

Name _____

Leaders of Resistance

During the 1800s, as the United States expanded westward, many Native American tribes faced the loss of their lands and way of life. However, strong leaders like Tecumseh, Sitting Bull, and Chief Joseph stood up to protect their people and resist U.S. expansion.

Tecumseh, a Shawnee leader, believed tribes needed to unite to defend their lands. He traveled across the country, encouraging tribes to work together against settlers and soldiers. Tecumseh's vision of unity inspired many, but after he died in battle during the War of 1812, the movement lost momentum.

Sitting Bull, a leader of the Lakota Sioux, became famous for his role in resisting U.S. attempts to take over Native American land. He led his people during the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876, where they defeated General Custer's army. Despite their victory, Sitting Bull and his people faced continued attacks and were eventually forced onto reservations.

Chief Joseph, leader of the Nez Perce, is remembered for his efforts to avoid violence while protecting his tribe. In 1877, when the U.S. government tried to move the Nez Perce from their homeland, Chief Joseph led his people on a long journey to escape. Although they fought bravely and traveled over 1,000 miles, they were captured near the Canadian border. Chief Joseph's famous words, "I will fight no more forever," became a symbol of his desire for peace and justice.

These leaders showed courage and determination in the face of overwhelming challenges. By learning about their stories, we can better understand the struggles of Native Americans during this time and the importance of leadership and unity.

