SUGGESTED STUDY TOPICS

EXPLORE THESE ISSUES IN INDEPENDENT OR GROUP STUDY

How were the Dakota tribes organized?

How did this affect the roles of spouses? Children, grandparents?

How were families organized among Dakota tribes?

After the attack at Acton, why did the young men ask Little Crow what they should do? Why did Little Crow hesitate going to war? Why did the soldiers' lodge ask him to be the leader? How did the soldiers' lodge influence him to move forward?

List some of the half-bloods who were friendly to the Dakota. Why were they friendly? What relationships between half-bloods and Dakota changed during the war? What half-bloods stayed friendly with the Dakota and continued to live with them? How did being friendly help them? How did it hurt them? What problems did some of the half-bloods face with the Dakota, both friends and family? See article "The Lives and Influences of the Andrew Robertson Family: Members of the Santee Dakota Indian Metis Community", MH 1.

List the forts, stockades, garrisons that were built by the army or by the citizens, and show them on a map. Show pictures or diagrams of some. What were they made of? Why were they located where they were? What made a good stockade? How successful were they in protecting settlers? Do evidences of any of the forts remain today?

List various citizen military groups that developed, where they were from and indicate them on a map. Tell who commanded them, where they fought, their injuries or deaths. What do we have today that are similar to the citizen militias?

Travel people by wagon, on horseback, in caravans wagons, ox-drawn carts & wagons "moving meat market"

types of roads trails, government roads, stagecoach routes

means of water, land. TT 58 on roads, trails--by water, on land. article "The St. Peters and Des Moines Rivers: Forgotten Gateways to the Northern Great Plains." MH 2

role of public opinion newspapers gave differing but often one-sided views.

Defending themselves

Defending themselves

article "The Family Caravan" TT
article: TT Words vs. Actions

MOVING PRISONERS IN WARTIME
list some of the major movements of captives and prisoners during the war. How did they travel? What route did they follow? Why did they choose that route? What kind of transportation did they use to move from one place to another? Why?

COMMUNICATION
Name some types of communications between the military and the Dakota. Note especially the way General Sibley left a message for the Dakota at the Battle of Wood Lake. How were the two sides able to understand each other’s ideas? How did they exchange messages? How were the messages brought from one place to another?

Communicating with the enemy.

Communicating with allies.
Among the white settlers: How was the news of attacks brought to settlers? How well could they judge if the news was accurate?

Communicating with allies.
Among the military

Communicating with allies.
Among the Dakota

Treatment of the injured
Among the white settlers. What trained medical people were available? Who else was available to provide medical care?

Treatment of the injured
Among the Dakota

Treatment of the injured
Among the military. What trained medical people were available? Who else was available to provide medical care?

Diseases
What diseases appeared during the US Dakota Conflict? What type of medical treatment was available? What was known about disease prevention in 1862?

Surviving alone on the prairie
Review the accounts of the escapees who wandered on the prairie for days. What did they do for food, for water, for shelter? What dangers did they face? How did they find their way to safety?