



Crazy Horse

(Sioux) -- 1849-1877

There have been leaders among the **Lakota (Sioux)** Nation, but the most famous of them all is Crazy Horse. He was a brave warrior, and his people saw him as a **visionary**. While he was known for his role in battles, his true goal was to teach others about what the Lakota Nation believed.



Childhood

As a child, Crazy Horse did not look like his friends. His hair was light and wavy and many of his people called him "Curly" as a **nickname**. Many white **settlers** who saw him playing thought he was actually a white prisoner living with the Indians.

While he was still a very young man, Crazy Horse began his journey toward becoming a famous warrior. When he was 13 years old, he began stealing horses from other Indian Nations. At 20 he led his first **war party** in to battle. He was not going to let the white people rule his land.



war party

Chief Crazy Horse

Over the years, Crazy Horse became friends with other Indian leaders like Sitting Bull. They would join their warriors together to fight for their way of life because the white people treated them badly.

Even though they won many big battles, the United States **government** took their land and tried to make them move to a new and special area called a **reservation**. This made Crazy Horse and his friends very angry.



Crazy Horse and his people chose to stay on their land and continue to fight the white men. After many battles, a freezing winter and lower numbers of **buffalo** to hunt, Crazy Horse finally **surrendered** and went to live on the reservation.



On September 5, 1877, he left the reservation without permission to take his sick wife to her parents. The army general told 43 men to go and

arrest him. When Crazy Horse realized that he was going to jail, he began to struggle and was stabbed by a soldier with a bayonet.



He was buried by his parents somewhere in the hills of the land he loved so much. Where he is buried still remains a secret today.

Glossary:

buffalo – a wild oxen found in North America



government – a group that leads a country or nation



Lakota (Sioux) – a Native American tribe or nation



nickname – a descriptive name given in to a person in addition to their regular name

reservation – land reserved for a special use



settlers – a person who moves to a new place and calls it home



surrendered – to give up a fight or battle to someone



Visionary – someone who can see the future.