

RED CLOUD



BIOGRAPHY

RED CLOUD

Red Cloud was an Oglala Sioux Native American born in 1820 in Nebraska. As a youngster, he learned hunting and fighting skills which he put to use against enemy tribes like the Pawnees and Crows. Eventually, Red Cloud became his people's warrior chief.

As Red Cloud grew up, settlers traveled through his people's lands. At first there were not many travelers, and they did not disrupt traditional Native American life a great deal. But in 1865, gold was discovered in Montana, which brought waves of newcomers to the area. The Bozeman Trail was set up to allow travelers to reach Montana from the Oregon Trail.

But this trail went right through Red Cloud's people's lands. This was a huge problem for Red Cloud and his people, because the trail and the forts along it broke up their hunting grounds. They could no longer hunt the buffalo they needed to survive. So Red Cloud and his followers fought back, starting what became known as Red Cloud's War. They cut off food supplies along the trail, attacking forts and settlers. The worst attack was against Captain William Fetterman and his men in 1866. He and all eighty of his men were killed by the Native Americans.

After this, in 1868, the U.S government made a treaty with the Sioux Native Americans called the Fort Laramie Treaty. The Sioux would be allowed to keep lands in the Black Hills in South Dakota, and in Montana and Wyoming.

But peace wasn't to last. People still traveled through these lands looking for gold, driving out the Native Americans. While other Native American chiefs, such as Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse, fought against the settlers, Red Cloud did not. In the 1870s, he moved to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, along with his people. He became less of an active warrior, and more of a campaigner for a better life on the reservation. In 1909, Red Cloud died on the reservation.

Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write the sentence in which you found the word '**enemy**'.

b From that sentence, suggest what '**enemy**' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word '**enemy**'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to '**enemy**'.

e Draw a small picture showing what you think '**enemy**' means.

Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: allow	permit

Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.

The trail and forts set up along the route broke up the Sioux hunting grounds.

Eventually, Red Cloud became a Sioux warrior chief.

Red Cloud and his men fought back, until they signed the Treaty of Fort Laramie in 1868.

Red Cloud was born in Nebraska in 1820.

But the treaty did not bring peace for long, and Red Cloud moved his people to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

In 1865, many people moved through his people's land in search of gold.

As a youngster, Red Cloud fought against enemy tribes.

Get to the facts

- 1 Which Native American people did Red Cloud belong to?
- 2 Which enemy tribes did Red Cloud fight against?
- 3 What was discovered in Montana in 1865?
- 4 Which treaty was signed in 1868?
- 5 Where were the Sioux allowed to keep lands?

Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.

Looking for gold

Imagine you are traveling along the Bozeman Trail in the 1860s. You are heading to Montana in the hope of finding gold...(now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

- a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'enemy'.
- b From that sentence, suggest what 'enemy' means.
- c Write a new sentence using the word 'enemy'.
- d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'enemy'.
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Finding key words:

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym).

For example:

Key word – allow Synonym – permit

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