches for almost 25 years. During that time, she married Peta Nocona and had three children. Her son Quanah Parker became one of the most important Comanche leaders of his time. In 1860, Texas Rangers attacked a Comanche camp and captured Cynthia Parker. Relatives forced Parker to settle with them. Parker, however, regarded herself as Comanche. She tried several times, without success, to escape from her relatives. **Why did Parker consider herself to be a Comanche?**

## Mackenzie's Raids

In response to the Salt Creek Raid, the U.S. War Department planned a series of attacks against Plains Indians who refused to live on reservations. Colonel Ranald S. Mackenzie—whom Ulysses S. Grant had called the most talented young officer in the U.S. Army—led the campaign. He commanded the 4th Cavalry regiment, which was stationed at several posts along the Texas frontier in the 1860s and 1870s.

Mackenzie and his troops, called Mackenzie's Raiders, achieved great fame fighting on the Texas frontier. The *Galveston News* expressed support for their actions, a view shared by many Texans.

### TEXAS VOICES

"Go into the heart of their country. . . until the Indians are caught. . . Lay waste [destroy] their villages, burn everything within Comanche raiders reach, kill every warrior found in fighting trim [equipped to fight], and so utterly desolate [ruin] their regions that by sheer weakness they will never be able to send another war party to our border."

—*Galveston News*, March 14, 1872

Mackenzie began his raids in the fall of 1871, traveling northwest from Camp Cooper on the Clear Fork of the Brazos River. Mackenzie's troops were guided by Tonkawa Indian scouts. At Blanco Canyon, Mackenzie's troops fought a battle against a Comanche group led by Quanah Parker. Parker was the son of Cynthia Parker, a captured settler, and Peta Nocona—a Comanche. Forcing the Comanches to flee, Mackenzie pursued them deeper into the Panhandle. However, the Comanches escaped during a heavy snowstorm.

Following several Indian raids in the spring of 1872, Mackenzie renewed his attacks on the Comanches. He also crossed the Panhandle into New Mexico, chasing cattle thieves. On September 29, 1872, Mackenzie's troops defeated a Comanche force at McClellan Creek, near present-day Pampa. They killed many Comanches, destroyed their village, and took some 120 women and children prisoner.

Quanah Parker led an attack on Mackenzie's camp the following night and stampeded the animals that the Texans had captured. But he could not free the Comanche prisoners. Mackenzie kept the prisoners at Fort Concho to pressure the others to surrender. As a result, many Comanches abandoned life on the plains and moved to the reservation. It was a major victory for Mackenzie.

With the raids temporarily halted in northwest Texas, Mackenzie and the 4th Cavalry headed for the Mexican border. Stationed at Fort Duncan near Eagle Pass, Mackenzie led the effort to stop Kickapoo and Lipan Apache raids along the Rio Grande. By the end of 1873, Mackenzie had brought a stop to most of the border raids.

**Reading Check Sequencing** Describe in order the actions Colonel Mackenzie took against the Comanches.



### Interpreting Visuals

*Buffalo. During the late 1800s the buffalo were hunted to nearly extinction. How did buffalo hunters' means of hunting differ from those of American Indians?*

## ★ The Slaughter of the Buffalo

Other events also threatened Plains Indians. For generations, they had depended on the buffalo. By the 1870s the survival of the buffalo—and the Plains Indians' way of life—was at serious risk. As American railroad companies built lines across the Great Plains, non-Indian hunters killed hundreds of buffalo to feed the rail crews.

Once railroads reached towns in Kansas, buffalo hides could be moved quickly and cheaply to eastern cities. The buffalo hide industry began in 1871 when J. Wright Moorar shipped 56 hides to his brother John in New York City. John sold the hides to a tanning firm, which soon ordered 2,000 more.

A new method for tanning buffalo hides into high quality leather led to a sharp rise in demand and price. With an average hide worth more than three dollars on the market, buffalo hunters swarmed onto the plains to make their fortune.

Most buffalo hunters used a method called still hunting. In the early morning, hunters would sneak downwind of a herd and set up powerful rifles known as **buffalo guns**. These guns had telescopes, allowing hunters to slowly pick off members of the herd from a distance. One Texan later recalled, "A remarkably good hunter would kill seventy-five to one hundred [buffalo] a day."





## CONNECTING TO

## MATH

**The Buffalo Population**

Scholars Have Had Great Difficulty Determining The Size Of The Buffalo Population Over Time. Historians Agree That During The Late 1800s The Herds Were Nearly Wiped Out. The Following Are Estimates Of The Population.

YEAR	BUFFALO POPULATION
1800	30 million
1850	20 million
1889	835
2000	200,000
2013	400,000

**Interpreting Data**

1. Use the information above to create a graph showing the buffalo population from 1800 to 2000.
2. By what percentage did the buffalo population decrease from 1800 to 1850?
3. By how much did the buffalo population grow between 1889 and 2013?

Under the terms of the Treaty of Medicine Lodge, buffalo hunters were not allowed onto Indian hunting grounds south of Kansas. These lands were reserved exclusively for Indian use. The U.S. Army was supposed to patrol the Kansas-Indian Territory border to enforce this provision of the treaty, but it failed to do so. As a result, by 1873 hunters were illegally pouring into Texas.

Contrary to their assigned role, many military officials actually encouraged hunters to follow the buffalo herds. They supported the extermination, or complete destruction, of buffalo on the Plains. General Philip Sheridan, who commanded the region including Texas, believed that killing off the buffalo would force Plains Indians onto reservations. In 1875 he urged the Texas legislature to allow the hunters to continue the slaughter. "Let them [hunters] kill, skin, and sell until the buffaloes are exterminated. Then your prairies can be covered with speckled cattle."

Between 1872 and 1874, hunters killed an estimated 4.3 million buffalo. The buffalo hunters' activities—particularly their practice of taking the hides and leaving the meat to rot—outraged Plains Indians. As a Comanche named He Bear explained, "Just as it makes the white man feel to have his money carried away, so it makes us feel to see others killing and stealing our buffaloes."

**Reading Check** **Finding the Main Idea** What technological advances helped lead to the slaughter of buffalo herds in the late 1800s?

**Section 2 Review**

hmhsocialstudies.com

ONLINE QUIZ

**1. Define and explain:**

- buffalo guns

**2. Identify and explain**

- the historical significance of:
- Salt Creek Raid
  - Quanah Parker
  - Cynthia Parker

**3. Analyzing Information**

Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to explain how the destruction of the buffalo affected American Indians.

**4. Finding the Main Idea**

- a. How did the Salt Creek Raid affect the military's policy toward American Indians on the frontier?
- b. What role did Colonel Mackenzie play in Texas?

**5. Writing and Critical Thinking**

WriteSmart

- Identifying Points of View** Imagine that you are a Plains Indian. Write a poem that describes the importance of the buffalo. Consider the following:
- how Indians used the buffalo
  - the effect that hunters had on buffalo herds

## Section

## 3

## The Red River War

## Main Ideas

1. The attack on Adobe Walls led to war between the Plains Indians and the U.S. government.
2. The Battle of Palo Duro Canyon marked the end of the era of American Indian control over the Texas Plains.

## Why It Matters Today

American Indians and U.S. Army soldiers fought in many regions of Texas. Use current events sources to learn about the U.S. Army today.

## Key Terms

- Battle of Adobe Walls
- Battle of Palo Duro Canyon

## The Story Continues

The summer sun had not yet risen. Arapahos, Cheyennes, Comanches, and Kiowas waited in the dark. In the distance stood Adobe Walls, a trading post that served buffalo hunters on the Texas plains. Isatai, a powerful medicine man, promised that “those white men can’t shoot you. . . . I will stop all their guns.” With that, the Indians rode at full speed toward the settlement.



TEKS: 1B, 6A, 9A,  
9C, 20A, 21A, 21B, 21C,  
21D, 22A, 22D

## myNotebook

Use the annotation tools in your eBook to take notes on the effects of Red River War.

## ★ The Battle of Adobe Walls

By the spring of 1874, the situation had become desperate for Plains Indians. They were starving on the reservations, and the buffalo were being slaughtered by white hunters. Little Robe, a Cheyenne, reminded reservation agents of the importance of the buffalo.

## TEXAS VOICES

“Your people make big talk and sometimes make war, if an Indian kills a white man’s ox to keep his wife and children from starving; what do you think my people ought to say when they see their [buffalo] killed by your race?”

—Little Robe, quoted in *The Buffalo War* by James L. Haley

Isatai called for a war to drive out the buffalo hunters. In response, several Plains Indians leaders met in June 1874. Quanah Parker led the Comanches, and Lone Wolf led the Kiowas. Encouraged by Isatai, they targeted the trading post at Adobe Walls in the Texas Panhandle.

On June 27 about 700 Indians attacked Adobe Walls. Only 28 men and one woman were at the trading post, but they had an important advantage—buffalo guns. These powerful weapons could shoot long

HISTORY

## VIDEO

Quanah Parker:  
The Last  
Comanche

tehsocialstudies.com





*Quanah Parker, last chief of the Comanches, fought hard to protect his people's land. However, within a year after the defeat at Adobe Walls, Parker and the Comanches were forced onto a Kiowa-Comanche reservation in southwestern Oklahoma.*

distances. Despite repeated attacks, the hunters held their ground at the Battle of Adobe Walls. Four defenders died in the battle, while Indian casualties are estimated at 12 to 30. Although the attack failed, Plains Indians remained determined to protect their hunting grounds. They began a widespread war against buffalo hunters and settlers, launching attacks in Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

**Reading Check Sequencing** Explain in order the events leading to American Indian attacks on the Texas frontier.

## ★ The Battle of Palo Duro Canyon

After the attack at Adobe Walls and other American Indian raids, U.S. officials ordered General William Tecumseh Sherman to attack raiding Indians "wherever found. . . . The Reservation lines should be no barrier." Generals Sherman and Philip Sheridan organized a military campaign to kill or remove remaining American Indians in the Panhandle.

In August 1874 the army began a major offensive known as the Red River War. Some 3,000 troops in five different groups headed toward the Indian villages along the upper parts of the Red River. They were joined by the Frontier Battalion of the Texas Rangers, commanded by Major John D. Jones. Colonel Nelson Miles led a force of 750 soldiers into Texas from Fort Dodge in Kansas. These soldiers fought continuously against some 600 Cheyenne, who finally escaped in late August.

Major William Price led troops eastward from Fort Union in New Mexico Territory. Price defeated a band of Indians near Sweetwater Creek in the eastern Panhandle. Meanwhile, Colonel John Davidson and Lieutenant Colonel George Buell commanded two other military forces



patrolling the region. Both forces destroyed many American Indian villages. The soldiers forced hundreds of Indians, mainly women and children, onto reservations, where supplies were already short.

Colonel Ranald S. Mackenzie struck the final blow to the Texas Plains Indians. In August, Mackenzie's forces marched north from Fort Concho. Mackenzie learned that many Comanches, Kiowas, and a few Cheyennes were camping in Palo Duro Canyon, which had provided safe shelter to Indian families for centuries.

Just before dawn on September 28, 1874, Mackenzie and about 500 troops quietly worked their way down into the canyon. The soldiers surprised the Indian villages and killed three Comanches. Panic-stricken, women and children fled out onto the plains. The Battle of Palo Duro Canyon took a terrible toll on the Comanches. In their haste to escape, the Comanches left behind most of their supplies—including more than 1,400 horses. Mackenzie had most of the horses shot to prevent the Comanches from recapturing them. He also ordered his men to burn the villages in the canyon. Lacking clothing and horses, few Indians could hope to survive the winter in the Panhandle. They had no choice but to move to the reservations in Indian Territory.

The battle marked a turning point in the Red River War. The era of American Indian control of the Texas Plains had come to an end. Indian leaders advised the Cheyennes to accept reservation life.

#### TEXAS VOICES

"... we want them to travel in the white man's road. The white men are as many as the leaves on the trees and we are only a few people, and we should do as the white man wants us to, and live at peace with him."

—Grey Beard and Minimiz, quoted in *The Military Conquest of the Southern Plains*, by William H. Leake

#### Analyzing Primary Sources

**Drawing Inferences and Conclusions** Why did Grey Beard and Minimiz advise the Cheyennes to adopt the ways of white Americans?

**Reading Check Identifying Cause and Effect** What was the outcome of the Battle of Palo Duro Canyon, and how did it affect Texas Plains Indians?

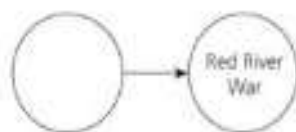


## Section 3 Review

[hmhsocialstudies.com](http://hmhsocialstudies.com)  
**ONLINE QUIZ**

1. **Identify and explain** the historical significance of:
  - Battle of Adobe Walls
  - Battle of Palo Duro Canyon

2. **Identifying Cause and Effect**
  - Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to explain the main events of the early 1870s and how they led to the Red River War.



3. **Finding the Main Idea**

- a. How did the Battle of Adobe Walls affect Plains Indians on the frontier?
- b. How did Mackenzie and his troops win the Battle of Palo Duro Canyon?

4. **Writing and Critical Thinking** WriteSmart

**Drawing Inferences and Conclusions** Write a short report explaining why some Plains Indians groups in Texas believed it was necessary to attack the buffalo hunters and settlers.

Consider the following:

- life on the reservations
- the effect of hunters on the buffalo





## Section

# 4

## The Indian Wars End in Texas

### Main Ideas

1. The Indian raids stopped when the Mexican army joined the United States on the chase.
2. The American Indian population had decreased greatly by the 1880s.

### Key Terms and People

- Victorio
- buffalo soldiers
- Henry O. Flipper

### Why It Matters Today

Texas Indians were forced onto reservations during the Red River War. Use current events sources to learn about people who are forced to relocate because of war or natural disaster today.



**TEKS:** 4A, 8B, 9A, 9B, 9C, 10B, 19A, 19B, 21A, 21B, 21C, 21D, 21E, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D

### myNotebook

Use the annotation tools in your eBook to take notes on how reservations changed the lives of American Indians.

## The Story Continues

Victorio never forgot what the U.S. Army had done to his mentor, Mangas Coloradas. Under a flag of truce, soldiers had killed the Apache chief. Now an Apache chief himself, Victorio would never trust the U.S. Army. When troops ordered Apache families to move to a hot barren reservation in Arizona, Victorio led many of them to Mexico.



## Fighting on the Rio Grande

The departure of the group led by Victorio marked the beginning of one of the last Indian wars in the United States. Victorio and other American Indians began raids into Texas from Mexico. The Apaches could easily attack travelers on the miles and miles of lonely roads of the Trans-Pecos region. In response to the raids, the U.S. Army ordered more troops to the Rio Grande area. Stopping the raids was not an easy task—the army chased Victorio for two years. Troops following the Apaches had to carry their own food and water to survive in the dry rugged area.

Most of the some 2,500 troops stationed along the border served in the 9th and 10th Cavalries as well as in the 24th and 25th Infantry Regiments. Although white officers commanded these regiments, all the troops were African American. They were called “buffalo soldiers” by American Indians. Henry O. Flipper, the first black graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, took part in a campaign against the Apaches while stationed at Fort Davis. Troops from this fort and



Fort Bliss sometimes trailed the Apaches for weeks, only to find they had crossed the Rio Grande back into Mexico. The raids were not stopped until the Mexican army became active in the chase. Victorio died in 1880 while being pursued by Mexican troops.

**Reading Check Analyzing Information** What problems did the climate create for the U.S. Army in the Trans-Pecos region?

## ★ Reservation Life

As Apache resistance was overcome, most Texas Indians were facing the challenge of living on reservations in what is now Oklahoma. When they moved onto the reservation, Plains Indians had to give up their traditional way of life—hunting buffalo—and take up farming. Their efforts to farm and ranch often failed. They usually received poor land, and they had little experience raising crops using the techniques taught by the reservation agents. When government officials did not supply food, Indians often faced starvation. General Nelson Miles described conditions on the reservations. “[Indians] were sometimes for weeks without their rations.” Few American Indians prospered on the reservations.

Indians on the reservations faced other challenges to their traditional ways of life. In 1883 the federal government banned many American Indian religious practices, including the Sun Dance. When some Kiowas planned the dance in 1889, soldiers stopped the event. Indians often had to hold traditional celebrations and ceremonies in secret. Many Indians continued to use their own languages as well as English. Indians also preserved many of their customs, myths, and styles of dress, despite government officials’ efforts to eliminate these traditional aspects of the Indians’ lives.



Image credit: © iStockphoto.com/John F. Sullivan. All rights reserved. Photo by John F. Sullivan.



## BIOGRAPHY

### Henry O. Flipper

(c.1856–1940) Henry O. Flipper was born into slavery in 1856. In 1878 he became the first African American to graduate from the U.S. Military Academy. After graduating, Flipper served as a second lieutenant in the 10th Cavalry. He worked as an army engineer, supervising the construction of roads and telegraph lines in Texas. Today West Point offers an award named after Flipper to students who succeed in the face of severe obstacles. **What role did Flipper play in the development of Texas?**

*Soldiers from Fort Davis patrolled far western Texas. Today, reenactors demonstrate what life was like at the fort.*





## Our Cultural Heritage

### American Indian Celebrations

Throughout the United States, American Indians celebrate their cultural heritage. Texans can learn about this heritage at places such as the Alabama-Coushatta Reservation in Polk County. Many American Indians hold gatherings called powwows, which attract many visitors. People attend the powwows to watch the festivities and sometimes participate in activities such as singing and dancing. **What activities celebrate American Indian culture in Texas today?**

Quannah Parker, who had surrendered and moved to the reservation in 1875, worked to better relations between the federal government and American Indians. On occasion Parker went to Washington, D.C., to negotiate on behalf of American Indians. Parker managed to live successfully in the cultures of American Indians and white Americans alike. He once remarked about his mother, "If she could learn the ways of the Indian, I can learn the ways of the white man." Parker continued to try to improve the lives of the Comanches until his death in 1911.

Quannah Parker and other Indians on reservations shared the land they farmed. Some government officials believed that the Indians would be better off if they owned the land they worked. The Dawes General Allotment Act of 1887 divided up reservation lands in Oklahoma and promised Indians U.S. citizenship. Some of the reservation lands were allotted, or divided, among individual families. This division of lands dissolved some of the unity within the Kiowa tribe, as well as other Texas Indians. In addition, many Indians did not receive enough land to support themselves.

After dividing the reservations, the government sold the remaining lands. As a result, Indians lost an enormous amount of land. The act also failed to grant Indians full citizenship as promised. All American Indians were not granted citizenship until 1924.

The difficulties of reservation life, military attacks, and the slaughter of the buffalo took a terrible toll on Texas Indians. By the 1880s their population had been greatly reduced. Most had either been killed or moved out of the state. This opened vast stretches of land on the Texas plains to farming and ranching. Settlers quickly moved onto lands that Texas Indians had called home for hundreds of years.

**Reading Check Analyzing Information** How did the Indian wars affect migration patterns in Texas?



## Section 4 Review



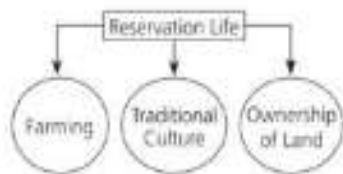
hmhsocialstudies.com  
ONLINE QUIZ

### 1. Identify and explain

- the historical significance of:
- Victorio
  - buffalo soldiers
  - Henry O. Flipper

### 2. Summarizing

- Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to show how living on reservations changed the lives of American Indians.



### 3. Finding the Main Idea

- Why did the Apache raids along the Rio Grande stop?
- What effect did the Indian wars have on migration patterns?

### 4. Writing and Critical Thinking

**WriteSmart**

**Supporting a Point of View** Imagine that you live in the 1870s. Write an editorial explaining how you think the reservation system will affect American Indians in the future.

Consider the following:

- farming on the reservations
- government policy toward American Indian cultures