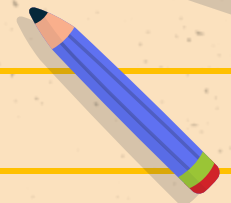
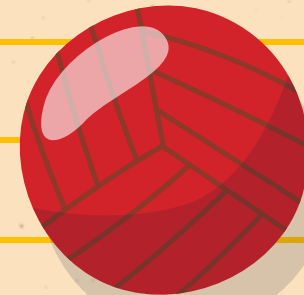
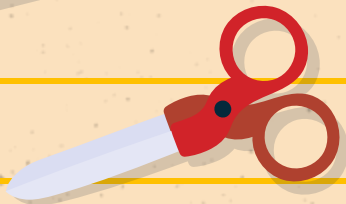
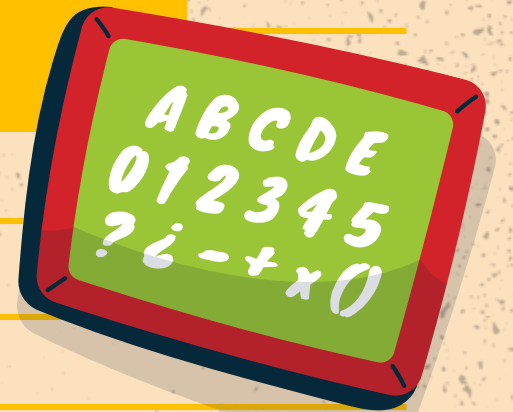


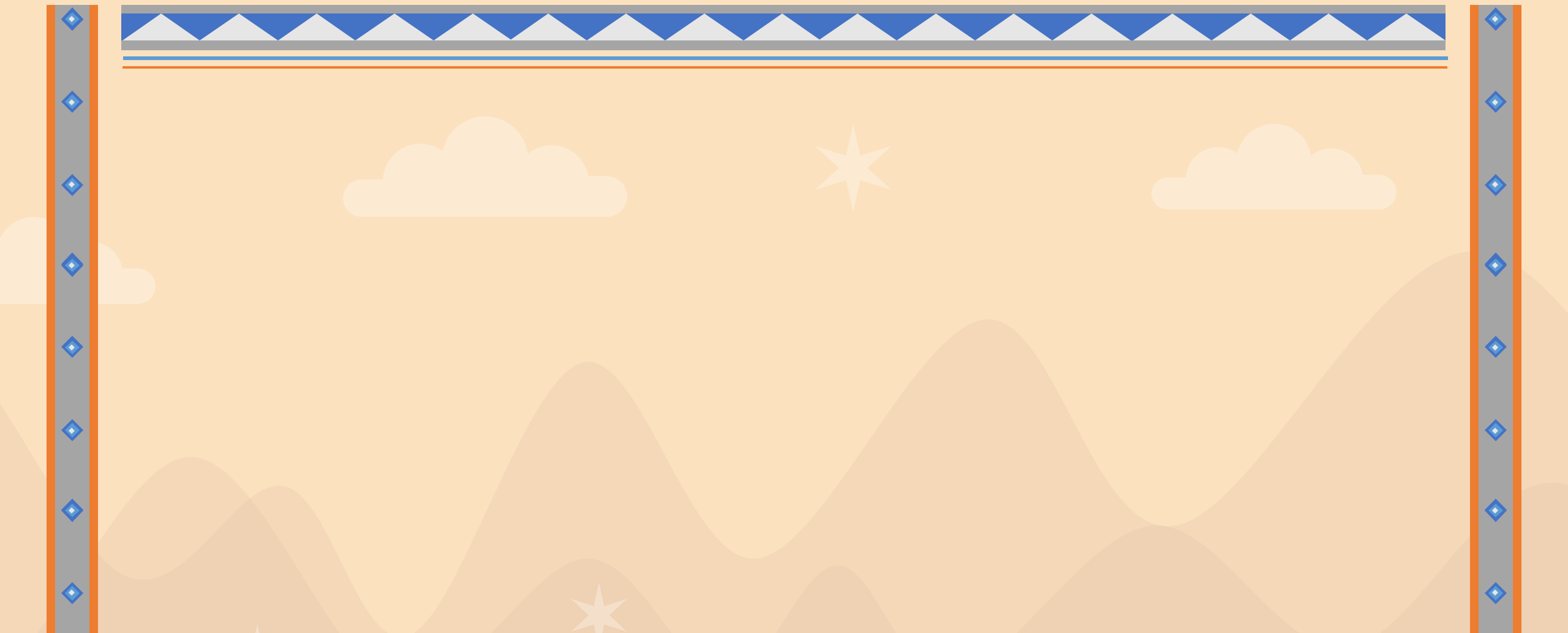
Why is Wounded Knee so important?

INVESTIGATE



4.6

The Ghost Dance & Peyote Road



As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- **Analyze the importance of the Ghost Dance Movement**
- **Examine the impact of the Massacre at Wounded Knee**
- **Discuss the importance of the Peyote Road**

Origins of the Ghost Dance

Wovoka- Official name was Jack Wilson, began the movement on the Walker River Paiute Reservation

Was orphaned at 14, grew up working on a ranch of a non-Indian family working as a woodcutter

January 1st, 1889, he was cutting wood during an eclipse when he collapsed & received a powerful vision

Given knowledge of a dance that promised to cleanse the earth of whites & return the land to Indians. All loved ones would return

Spread of the Ghost Dance

**The Ghost Dance began to spread into the plains
from word of mouth & railroads**

**The Dance then gained new meanings & traditions
based on the cultures that adopted it**

**1883- The Last Bison Hunt- The Lakota people
discover a herd of bison in South Dakota &
call the nation to hunt all of them in 3 days**

**1884- The Sun Dance was outlawed by federal
agents, creating a feeling of disempowerment
in the Lakota people**

Lakota & the Ghost Dance

1888- The BIA at Pine Ridge prohibits the use of ritual bundles for funerals

The Lakota then had to participate in “ration days” where they had to go to the agency for food

1889- The federal government divided up the Great Sioux Reservation into 6 smaller ones

All the loss they had experienced made the Ghost Dance very appealing to them

Outlawing the Ghost Dance

Big Foot became a central figure in the movement at the Cheyenne River

The movement offered the Lakota peace & restored balance & created a new integrity for the Lakota

The Lakota added new meaning to the dance to include the return of bison to the plains

The Lakota developed Ghost Shirts & Ghost Dresses which were believed to be bulletproof

Outlawing the Ghost Dance

Some people (& historians) believed the Ghost Dance was held for violent retribution

This was not the case, as they had a doctrine of restoration & peace & they would often invite agents to watch

1890- Agents were concerned with the dance & began to withhold rations to those who were dancing

Eventually it was outlawed & federal troops were sent to the agencies

Wounded Knee

After the death of Sitting Bull, Big Foot set out with 350 Lakota's to Pine Ridge. Big Foot was sick with pneumonia

Dec. 28th 1890- The 7th Calvary (Custer's forces) intercepted the group & escorted them to a camp along Wounded Knee Creek

The Calvary began to take their weapons & someone (most likely by accident) fired a gun

The Calvary opened fire on the group, killing elders, women, & children & seeking survivors & killing them

Wounded Knee

Black Elk & other Lakotas ran to defend their people, with little success & were forced to return to Pine Ridge

Over 300 Lakota, including Big Foot, were killed & buried in a mass grave alongside the river

John Chivington wrote about the massacre & brought awareness, calling it the Battle at Wounded Knee

Olive Oatman was a baby who survived & later became a sideshow attraction

The Peyote Road

Peyote- Small, spineless cactus that causes hallucinogenic properties

People who follow the peyote way use it for religious purposes, much like Christian communion

Quanah Parker began the Half-Moon Way & **John Wilson** began the Big-Moon way

Christian religion was woven into the Peyote Way & hymns & prayers were created

Peyote Road

Peyote movement taught followers to think good thoughts & live right such as staying away from alcohol & fighting

Parker welcomed Christians & spoke out against the Ghost Dance & supported leasing land

Quanah fought for the religion, helping establish the Native American Church in 1918

The Native American Church is a religious movement that blends Indigenous spirituality with elements of Christianity, with the use of Peyote

*What Did We
Learn in the
Class Today?*



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