

Section

1

Changes in Indian Policy

Main Ideas

1. The Civil War and Reconstruction affected relations between American Indians and settlers in Texas.
2. The federal government took several steps to end American Indian raids in Texas.

Why It Matters Today

During the 1800s Texas and federal officials debated American Indian policy. Use current events sources to learn about American Indian policies today.



TEKS: 1B, 5B, 6A, 17C, 21A, 21B, 21C, 21D, 21E, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D

myNotebook

Use the annotation tools in your eBook to take notes on Texas American Indian policy and relations.

Key Terms and People

- commissioners
- Treaty of the Little Arkansas
- Satanta
- Treaty of Medicine Lodge

The Story Continues

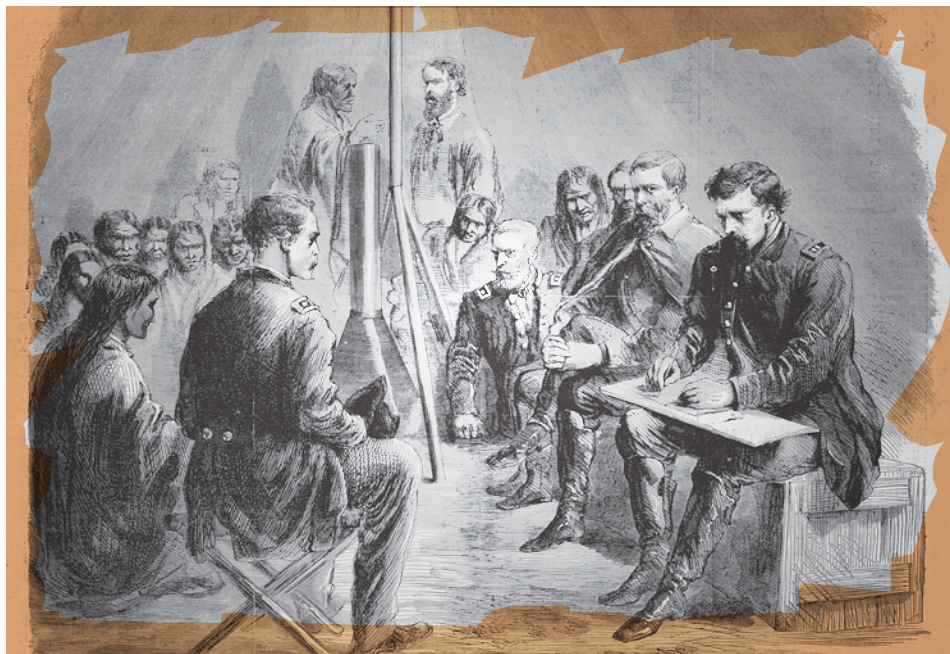
Mary and Britton Johnson wanted to build a new life in Young County. Their hopes were dashed in October 1864, when some Kiowas and Comanches attacked the settlement along Elm Creek. Johnson's son was killed and his wife and two daughters were taken captive. He rode into Indian Territory, determined to get them back. After some negotiation, Johnson managed to pay for their return.



American Indian Relations

The raid along Elm Creek was not an unusual event in the early 1860s. Many settlements were open to attack when soldiers and militias left to fight in the Civil War. Some Plains Indians took advantage of their absence to reclaim lost lands. The Comanches, for example, raided the area between Gainesville and Fredericksburg.

When the Civil War ended, federal troops arrived in Texas. However, there were not enough troops to protect the scattered frontier settlements. To try to ensure peace, federal **commissioners**—government representatives—met with leaders of the Comanches, Kiowas, and other groups in October 1865. In the **Treaty of the Little Arkansas**, Comanche and Kiowa leaders agreed to settle on a reservation that would include much of modern Oklahoma and the Texas Panhandle. In addition, the government would pay the Indians annual stipends. However, this reservation was never created, and peace did not last.



As settlers continued to move westward, some Comanches and Kiowas renewed their attacks. Governor James W. Throckmorton estimated that American Indians killed 162 Texans and captured 43 more between 1865 and 1867. As a result, many settlers, including more than half the population of Denton, Wise, and Young Counties, moved away to safer areas. The frontier line slowly crept back to the east.

Reading Check Identifying Cause and Effect What happened on the Texas frontier during the Civil War and Reconstruction?

Interpreting Visuals

Indian council. Plains Indian chiefs and U.S. officials met to discuss peace. **Based on this image, how were these meetings conducted?**

★ The Treaty of Medicine Lodge

In 1867 the federal government sent commissioners to negotiate a new peace treaty with Comanches, Kiowas, and other Plains Indians. They met at Medicine Lodge Creek in Kansas. The commissioners offered some 3 million acres of land for a reservation in Indian Territory. Those who moved to the reservation had to stop raiding and take up farming.

Kiowa chief **Satanta** bitterly opposed the offer of a reservation. He argued that the Panhandle belonged to the Kiowas and the Comanches. At the meeting, Satanta spoke out against the reservation system.

TEXAS VOICES

“I have heard that you intend to settle us on a reservation near the mountains. I don’t want to settle. I love to roam over the prairies. There I feel free and happy, but when we settle down we grow pale and die. . . . A long time ago this land belonged to our fathers; but when I go up to the river I see camps of soldiers on its banks. These soldiers cut down my timber; they kill my buffalo; and when I see that, my heart feels like bursting.”

—Satanta, quoted in *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*, by Dee Brown



Interpreting Visuals

The meeting at Medicine Lodge. During the meeting, U.S. officials encouraged the Plains Indians to move to reservations. Based on this illustration, who participated in this meeting?

Some Indian leaders disagreed with Satanta and chose to accept the government's offer. Kiowa leader Kicking Bird and Comanche chief Horseback, for example, argued that the survival of their people depended on moving to the reservations. They and other Plains Indians who shared their opinions agreed to the **Treaty of Medicine Lodge**.

Under this treaty, several thousand moved to Indian Territory. Among them were several bands of Comanches, Apaches, and Kiowas. In addition to land, the government promised to provide buildings, schools, farming tools, and a total of \$25,000 a year for 30 years to the Indians living on the reservations.

Not all Plains Indians were agreeable to the terms of the treaty, though. They chose to remain on the plains, determined to maintain their hunting grounds. Ten Bears, a Texas Comanche chief, echoed Satanta's sentiments, expressing his disdain for reservation life and the promises of the government.

TEXAS VOICES



"You said that you wanted to put us upon a reservation, to build us houses and make us medicine lodges. I do not want them. I was born upon the prairie, where the wind blew free. . . . I know every stream and every wood between the Rio Grande and the Arkansas. I have hunted and lived over that country. I live like my fathers before me and like them I lived happily."

—Chief Ten Bears, quoted in *Documents of Texas History*, edited by Ernest Wallace

Reading Check Summarizing What were the terms of the Treaty of Medicine Lodge?

★ The Peace Policy

In 1869 President Ulysses S. Grant established a Board of Indian Commissioners to carry out the terms of the peace treaty. Grant appointed many Quakers, members of a Protestant sect called the Society of Friends, to act as American Indian agents. The Quakers believed in religious tolerance for all peoples and in nonviolence. Many Quakers and Christian missionaries became active in Indian affairs in hopes of preventing war on the frontier by helping American Indians adjust to reservation life. The government hoped to teach the Plains Indians to make a living by farming, and agents arranged for the construction of schools and churches on the reservations. Lawrie Tatum, a Quaker, was the Indian agent for the Comanches and Kiowas at the reservation in Indian Territory.

There were serious problems with the reservation system. Although the government hoped that the Plains Indians would become farmers rather than buffalo hunters, the land the government set aside for them had poor soil. The few Indians who tried farming thus had trouble growing enough food to survive. Government food supplies failed to make up the difference. In addition, goods sent by the government to the reservation were sometimes sold illegally by contractors and never reached their proper destination. Some buffalo hunters entered the reservation, further threatening the Indians' food supply. As a result, American Indians living on reservations lacked basic supplies and often went hungry.

Reading Check Summarizing Explain how the Treaty of Medicine Lodge affected Plains Indians in Texas.



BIOGRAPHY

Satanta (c.1820–1874)
When Kiowa leader Satanta was born, Plains Indians were at the height of their power. Over the course of his life, he watched the Kiowas suffer military defeat and confinement to reservations. Satanta used both diplomacy and warfare to protect the Kiowas. He never adjusted to reservation life. Satanta was re-arrested and died in a prison at Huntsville.

What changes did Satanta see on the Texas frontier during his life?

★ Section 1 Review

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ONLINE QUIZ

1. Define and explain:

- commissioners

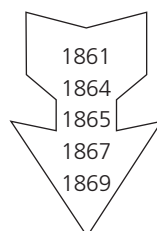
2. Identify and explain

the historical significance of:

- Treaty of the Little Arkansas
- Satanta
- Treaty of Medicine Lodge

3. Sequencing

Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to explain in order the significant events on the Texas Plains during the 1860s.



4. Finding the Main Idea

- a. How did the Civil War and Reconstruction affect the Texas frontier?
- b. Explain how the federal government hoped to achieve peace in Texas and protect western settlement.

5. Writing and Critical Thinking



Supporting a Point of View Imagine that you live in Texas in the 1860s. Write a letter to Congress supporting or opposing the federal government's American Indian policies. Consider the following:

- the effects of westward expansion on American Indians
- the success of previous treaties in achieving peace