

*Station N°8: The battle of the **LITTLE BIGHORN**, 1876*

Sioux and Cheyenne were very angry with the white people. The white people were travelling into their sacred lands in search for gold. Sioux gathered to fight for their lands with Sitting Bull. They were led by Crazy Horse to fight against the whites.



Sitting Bull



Crazy Horse



Colonel Custer

The US army sent Colonel George Custer and the 7th cavalry to force Indians back to their reservations. They should wait for reinforcements but Colonel Custer ignored the orders to wait and decided to attack only with men he had there.

He didn't realize how many the Indians were. But Sioux Indians joined with Cheyenne Indians too. There were now **12.000 Indians** together. The US army, led by Custer, had only **250 men**.

Custer divided troops into **three parts**. The first was sent to prevent the Indian escape through the upper valley; the second to take charge of the Indian village and the third, led by Custer, to fight with Indian warriors.



As the Indians closed the US army in a circle, Custer ordered men to shoot their horses and form a wall. The army still thought they could win because they had better weapons.

In a fierce battle in **less than an hour**, Custer and all his men were killed. It was the worst American military disaster ever.

Little Bighorn showed the Indian power. It was their greatest victory, but soon the tribe's union fell apart because of white men slaughtering. Within a year Sioux nation was defeated and broken. The survived Indians were forced to live on small reservations, like animals in cages.

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Make questions to the underlined information in the answers.

1. _____
Indians were angry with the white people.
2. _____
The whites were stealing gold from Indians' sacred land.
3. _____
Indians gathered to fight for their lands.
4. _____
The US army wanted to force Indians to live on reservations.
5. _____
They ignored to wait for the reinforcements.
6. _____
They decided to attack the Indians alone.
7. _____
Cheyenne joined the Sioux.
8. _____
There were 12.000 Indians together.
9. _____
The battle lasted one hour.
10. _____
Indians won the battle in less than an hour.