

Section

4

The Indian Wars End in Texas

Main Ideas

1. The Indian raids stopped when the Mexican army joined the United States on the chase.
2. The American Indian population had decreased greatly by the 1880s.

Key Terms and People

- **Victorio**
- **buffalo soldiers**
- **Henry O. Flipper**

Why It Matters Today

Texas Indians were forced onto reservations during the Red River War. Use current events sources to learn about people who are forced to relocate because of war or natural disaster today.



TEKS: 6A, 8B, 9A, 9B, 9C, 10B, 19A, 19B, 21A, 21B, 21C, 21D, 21E, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D

myNotebook

Use the annotation tools in your eBook to take notes on how reservations changed the lives of American Indians.

The Story Continues

Victorio never forgot what the U.S. Army had done to his mentor, Mangas Coloradas. Under a flag of truce, soldiers had killed the Apache chief. Now an Apache chief himself, Victorio would never trust the U.S. Army. When troops ordered Apache families to move to a hot barren reservation in Arizona, Victorio led many of them to Mexico.



Fighting on the Rio Grande

The departure of the group led by **Victorio** marked the beginning of one of the last Indian wars in the United States. Victorio and other American Indians began raids into Texas from Mexico. The Apaches could easily attack travelers on the miles and miles of lonely roads of the Trans-Pecos region. In response to the raids, the U.S. Army ordered more troops to the Rio Grande area. Stopping the raids was not an easy task—the army chased Victorio for two years. Troops following the Apaches had to carry their own food and water to survive in the dry rugged area.

Most of the some 2,500 troops stationed along the border served in the 9th and 10th Cavalries as well as in the 24th and 25th Infantry Regiments. Although white officers commanded these regiments, all the troops were African American. They were called “**buffalo soldiers**” by American Indians. **Henry O. Flipper**, the first black graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, took part in a campaign against the Apaches while stationed at Fort Davis. Troops from this fort and

Fort Bliss sometimes trailed the Apaches for weeks, only to find they had crossed the Rio Grande back into Mexico. The raids were not stopped until the Mexican army became active in the chase. Victorio died in 1880 while being pursued by Mexican troops.

Reading Check Analyzing Information What problems did the climate create for the U.S. Army in the Trans-Pecos region?

★ Reservation Life

As Apache resistance was overcome, most Texas Indians were facing the challenge of living on reservations in what is now Oklahoma. When they moved onto the reservation, Plains Indians had to give up their traditional way of life—hunting buffalo—and take up farming. Their efforts to farm and ranch often failed. They usually received poor land, and they had little experience raising crops using the techniques taught by the reservation agents. When government officials did not supply food, Indians often faced starvation. General Nelson Miles described conditions on the reservations. “[Indians] were sometimes for weeks without their rations.” Few American Indians prospered on the reservations.

Indians on the reservations faced other challenges to their traditional ways of life. In 1883 the federal government banned many American Indian religious practices, including the Sun Dance. When some Kiowas planned the dance in 1889, soldiers stopped the event. Indians often had to hold traditional celebrations and ceremonies in secret. Many Indians continued to use their own languages as well as English. Indians also preserved many of their customs, myths, and styles of dress, despite government officials’ efforts to eliminate these traditional aspects of the Indians’ lives.



Image Credit: (b) Courtesy of Texas Highways Magazine; (tr) © National Archives (NARA)



BIOGRAPHY

Henry O. Flipper

(c. 1856–1940) Henry O. Flipper was born into slavery in 1856. In 1878 he became the first African American to graduate from the U.S. Military Academy. After graduating, Flipper served as a second lieutenant in the 10th Cavalry. He worked as an army engineer, supervising the construction of roads and telegraph lines in Texas. Today West Point offers an award named after Flipper to students who succeed in the face of severe obstacles. **What role did Flipper play in the development of Texas?**

Soldiers from Fort Davis patrolled far western Texas. Today, reenactors demonstrate what life was like at the fort.



American Indian Celebrations

Throughout the United States, American Indians celebrate their cultural heritage. Texans can learn about this heritage at places such as the Alabama-Coushatta Reservation in Polk County. Many American Indians hold gatherings called powwows, which attract many visitors. People attend the powwows to watch the festivities and sometimes participate in activities such as singing and dancing. **What activities celebrate American Indian culture in Texas today?**

Quanah Parker, who had surrendered and moved to the reservation in 1875, worked to better relations between the federal government and American Indians. On occasion Parker went to Washington, D.C., to negotiate on behalf of American Indians. Parker managed to live successfully in the cultures of American Indians and white Americans alike. He once remarked about his mother, "If she could learn the ways of the Indian, I can learn the ways of the white man." Parker continued to try to improve the lives of the Comanches until his death in 1911.

Quanah Parker and other Indians on reservations shared the land they farmed. Some government officials believed that the Indians would be better off if they owned the land they worked. The Dawes General Allotment Act of 1887 divided up reservation lands in Oklahoma and promised Indians U.S. citizenship. Some of the reservation lands were allotted, or divided, among individual families. This division of lands dissolved some of the unity within the Kiowa tribe, as well as other Texas Indians. In addition, many Indians did not receive enough land to support themselves.

After dividing the reservations, the government sold the remaining lands. As a result, Indians lost an enormous amount of land. The act also failed to grant Indians full citizenship as promised. All American Indians were not granted citizenship until 1924.

The difficulties of reservation life, military attacks, and the slaughter of the buffalo took a terrible toll on Texas Indians. By the 1880s their population had been greatly reduced. Most had either been killed or moved out of the state. This opened vast stretches of land on the Texas plains to farming and ranching. Settlers quickly moved onto lands that Texas Indians had called home for hundreds of years.

Reading Check Analyzing Information How did the Indian wars affect migration patterns in Texas?



Section 4 Review



hmhsocialstudies.com
ONLINE QUIZ

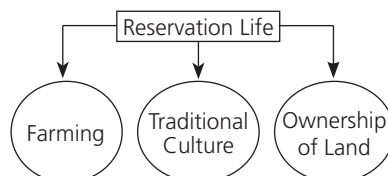
1. Identify and explain

the historical significance of:

- Victorio
- buffalo soldiers
- Henry O. Flipper

2. Summarizing

- Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to show how living on reservations changed the lives of American Indians.



3. Finding the Main Idea

- Why did the Apache raids along the Rio Grande stop?
- What effect did the Indian wars have on migration patterns?

4. Writing and Critical Thinking

myWriteSmart

Supporting a Point of View Imagine that you live in the 1870s. Write an editorial explaining how you think the reservation system will affect American Indians in the future.

Consider the following:

- farming on the reservations
- government policy toward American Indian cultures