

# **Historical Detective's Handbook**

In this exercise, you and a partner will be playing the part of historical detectives. Imagine that it is the year 3000. A small collection of maps and documents from the early 21<sup>st</sup> century has been unearthed by archaeologists, but their meaning is not clear. You and your partner are eminent historians, and you have been asked to examine these artifacts to help unravel the story they tell. Your task is as follows:

1. One of the documents is labeled "Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868." It contains a description of land given by one group to another. Starting with the blank map provided and using only the information in this package, produce a map of the area defined by the treaty.
2. After you have completed the map, examine the remaining evidence and develop a theory. What is the story they tell? What famous American landmark is involved? What was the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868, and what happened to the land it describes?
3. Place all the evidence in chronological order, and be prepared to discuss your theory with your fellow historians.

## **Fort Laramie Treaty, 1868**

From this day forward all war between the parties to this agreement shall for ever cease. The government of the United States desires peace, and its honor is hereby pledged to keep it. The Indians desire peace and they now pledge their honor to maintain it.

### **ARTICLE II.**

The United States agrees that the following district of country, to wit, viz: commencing on the east bank of the Missouri river where the 46th parallel of north latitude crosses the same, thence along low-water mark down said east bank to a point opposite where the northern line of the State of Nebraska strikes the river, thence west across said river, and along the northern line of Nebraska to the 104th degree of longitude west from Greenwich, thence north on said meridian to a point where the 46th parallel of north latitude intercepts the same, thence due east along said parallel to the place of beginning; and in addition thereto, all existing reservations of the east bank of said river, shall be and the same is, set apart for the absolute and undisturbed use and occupation of the Indians herein named.

Almighty God, from this pulpit of stone the American people render thanksgiving and praise for the new era of civilization brought forth upon this continent. Centuries of tyrannical oppression sent to these shores, God-fearing men to seek in freedom the guidance of the benevolent hand in the progress toward wisdom, goodness toward men, and piety toward God.

Consequently, on July 4, 1776, our forefathers promulgated a principle never before successfully asserted, that life, liberty, equality, and pursuit of happiness were the birthrights of all mankind. In this declaration of independence beat a heart for all humanity.

*1941 Inscription*

“... gold has been found at several places, and it is the belief of those who are giving their attention to this subject that it will be found in paying quantities. I have on my table forty or fifty small particles of pure gold...most of it obtained today from one panful of earth.”

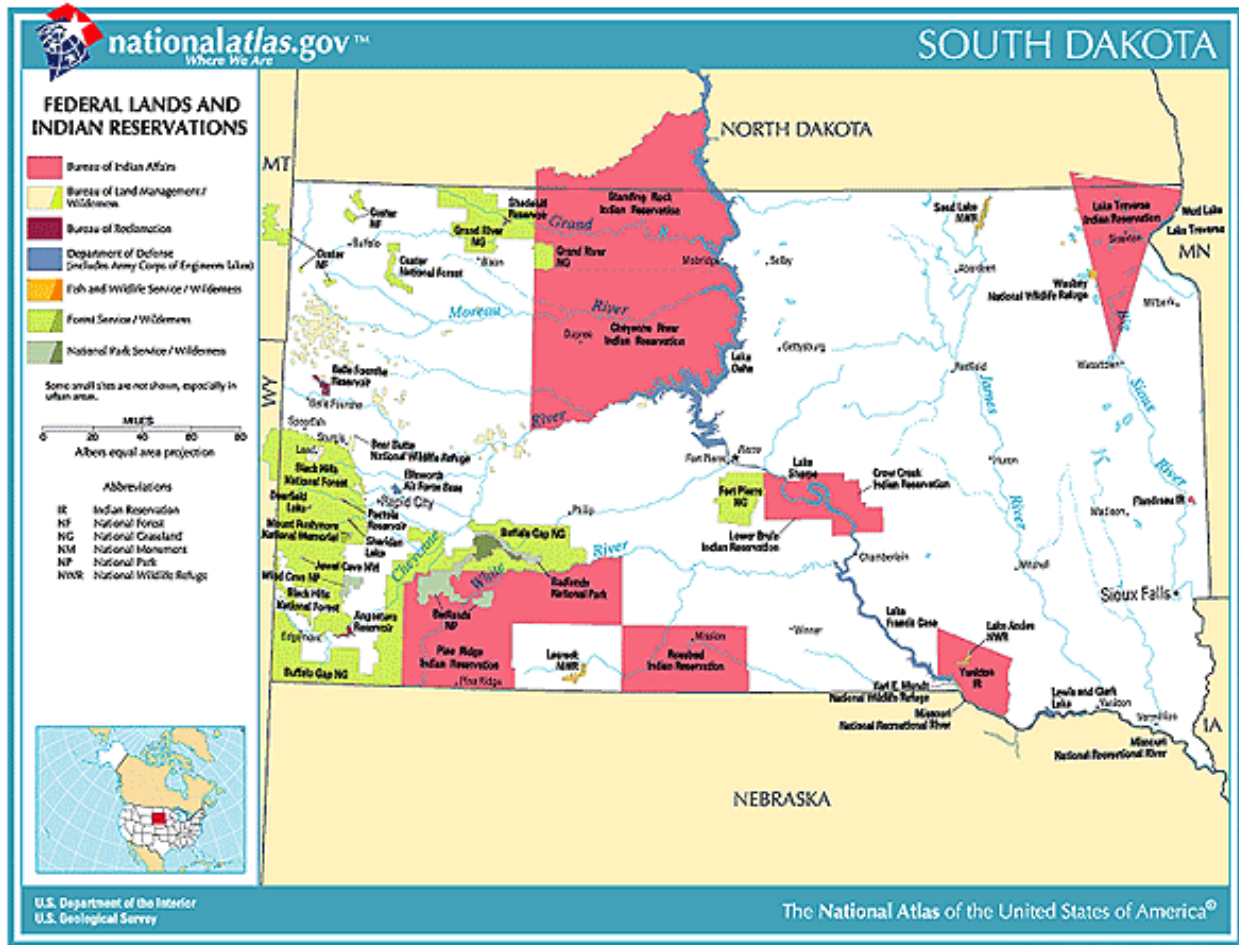
*George Custer, July 1874*



“Whose voice was first sounded on this land? The voice of the red people who had but bows, and arrows....What has been done in my country I did not want, did not ask for it; white people going through my country.... When the white man comes in my country he leaves a trail of blood behind him....I have two mountains in that country....The Black Hills and the Big Horn Mountain. I want the great father to make no roads through them. I have told these things three times; now I have come here to tell them the fourth time.”

*Red Cloud, Oglala Sioux, 1876*

# Native American Reservations 2005



# Missouri River Basin

