Sitting Bull

By: Lindsey Johnston
Sitting Bull was one of the best Indian leaders in all of history. Here is some information about his life:

Sitting Bull was born in Grand River, South Dakota in 1831. He was a member of the Lakota Sioux tribe. Sitting Bull was born on a gray fall day. His mother, Mixed Day, was overjoyed with her new son, but curious about what she would name him later on. Sitting Bull never showed any interest in anything over the first few months, but what Sitting Bull’s father (Returns Again) did notice was he could not be hurried. If he was eating, he had to examine his food before eating it, which was smart, but very odd for baby Indians like him. One day Returns Again and Mixed Day finally decided on a name for their odd baby boy. The name they choose was “Slow”. But that name did not stick with him forever.
Sitting Bull’s head dress was one of the many things that made him such an amazing leader.
When Slow was 14, he saw his father and other warriors ride off into battle against the Crow. When the men saw him riding closer, they didn't tell him to go back home because they were very shocked since he was so young. When the Crow saw the Sioux, they quickly retreated. Yet one lone Crow still stood and this was Slow’s chance to gain bravery and count coup on this warrior. (Counting coup was a Lakota Sioux tradition that required warriors to get close enough to their enemy to touch them with a stick.) With that in mind, Slow was very brave and rode off by himself and motioned for other warriors to follow. When Slow reached his destination, the Crow warrior leaped off his horse and grabbed his bow and arrow ready to fire. Cautiously, Slow grabbed the coup stick and tapped the Crow on his shoulder! This was an amazing act of bravery for a 14-year-old.
After Slow counted coup, his father, Returns Again, got a vision from the great buffalo that told him names like Sitting Bull, Jumping Bull, Bull Standing with Cow and Lone bull. In the Sioux tradition, these referred to the four stages of life. With the help of the vision, Slow’s father took the first name for himself, but then he realized that his son, Slow, should have that name. So Returns Again became Jumping Bull, and Slow became Sitting Bull. And that is how Sitting Bull’s name came to be.

Review 2.1 Test your knowledge

**Question 2 of 2**
What tribe was Sitting Bull from?

- A. Lakota Sioux
- B. Cheyenne
- C. Hopi
- D. Apache
During Sitting Bull’s teen years, he was chosen as the leader of the The Sioux tribe, in the territory now called North Dakota. Sitting Bull earned so much respect for his great skills and bravery that the Lakota took a vote and ended up choosing Sitting Bull as the great chief of the Lakota nation.

Just a few years later, after he became Chief, the tensions grew worse with the American soldiers and the Lakota Indians, as white prospectors rushed into the Sioux’s land. In June 1863, Sitting Bull fought against the United States for his first time. The next year he took on the American Soldiers again in the battle of Killdeer Mountain. In 1868, the Treaty of Fort Laramie recognized the Black Hills as sacred lands that were part of the great Sioux reservation.
The American government ignored their earlier treaty because they wanted the gold, and declared war on any native tribes that prevented it from taking over their land. When Sitting Bull refused to go by these new rules, another war was inevitable.

This is a picture of General Custer leading the expedition for gold in the black hills, in 1874.
In the year 1875, the United States offered to buy the Black Hills from the Sioux for $6,000,000. Sitting Bull refused the offer, wanting to remain on the sacred lands. Later on that spring, Sitting Bull attended the Sun Dance Ceremony, on the Little Bighorn River, where a great number of Indians gathered in a temporary village. Sitting Bull danced for 36 straight hours, and ended his performance while grabbing other performers. He told them that he had received a vision with a very special ending, where the American army was defeated. About a week after the Sun Dance, Sitting Bull brought his men into the battle of the Rosebud. A week later he was brought into battle again against General George Armstrong Custer in the famous battle of Little Bighorn. June 25, 1876 was the exact date of this famous battle. There, Sitting Bull lead thousands of Sioux and Cheyenne warriors into battle against American soldiers. After the battle was done, Custer himself was killed along with half of his 600 American soldiers.
Custer had been ordered into battle with any Sioux Indians who would not go to another reservation, but Sitting Bull and his warriors had no fear in taking on the men and keeping the right of their land. Even to this day, the Sioux still hold one of the best wins in battle history. (Click here to see a timeline of the events leading up to this battle:) [http://littlebighornproject.com/d5.html](http://littlebighornproject.com/d5.html)

The U.S was so embarrassed by the battle of Little Bighorn that they doubled their efforts to take the Sioux’s land. With that being said, Sitting Bull moved his tribe up into Canada where they stayed for four years. In 1881 Sitting Bull and his crew returned to their Dakota territory, where Sitting Bull was held as a prisoner until 1883.
Sitting Bull’s connection to Nebraska was brief. After being released from prison, he became friends with Annie Oakley (famous sharpshooter) and joined Buffalo Bill Cody’s Wild West Show. From 1884-1885 Sitting Bull traveled around the state of Nebraska, showing off his riding skills, and giving spectators a taste of Sioux culture. The show was basically to show people what the Old West was like. Sitting Bull reenacted the play of the Battle Of The Little Bighorn and during the play, Sitting Bull was called “The Slayer of General Custer”. The pay was better than 50 dollars a week, but Sitting Bull’s life was incomplete. He was very unhappy, and he missed his family a lot. Also making him uneasy was the fact that many of the people in the towns hated him. After the season was over, Buffalo Bill gave Sitting Bull a Stetson hat and a white trick horse to thank him for joining the show. Eventually, Sitting Bull returned home to his people and family. After he returned home he realized that every time the horse heard a gunshot it would sit down and put its hoof up. Sitting Bull proudly said, “I would rather die an Indian than live the life of a white man”.
Gallery of The Wild West Show!

Gallery 5.1 Slide to see pictures of The Wild West Show.

*The actors traveled around and into new towns in this wagon.*
Movie 5.1 Click below to meet Annie Oakley.
Word Search And Puzzle!!

Interactive 5.1 Word Search

Click here to try a word search.

Interactive 5.2

Click here to try a very challenging puzzle.

Try your Best.
While Sitting Bull was enjoying his final years on the Grand River, not very far from where he had been born, he sat in a cabin, living his life proudly as an Indian. In 1889, Native Americans began a new kind of group to rid the Indian territory of white people and start the real Indian way of life. Sitting Bull joined that as soon as he heard about it. Fearing the great Chief’s movements, authorities hired a Lakota police patrol to arrest Sitting Bull. On December 15th, 1890, the Lakota police entered his home and dragged him out of his cabin. Sitting Bull tried to fight back, but he was shot in the head. In three seconds, Sitting Bull’s life, and all he had worked for, was over.

Sitting Bull was brave for standing up to the white men when the treaties were broken. He lead one of the most successful battles in history against American troops, and fought for the Indian way of life.
Review 6.1 Final quiz on Sitting Bull

**Question 6 of 6**
Why was Sitting Bull such an important Native American in our history?

- **A.** He stood up for his tribe in troubled times.
- **B.** He invented the moccasins.
- **C.** He was in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show.
- **D.** He fought in the Civil War.

Click below to watch Amazing video on the history channel.

http://www.history.com/topics/sitting-bull
I dedicate my book to some of the very important people that helped me through my writing. Thank you for helping me become such a great writer: Mom, Mrs.Brookhouser, and my fourth grade Nebraska history teacher, Mrs.Hackett!
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Citations

Book title photo: Watercolor painting of Sitting Bull

Chapter One: Black and White photo of Sitting Bull
www.history.com

First Gallery picture: Sitting Bull in Head dress
www.creativecommons.com

Second Photo in gallery: Sitting Bull Monument
Blog:koldcast.tv

Third photo in Gallery: Sitting Bull with long head dress
www.firstpeople.us

Chapter 2: Coup Stick www.redeagle.net

Chapter 3: Interactive Map www.ndstudies.org

Chapter 3: Custer leading troops into battle www.nationalarchives.com

Chapter 4: Battle of Little Big Horn painting
www.Thepublicblogspot.com
Gallery 2: First picture Battle of the Little Bighorn sign: www.historvius.com

Gallery 2: Second photo “Map” education-portal.com

Gallery 2: Third photo: Telegram
www.nationalarchives.com

Gallery 2: Fourth photo Custer’s grave site
www.panoramio.com

Gallery 2: Fifth photo horse calvary gravestone www.bearriverhomestead.com

Gallery 2: Sixth photo: Graves
www.Crossingamerica2009.blogspot.com

Chapter 5: program
www.americanheritagei.com

Gallery Three: Photo One: Buffalo Bill and Sitting Bull
www.odysseythroughnebraska.wordpress.com

Citations: Row of books
www.libguides.caltech.edu

**Major sources used for information:**

*The Story of Sitting Bull Great Sioux Chief By: Lisa Eisenberg*

*The Last Stand By: Nathaniel Philbrick*

http://www.biography.com/people/sitting-bull-9485326

http://www.history.com/topics/sitting-bull

http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/people/s_z/sittingbull.htm
Citations

Gallery 3: second photo: Annie Oakley
www.goldenwestclothing.wordpress.com

Gallery 3: photo Three Annie shooting from horse
www.ic.galegroupi.com

Gallery 3: Annie Oakley shooting
www.blog.snapfashion.co.UK

Gallery 3: Buffalo Bills wagon
www.milwaukee.about.com

Chapter 6: Sitting bull with piece pipe
www.allposters.com

Chapter 6: Final review question 2 photo
Annie Oakley www.historium.com

Chapter 6: Final review question 2 photos
Buffalo Bill www.historydenverlibrary.org

Chapter 6: Final review questions 2 photos
Sitting Bull www.flickr.com

Chapter 6: Final review questions 2 photos
Annie Oakley

Real name: Phoebe Anne Oakley Mozee, A markswoman in the famous Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show.

Related Glossary Terms
Drag related terms here

Index
Find Term

Chapter 5 - Wild West Show
Count coup

(Among the Plains Indians of North America) a brave or reckless deed performed in battle by a single warrior, striking an enemy warrior without sustaining injury oneself.

Related Glossary Terms

Drag related terms here
Declared

To say (something) in a strong and confident way.

Related Glossary Terms

Drag related terms here
Destination

The place to which a person travels or is sent.

Related Glossary Terms

Drag related terms here
Examine

To look at (something) closely and carefully in order to learn more about it, to find problems, etc.

Related Glossary Terms
Drag related terms here
Expedition

A journey especially by a group of people for a specific purpose (such as to explore a distant place or to do research).

Related Glossary Terms

Drag related terms here
Government

The group of people who control and make decisions for a country, state, etc.

Related Glossary Terms
Drag related terms here
Native Americans

A person born in the United States. Usually referring to the tribes that lived in the United States before European settlers.

Related Glossary Terms

Drag related terms here
Overjoyed

Filled with great joy: very happy.

Related Glossary Terms

Drag related terms here
Prospectors

A person looking for land that contains gold.

Related Glossary Terms

Drag related terms here
Retreated

Movement away from a place or situation especially because it is dangerous, unpleasant, etc.

Related Glossary Terms

Drag related terms here
Sitting Bull

American Indian warrior, Leader of the Hunkpapa, Victor of the Little Bighorn.

Related Glossary Terms

Drag related terms here
Territory

An area of land that belongs to or is controlled by a government.

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