

# TEACHER'S GUIDE

## Primary Source Document Collection

### MISSION 3: "A Cheyenne Odyssey"

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#### Photographs of Custer's Expedition in 1874

*In the summer of 1874 Lt. Col. George Custer led approximately 1200 troops as well as mining engineers and scientists on an expedition through the Dakota Territory to investigate the rumors of gold in the Black Hills and find a suitable location for a new fort. The 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty designated the Dakota Territory and the Black Hills as Indian lands and the Black Hills were sacred land to the Lakota and the Cheyenne. The expedition's confirmation of gold and other valuable ores in the Black Hills resulted a massive influx of gold seekers in violation of the treaty and increased tensions with the Plains Indians.*



A panoramic view of the camp at Hidden Wood Creek. By Illingworth, 1874, during Custer's Black Hills expedition.

Source: National Archives, <http://research.archives.gov/description/519425>

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Column of cavalry, artillery, and wagons, commanded by Gen. George A. Custer, crossing the plains of Dakota Territory. By W. H. Illingworth, 1874 Black Hills expedition.

Source: National Archives, <http://research.archives.gov/description/519427>