

Lesson Plan
Christopher Savio
Shifting Power on the Plains

Content Objective: In this lesson students will learn about two different leadership styles that were visible upon the northern plains during the 1870's. These leadership styles will not include anyone from the U.S. army or its citizens but focus upon Oglala leaders Crazy Horse and Red Cloud. In this lesson students will learn of the different leadership styles and the worldviews, which shaped these two leaders. In addition to the study of Red Cloud and Crazy Horse two other leaders will be studied in parallel to them. These leaders will include Nathaniel Green and Ben Franklin during the mid to late 1770's. The rationale for this is that Nathaniel Green was more warlike much like the style of Crazy Horse and Ben Franklin who was much more the diplomat during the 1770's as was Red Cloud a century later. After studying the two sets of parallel leaders the results of their efforts as it shaped their peoples future and history will be examined. Both sets of leaders fought for their people in much different ways but sought the same outcome. It is important that students begin to realize the fact that U.S. history is not limited to the leaders of European descent we so often learn about in U.S. 1. The student must realize that leaders from all walks of life are viable for study and what they accomplished or strove to accomplish still resonates in our every day lives. This lesson will not only achieve the goal of students understanding how the power of the plains shifted during this time period but will also open them up to a more multicultural view of history and divert them away from the more myopic Euro centric view so commonly put forth by our current textbooks.

Lesson is designed for the high school junior or senior

Procedure: This part of the lesson will begin after students have been taught the history of the plains tribes up to and including the set up of the Red Cloud Agency and Fort Robinson in 1877.

Step 1: Students will be divided up into groups. I would divide them up into multiple groups so that more than one group will be studying Red Cloud and Franklin or Crazy Horse and Nathaniel Greene. Using the books and sources:

**“Crazy Horse: A Lakota Life” by Kingsley M. Bray,
“The Plains Sioux and U.S. Colonialism From Lewis and Clark to Wounded Knee” by Jeffrey Ostler, “
“The First American” by H.W. Brands
“Patriots” by A.J. Langguth
Several preselected articles from Facts on File**

students will write a 2-3-page comparison paper on their preselected leadership set. This assignment must contain a short bio off each leader to show their worldview and concrete examples of their leadership styles during the time periods talked about. Students will have two weeks to complete step one.

Step 2: After grading the papers, students will have them returned and they will compare notes within their groups and come to a consensus of the leadership style of each leader. After this is completed we will share with the class the outcomes and as a class discuss the effectiveness of each leader in regards to their particular role in history. I will send students back to groups for a discussion as to whether or not the diplomatic approach or the more warlike approach was more effective for each leader set.

Step 3: Students will for homework write a one-page essay explaining which leader, Crazy Horse or Red Cloud, was more effective in deciding the “power shift” upon the plains. The following day in class, as a test, they will then have to write a one page paper discussing how these two sets of leaders, American and Native, both effected U.S. history and how we are still effected about it in today’s world.

It is hoped that each student will walk away with not only more knowledge of different leaders of the plains tribes but also how these leaders exhibited similar qualities as the leaders they are traditionally taught. This should cement in their minds how history not only traditional American history but Native history is extremely important and intertwined into the fabric of our daily lives.