

## Textbook

### Battle of Little Bighorn

For years the Lakota Sioux conducted raids against white settlers who had moved into Sioux lands. In response, the U.S. government ordered all Lakota Sioux to return to their reservation by January 31, 1876. They refused. The situation was turned over to the military.

About 2,000 Sioux, Cheyenne, and Arapaho gathered near the Little Bighorn River. The leader of the Sioux, **Sitting Bull**, conducted a ceremonial sun dance. He reportedly had a vision of a great victory over soldiers.

The brash leader of the U.S. Army troops, Lieutenant Colonel **George Armstrong Custer**, predicted victory as well. On June 25, 1876, Custer led his troops into a headlong attack against superior numbers. Custer and his troops were quickly encircled and slaughtered. The **Battle of Little Bighorn** was a tremendous victory for the Sioux—but a temporary one. Now the U.S. government was even more determined to put down the Indian threat to settlers.

*Source: American Anthem, Holt, Rinehart, & Winston, 2006, p. 441.*

---

### Guiding Questions:

1. According to the textbook, what caused conflict between the Lakota Sioux and the U.S. government?
2. Who started the Battle of Little Bighorn?
3. Why did Custer lose?
4. Do you think this account is an accurate description of the Battle of Little Bighorn? Why or Why not?