

VETERANS LEGACY PROGRAM CURRICULAR MATERIALS

vlp.cah.ucf.edu

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

**Department
of History**



IMPRISONMENT OF PLAINS INDIANS AT FORT MARION



Brief History of Fort Marion



- Initially built as a fortress by the Spanish in the 1750s
 - San Marco Castle
- After US took possession of the fortress, renamed to Fort Marion
 - Named after General Francis Marion, who fought in the Revolutionary War
- Center of military operations during the Seminole War in 1830s
- After the Red River War, chiefs and warriors from the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Kiowa, Comanche and Caddo were forcibly taken to Fort Marion by the US military, regardless of whether or not they participated in the war

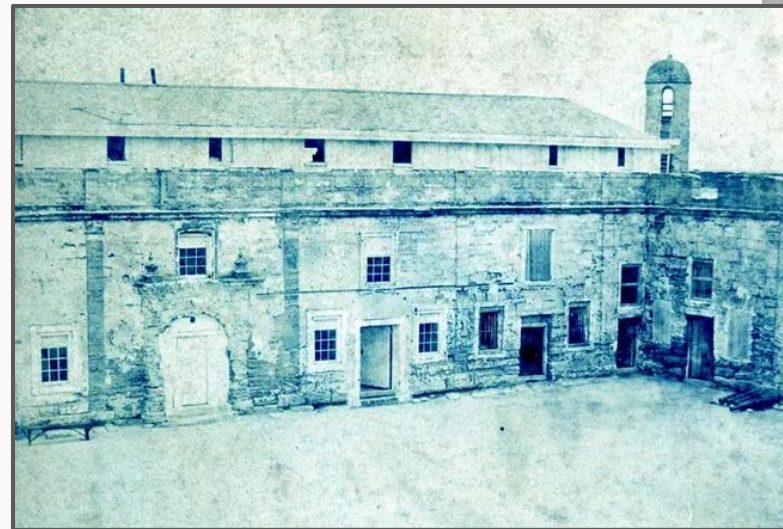
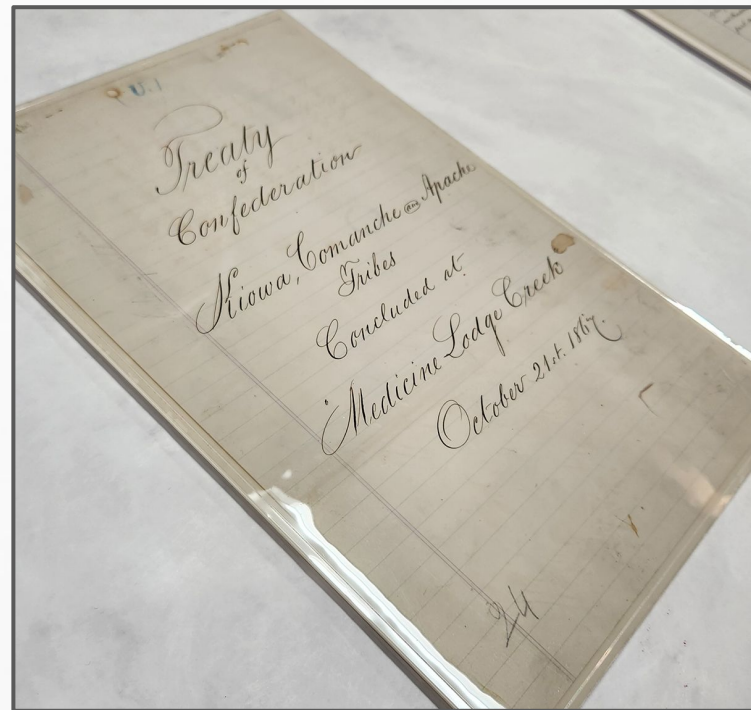


Image courtesy of the National Park Service

Forced Resettlement of Plains Indians to Reservations



- **Medicine Lodge Treaty (1867)**
 - Creation of 2 reservations for the Plains Indians to stop their ability to roam freely
 - One was for the Comanche & Kiowa, the other for Cheyenne & Arapaho
 - Treaty was supposed to give the tribes benefits, such as governmental help, guaranteed buffalo hunting rights, and the exclusive rights to their reservation territory
 - The US government did not follow through with many of these promises
- **President Ulysses S. Grant's Peace Policy**
 - Indians who relocated were supposed to be given rations, as well as a chance for education and farmer training
- **Many Indians opposed their movement to reservations**



Medicine Lodge Treaty; image courtesy of the National Archives

QUICK WRITE!

How do you think the Plains Indians felt about their relocation to reservations and their subsequent treatment? Why?

Sand Creek Massacre (1864)



“The Sand Creek Massacre” by Robert Lindneaux,
courtesy of the National Park Service

- First and Third Colorado Volunteers sent to guard the road to Santa Fe
 - Raided and looted indigenous communities
- 1861, displaced and captive Cheyennes and Arapahos were held prisoner at a US military reservation called Sand Creek in CO
- Had federal permission to hunt buffalo to sustain themselves and their family
 - 1864 they were no longer allowed to leave the reservation to hunt
 - The Plains Indians followed this rule
- November 29, 1864, 700 Colorado Volunteers went to the reservation and massacred 105 women and children and 28 men without provocation

Washita Massacre (1868)



- Colonel George Custer & his US 7th Cavalry attacked an Indian Village along the Washita River
 - Target was Black Kettle's camp of about 250 Cheyenne
 - Black Kettle survived the Sand Creek Massacre and was moving his tribe to be closer to larger Cheyenne settlements for safety in numbers
 - Once the attack started, Arapaho and Kiowa were among those to help fight back
 - Unknown number of warriors were killed, and 53 women and children captured
 - Lodges burned down along with winter supplies & clothing
 - Hundreds of the tribe's horses were killed

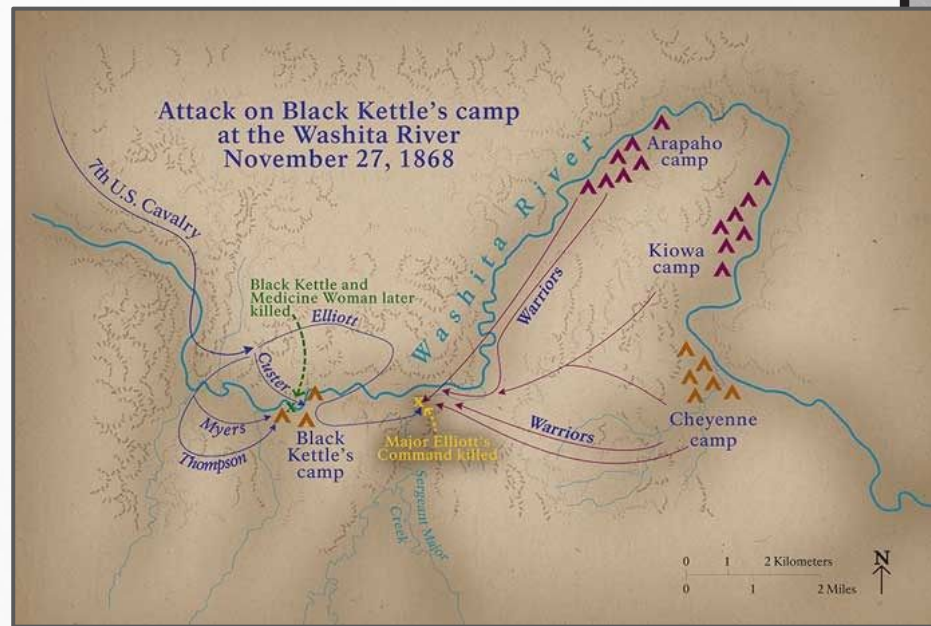


Image courtesy of the National Park Service

Red River War (1874-1875)



- Increased anger of the Plains Indians as their treaties were not followed, white buffalo hunters encroached on their land, and fears of white people taking more land spurred resistance
- As many as five thousands Plains Indians representing numerous tribes left their reservations and returned to their hunting lands
- The US Army essentially declared war on any Indians who were not at their assigned reservations. The US was determined to paint the idea that the Indians were “hostile”
- 74 Plains Indians were taken prisoner by the US government as a result of the war and taken to Fort Marion
 - Many were taken for no reason besides their role in their tribes
 - Deprived many tribes of their war leadership and made it more difficult for them to fight back

QUICK WRITE!



Say-it-in-6: Summarize the major conflicts that led to the imprisonment of the Plains Indians at Fort Marion in exactly 6 words.

Imprisonment at Fort Marion



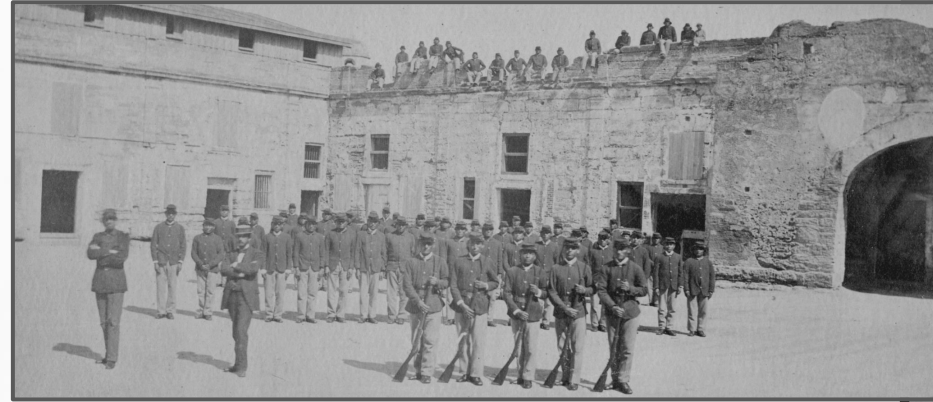
- Fort Sill, OK was one of the major reservations in which the Plains Indians were forced to reside
- 74 prisoners were taken from Fort Sill following the Red River War
 - 33 Cheyenne
 - 27 Kiowa
 - 11 Comanche
 - 2 Arapaho
 - 1 Caddo
- Taken by wagon to a train station, and by train from Oklahoma to Florida
 - Were treated as a spectacle by the white Americans along their route



Image courtesy of the National Park Service

Imprisonment at Fort Marion

- A few months after their arrival at Fort Marion, Captain Richard Henry Pratt assumed oversight of the prisoners
- Their conditions improved
 - Shackles removed
 - Built lodging out of wood instead of stone rooms of the fort
- “Kill the Indian in him, and save the man”
-Pratt
 - Wanted to westernize the Plains Indians
 - Cut their hair, gave them army uniforms, gave them ledger books, and taught them to read and write English
 - The treatment of the prisoners acted as a model for the Carlisle Indian School



Carlisle Indian School



- Opened in 1879 using methods Pratt honed at Fort Marion
- Focus on anglicizing the Indian students
- First of several Indian Schools that popped up during the time



Images courtesy of the Library of Congress

Carlisle Indian School



Photo of Tom Torlino, a Navajo student at Carlisle. 1882 (left) & 1885 (right)

- What do you notice about this image?
- How did the school Anglicize the Native Americans based on this image?
- This is just one example of Pratt's ideology in action. How do you think this impacted the Indians exposed to his work?

Carlisle Indian School



Classroom at Carlisle

- What do you notice about this image?
- How did the school Anglicize the Native Americans based on this image?

QUICK WRITE!



In your own words, explain what Pratt's philosophy of "kill the Indian, save the man" meant.