

# Northwest History Consortium

## The Blackfeet

**Robert McKay**

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

### **National Standard**

**Era 4: Expansion and Reform (1801-1861) / Standard 2**

*Standard 2: How the industrial revolution, increasing immigration, the rapid expansion of slavery, and the westward movement changed the lives of Americans and led toward regional tensions.*

### **Montana State Standard**

*Content Standard 2: Students analyze how people create and change structures of power, authority, and governance to understand the operation of government and to demonstrate civic responsibility.*

### **Montana Essential Understanding**

*6: Much of our history has been told from one perspective. Only until very recently have American Indians begun to write about and retell history from an Indigenous perspective.*

*History is a story and most often related through the subjective experience of the teller. Histories are being rediscovered and revised. History told from an Indian perspective conflicts with what most of mainstream history tells us.*

### **SCENARIO**

In 1855, the hostility between the Blackfeet and the U.S. government culminated in the Baker Massacre. This incident was precipitated by a band of Piegans who killed a prominent settler, Malcolm Clark, outside of Helena in the Fall of 1869. The army decided to retaliate that winter, so Colonel E.M. Baker departed from Fort Shaw and went north to the Marias River. In a surprise attack on January 23, 1870, the army killed almost all of Heavy Runner's band—mostly women and children who were ill with smallpox. Even though Baker was supposed to attack the band of Mountain Chief and not that of the peaceful Heavy Runner, President Ulysses S. Grant's executive orders of 1873 and 1874 removed the land between the Marias River on the north and the Sun River on the south from the Blackfeet.

### **TASK**

As a member of Mountain Chief's council, plan and present to the tribe a course of action for your tribe.

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#### RESOURCES

“Blackfoot Indian Tribe History” from the *Handbook of American Indians*, 1906. AccessGenealogy.Com. 1999 – 2010. 18 February 2010 <<http://www.accessgenealogy.com/native/tribes/siouan/blackfoothist.htm>>.

“Indian Education.” 5 February 2010. Montana Office of Public Instruction. 2010. Helena, MT. 18 February 2010 <<http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/IndianEd/Index.html>>.

Lewis, Orrin and Redish, Laura. “Blackfoot Indian Fact Sheet.” 2009. Native Languages of the Americas. 1998-2010. 18 February 2010 <[http://www.bigorrin.org/blackfoot\\_kids.htm](http://www.bigorrin.org/blackfoot_kids.htm)>

#### ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed by their peers during the project and also by the teacher on their final presentation.

#### REFERENCES/CITATIONS

“History Standards for Grades 5-12 United States.” UCLA National Center for History in the Schools. 2005. Los Angeles, CA. 21 May 2009 <<http://nchs.ucla.edu/standards/us-standards5>>.

McKay, Robert. “Blackfeet.” 2008. NWESD Organization. 2008. Anacortes, WA. 5 June 2009 <[http://www.nwesd.org/1510101216191755740/lib/1510101216191755740/4.2\\_Blackfeet.McKay.5.pdf](http://www.nwesd.org/1510101216191755740/lib/1510101216191755740/4.2_Blackfeet.McKay.5.pdf)>.

OPI. “Montana Standards for Social Studies.” Montana Office of Public Instruction. 2009. Helena, MT. 4 July 2009 <<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/pdf/Standards/ContStds-SocSt.pdf>>.

OPI. “Indian Education for All.” 2006. Montana Office of Public Instruction. 2010. Helena, MT. 18 February 2010 <<http://opi.mt.gov/pdf/IndianEd/Resources/EssentialUnderstandings.pdf>>.