

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Essential Questions

MISSION 3: "A Cheyenne Odyssey"

Mission 3: "A Cheyenne Odyssey" is designed to help students think about the following questions, among others. Keep them in mind as your students play the game.

1. What was daily life like for Plains Indians before the reservation period?
 - Why were buffalo so essential to the survival of the Plains Indians?
 - How were Indian families and societies organized?
 - What did it mean to be part of a warrior culture?
 - How did tribes make political and military decisions?
 - Why were trade relations between whites and Plains Indians mostly peaceful?
2. Why did violent conflict break out between the Plains Indians and European-Americans in the 1860s and 1870s? How did each side understand and respond to this conflict?
 - Why did Plains Indians oppose white settlement?
 - Why did some Indians attack white settlers and their property?
 - What role did the United States military and government play in the conflict?
 - Why did white Americans feel justified in taking land from Indians?
 - Why did white Americans believe Plains Indians should assimilate (adopt) their culture?
 - Why did treaty agreements not succeed in maintaining peace?
3. What strategies did the Cheyenne and other Plains Indians use to survive and adapt to the expansion of the United States?
 - Why did some Indians cooperate with the United States, and others adopt armed resistance?
 - What aspects of white society and technology did Indians incorporate into their culture?
 - Why did most Indians resist assimilation and maintain their language, culture, and spiritual practices?
 - Why did Indians not want to become farmers?
 - Why was it so important for the Northern Cheyenne to return to their homeland in southern Montana?
4. How did Cheyenne children determine their future paths and roles in their communities?
 - How did family relations and friendships shape their lives?
 - How did the development of specific skills and interests shape their lives?
 - Were there any key events, turning points, or decisions that had a lasting impact?