



# Native American Tribes: Lakota



*Sitting Bull  
about 1830-1890  
Lakota leader and  
holy man*

The Lakota are one of the tribes of the Great Sioux Nation. Originally from the Great Lakes area of the United States, they moved west to Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. Today there are between 55,000 to 70,000 Lakota, most of whom live in South Dakota.

The Lakota learned about horses from the Cheyenne around 1730. They became excellent horsemen and hunted buffalo from horseback. They followed the buffalo herds, living in hide tents called tipis.

The Lakota were protective of their land. There were many conflicts when the pioneers tried to settle on or cross Lakota land. The U.S. Government made several treaties with the

Lakota, but those treaties were often broken by the settlers or the U.S. Government.

The Lakota defended their land against the U.S. Army in several major battles. Some Lakota moved to Canada and others moved to reservations in South Dakota.

Leading this resistance was Lakota holy man Sitting Bull. After a major victory in 1876, he guided his people over the Canadian border to refuge in Saskatchewan, where he remained until 1881. When he returned to the United States, he traveled with Buffalo Bill Cody's *Wild West Show* where he was seen by audiences as a warrior and celebrity figure. Though he was shot and killed by police in 1890, his legacy remains.



*A Lakota girl in front of a tipi*



*A dance drawn by Black Hawk, a Lakota leader, in about 1880.*

## Secret Code Word

Use the secret code to find a word about the Lakota. Write the letter in the blank that matches the number from the code.

8 15 18 19 5 13 5 14

### Secret code

1 = A	8 = H	15 = O	22 = V
2 = B	9 = I	16 = P	23 = W
3 = C	10 = J	17 = Q	24 = X
4 = D	11 = K	18 = R	25 = Y
5 = E	12 = L	19 = S	26 = Z
6 = F	13 = M	20 = T	
7 = G	14 = N	21 = U	

## Short Answer

The Lakota are one of the tribes of which Native American nation?

Where do most of the Lakota members live today?

What did the Lakota learn about from the Cheyenne?

What is a tipi?