

## Who Was Crazy Horse?

Because so much about him is unknown for certain, Crazy Horse, legendary warrior and leader of the Lakota Sioux, is almost a mythical figure, well known for his resistance against U.S. government threats the Native American traditions and way of life. He is thought to have been born in the early 1840s in South Dakota to the Oglala subtribe. His father, a medicine man, also bore the name Crazy Horse, and historians believe that the name was pass on to the son once he had proved himself in battle.

Crazy Horse has his first run-in with U.S. soldiers on the old Oregon Trail in July of 1865. He used himself as a decoy to draw the soldiers out of hiding. Over the following year, Crazy Horse studied the way the soldiers went about battle, and perfected his own guerilla skills. In December of 1866, Crazy Horse acted as a decoy once again, this time leading Lt. Col. William J. Fetterman and eighty men of Fort Phil Kearney, into an ambush that became known as the Fetterman massacre. Along with Sitting Bull, a holy man and Native American chief who also resisted U.S. government policies, Crazy Horse fought to resist the development of reservations. He led his warriors against Gen. George Crook at Rosebud Creek, exploiting weak spots in Crook's line of soldiers and engaging them in hand-to-hand combat.

Following this victory, Crazy Horse and his soldiers joined Sitting Bull at his camp of Sioux and Cheyenne, and when Gen. George A. Custer attacked the camp his forces were quickly quelled. Still, U.S. forces continued to pursue them, eventually pushing them back up into Canada. When Crazy Horse was finally arrested in September of 1877, he did not initially offer any resistance, but when he saw that the soldiers intended to imprison him, he began to struggle and was stabbed to death. It was the telling and retelling of this scene, with various conflicting details, over the years, that has contributed to the mystique of Crazy Horse today.

Since 1948, a Crazy Horse monument has been under construction in South Dakota, which will eventually be the world's largest structure.



**YOUR ASSIGNMENT:** Describe Crazy Horse's relationship with the U.S. government. Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---