

PRIMARY SOURCE READERS

Sitting Bull



Roben Alarcon

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Lakota Chief

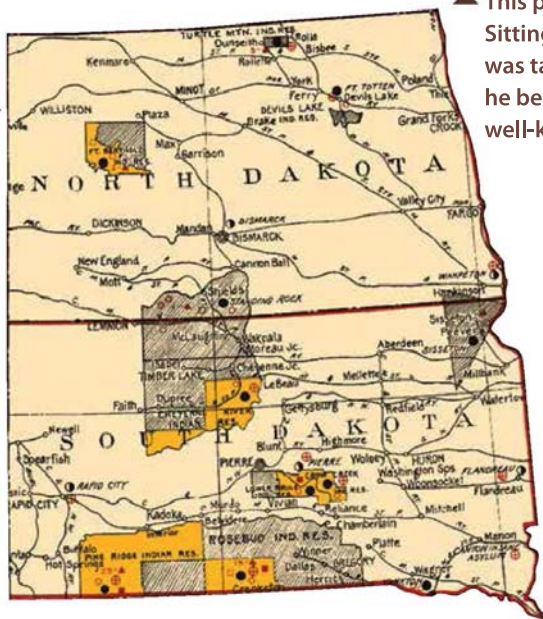
In the early 1800s, the government began moving American Indians to **reservations** (rez-uhr-VAY-shuhnz). White settlers wanted more land. Most tribes did not give up their land without a fight.

Chief Sitting Bull and the Lakota Indians fought hard. In the end, they could not win. They had to move to reservations. Sitting Bull died still wishing for the Lakota Indians to be free to live where they wished.



▲ This portrait of Sitting Bull was taken after he became a well-known chief.

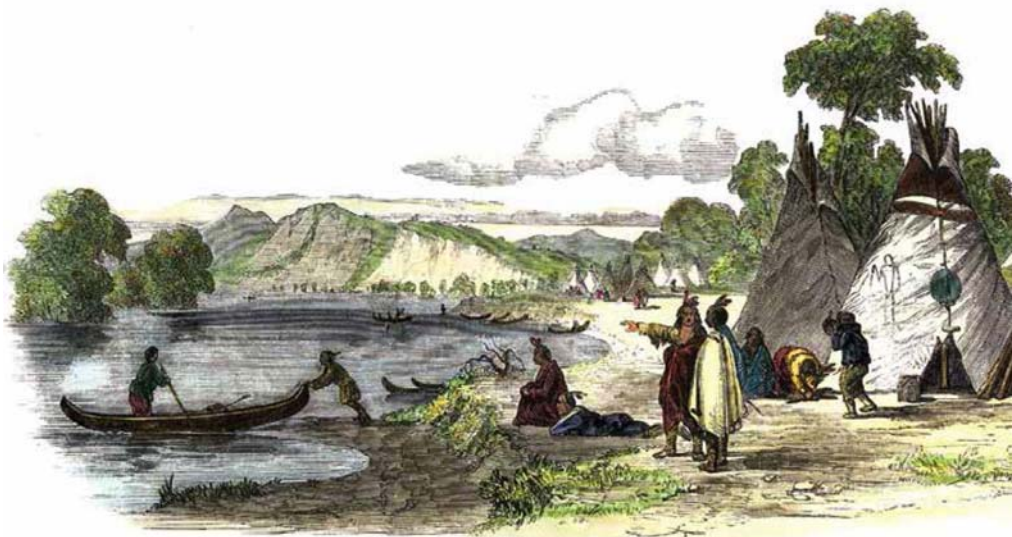
▶ This map of the Dakotas shows the Indian reservations in the region where Sitting Bull lived. Yellow areas are the reservations in the 1920s. Gray areas show how big the reservations used to be.



A Boy with Many Names

Sitting Bull was a Lakota Indian. He grew up in a small **band** called the Hunkpapa. No one knows the year of his birth, or even the place. Sitting Bull believed he was born by the Missouri River around 1831. He could never remember who told him this information, though.

Sitting Bull did not always have this name. At first, he was called Jumping Badger. Later, he was called Slow because he was so careful. He always thought before he acted.



▲ This woodcut shows a Lakota village.

1867 THE EVOLUTION OF THE WEST IN FOUR DECADES 1907



Killing a Bison

Sitting Bull killed his first bison at age ten. Bison are large, strong animals. This was a great achievement for such a young child.

▲ Indians hunting bison on the Plains

▼ When Sitting Bull grew up, he had children of his own and helped give them special names.



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