

**SUGGESTED STUDY TOPICS**

**EXPLORE THESE ISSUES IN INDEPENDENT OR GROUP STUDY**

How were the Dakota tribes organized?

define: tribes, bands, villages, chiefs. Leaders

How were families organized among Dakota tribes?

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

Little Crow: his views about going to war.

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?

Half-bloods (mixed bloods, metis) : how they fit into the picture with the Dakota

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.

Defending themselves

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?

Defending themselves

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  
goods  
cattle  
means of

article "The Family Caravan" TT  
by wagon, on horseback, in caravans  
wagon, ox-drawn carts & wagons  
"moving meat market"  
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

types of roads  
knowing where to go

trails, government roads, stagecoach routes  
who had maps? no GPS. How did people know where to go, what was out there?  
What types of landmarks they used to determine current location and destination

role of public opinion

article: "Roads and Trails in the Minnesota Triangle 1849-60"  
<http://collections.mnhs.org/MNHHistoryMagazine/articles/11/v11i04p387-411.pdf>  
newspapers gave differing but often one-sided views.

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  
Communicating  
with the enemy.

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 allies.  
Communicating  
with allies.  
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?

Among the military

Among the Dakota

Treatment of the  
injured  
Treatment of the  
injured  
Treatment of the  
injured

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

Among the Dakota

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?