

**Chief Washakie:
Saving the Shoshone Tribe
Through the Creation of the Wind River Reservation**

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How We Chose Our Topic:

From the very beginning, our group wanted to choose a History Day topic with sufficient primary resources that related to the theme. Because we live near the Wind River Reservation, we have been exposed to stories of the famous Chief Washakie and the creation of Native American reservations. Upon researching Chief Washakie and his people, we realized that his life story relates perfectly to this year's theme. As westward expansion threatened Native American land and increased conflicts between Natives and settlers, Native Americans had a choice of fighting the settlers, or surrendering to their demands. However, Chief Washakie created a compromise with the settlers; the Natives would peacefully reside on a reservation so long as they could choose the location.

How We Conducted Our Research:

We began our research by reading books and essays to learn more about the basics of Chief Washakie. At an early age, Washakie's tribe, the Flatheads, were attacked by the enemy Blackfoot tribe. During the attack, Washakie lost his father, friends, and home. Despite the conflicts between tribes, settlers, and the US government, Washakie grew to be a peaceful chief who was famous for making compromises. Once we had a basic understanding of Chief Washakie and his tribe, we began a more thorough study. We gathered information through interviews, websites, journals, and articles. Our research included Chief Washakie, the Shoshone tribe, the Wind River Reservation, early settlers, and US government interactions with Native Americans during the 1800s. Once we had collected enough information, we put together our project and bibliography. We still continued to research, trying to perfect our knowledge of Chief Washakie.

How We Selected Our Presentation Category and Created Our Project:

There was no question that the three of us wanted to do a group documentary. We felt that a documentary would be the most suitable representation of Chief Washakie and the conflicts and compromises he had during his lifetime. A documentary was a successful means through which we could relate the struggles, triumphs, and significance of Chief Washakie and his people. Through the use of pictures, film clips, recordings, and more, we were able to do just that. After many revisions, we were able to successfully complete our documentary.

How Our Project Relates to the NHD Theme:

One of the key reasons we chose Chief Washakie as our History Day topic was because he related very well to the theme of "Conflict and Compromise." If it weren't for Chief Washakie, the Shoshone tribe might have utterly vanished; they were being overrun due to the advancement of US settlers across the western section of the United States. Instead of fighting, like many other tribes chose to do, Washakie strove to create peace with the white people. Through his actions, war was avoided and allies were formed. If there is any one person who has left a legacy of peace and compromise, it has been Chief Washakie.

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

Abeyta, George. "A Descendant of Chief Washakie." Personal Interview. 21 Dec, 2017.

George Abeyta has lived on the Wind River Reservation for the vast majority of his life. He taught us of how Chief Washakie's legacy live on and ways that Native Americans honor their past chieftain. We were able to incorporate his knowledge into several aspects of our documentary.

Brooks, Bryant Butler. *Report of the Wyoming Commission and Lewis and Clark Exposition*. Leader Publishing Company, Cheyenne Wy. 1906.

This booklet informed our group of how the Louisiana purchase affected Wyoming lands and the Native American tribes that possessed it, such as Chief Washakie and the Shoshone Tribe. This tribe knew the land and had a lot of power. Chief Washakie was once described as possessing the ability to have gone down in history for his military authority, had he so desired. Instead, he took a peaceful path and made friendships with the United States Government and the settlers.

Cooper, Baird S. *Wind River Reservation, Wyoming*. Hartford Conn. 211 State Street. Church Missionary Publishing Co. Dec 1915.

This book gave a history of the Wind River Reservation. It explained how it started, and, over time, how it has also shrank, as the Shoshone Tribe gave up much of their land. Still, today it is a vast land mass and much of the Shoshone Tribe live and depend on the land and nature. It explained the old borders and the current borders, which are slightly vague. That is what this book was about.

Doty, James Daune. Mann, Luther. *The Treaty of Fort Bridger of 1863*. Ft. Bridger. 02 July, 1863.

This treaty returned the Wind River Reservation to Chief Washakie and the Shoshone tribe. Although it didn't end the hardships and trials they faced, it showed that fighting wasn't always the answer. Their territory had vague borders, almost undefined. This finally proved to Washakie that he could accomplish his goals and regain his land, without having to find the invading settlers.

Enos, Zedora. "The Knowledge of a Granddaughter." Personal Interview. 14 Mar, 2018.

Zedora lives on the Wind River Reservation, and her family has kept the Native American Culture alive for generations. She is very wise and understands the importance of her heritage. From our interview with her, we were able to learn of how she always remembers her ancestors, and the importance of her history.

Hebard, Grace Raymond. *Fort Bridger, 1864-1935*. Hebard Collection.

This was a compilation of Doctor Hebard's documents dealing with Fort Bridger. She collected a lot of information, facts, and dates. She included some of Chief Washakie's dealings for his reservation. It was at Fort Bridger that the Wind River Reservation first began.

Hebard, Grace Raymond. *Indian Treaties 1868, 1928-1936*. Hebard Collection, 1928.

Grace Hebard managed to collect multiple Native American treaties. One was the Treaty of Fort Bridger of 1868. She also wrote about Chief Washakie. In command of the Shoshone Tribe, he possibly could have saved the lives of hundreds of pioneers traveling along the Oregon Trail. He commanded the Shoshone Tribe to be fair to the white people and he made his land a safe haven for them.

Jackson, Andrew. *Indian Removal Act*. May 28, 1830

The Indian Removal Act is what began a huge conflict in the United States. The government forced Native American tribes, that lived east of the Mississippi, from their homes and into unfamiliar lands west of the Mississippi. It was the reason and cause for many cruel and heartless movements such as the Trail of Tears, in 1838 and 1839, where approximately 4,000 Cherokees died in a forced march. The memory of the Indian Removal Act still remains full of sorrowful thoughts.

Lowe, Percival G. *Five Years a Dragoon*. The Franklin Publishing Co. 1906.

Percival Green Lowe kept an autobiography/journal of his time in the army. He was able to meet some incredible people and experience incredible things. He posted at Fort Laramie starting on August 11th through the date of September 17th, which was when Chief Washakie and the Shoshone showed up at Fort Laramie to take a part of the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851.

Michell D., Fritzpatrick, Thomas. *Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851*. Ft. Laramie. Sept 17, 1851.

The Treaty of Fort Laramie of 1851 was one of the first, in attempt for the settlers to harmonize with the Native American tribes. The United States gave the tribes vast areas of lands, on the terms that they stayed in their designated regions and wouldn't harm or hurt any pioneers. It seemed like a very well thought through plan, except for some tribes such as the Shoshone. Chief Washakie refused to sign this treaty because it gave his land, the Wind Rivers, the the Crow tribe.

Taylor, Nathan G., Sherman, William T., Harney, William S., Sanborn, John B. *The Treaty of Fort Bridger of 1868*. Ft. Bridger. 03 July, 1863

The settlers were invading Chief Washakie's land. In order to maintain peace, the government and chieftain came to an agreement. They met in the Great Treaty Council to create the Treaty of Fort Bridger of 1868, also known as the Shoshone Bannock Treaty. They finalized borders on the Wind River Reservation. Although it wasn't as large, it was Chief Washakie's land. This land was owned by the Shoshone tribe. It was the last treaty made to create the Native American Reservations.

Tillman, Ralph, and Mary Tillman. *The glorious quest of Chief Washakie, Chief of the Shoshones*. Palmer Lake, Colorado: Filter Press, 1998.

Within the book *The Glorious Quest of Chief Washakie, Chief of the Shoshones* our group learned how Chief Washakie achieved many accomplishments throughout his life such as becoming allies with the U.S government and allowing the Shoshone tribe to be the first Native American tribe in the U.S to choose where their reservation would be located.

US Congress *Indian Intercourse Act*. July 22, 1790.

The Indian Intercourse Act (also known as the Nonintercourse Act) was what regulated trade of both lands and goods between Native American People, Nations, and/or Tribes. It stated that a person needed a legal license to move into Native American territory, and ensured the tribes' rights to their property, unless there was an exchange through a government associated treaty and with US Congress's permission. Although this treaty was altered 5 times, in 1793, 1796, 1799, 1802, and lastly in 1834, its initial purpose still stood out in the final issue.

Washakie, John. "A Grandson's Knowledge." Personal Interview. 21 Dec. 2017.

John Washakie knows a great deal of Chief Washakie, and the reasons the Wind River Reservation is the way it is today. Over his lifespan, he has compiled over 500 documents relating to the Eastern Shoshone people and Chief Washakie. Teach us many things about the Shoshone Tribe's way of life which added to our knowledge their culture and beliefs.

Secondary Sources.

Abeyta, George. "A Descendant of Chief Washakie." Personal Interview. 21 Dec, 2017.

George Abeyta is the great great grandson of Chief Washakie. Much knowledge has been passed down from generation to generation. He was able to share his knowledge with us, and teach us more about the life of Chief Washakie.

Enos, Zedora. "The Knowledge of a Granddaughter." Personal Interview. 14 Mar, 2018.

Zedora Enos is a great granddaughter of Chief Washakie. She has spent much of her life passing on her knowledge of Chief Washakie and the Shoshone tribe. Today, she continues to grow Washakie's legacy. Her knowledge added to our project and helped us portray the importance of this history.

Ford, Samantha. "An Introduction to the Wind River Reservation of Wyoming." *Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum*. 17 May, 2017.

This site gave a small history of the Wind River Reservation and how it was created. It introduced our group to several views on Chief Washakie and why he has been so important, not just to Wyoming's history but to all of the United States. He has left a lasting effect and a living legacy. It is in this way that he has become so important to so many people. It was through him the Wind River Reservation began and still exists today.

Hebard, Grace Raymond. *Washakie: Chief of the Shoshones*. University of Nebraska, 1996. Print.

The book *Washakie: Chief of the Shoshones* gave an interesting look into Chief Washakie's life. It explained many of the Shoshone customs and ways of life. It helped our group better understand the reasoning behind Chief Washakie's actions, and why he strove to find peace with the immigrants.

History.com Staff. "Westward Expansion." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 2009.

This site taught our group of what it was like as the immigrants moved westward. First, they headed on trails, such as the Oregon Trail, that took them all the way to the western coast. Soon, they began settling in the middle area too. This area contained the Shoshone land, and this site explained how the Native Americans reacted to their lands being invaded.

Jenson, Merrill. Cook, Gary. Christensen, T C, et al., directors. *Joseph Smith: The Prophet of the Restoration*. 2005.

This video had music that allowed us to portray the life and struggles of Chief Washakie. It also contained footage of what America looked like on the eastern coast in the early 1800s.

Jost, Loren, *Wyoming Blue Book*. Wyoming State Archives, Department of Commerce Barrett Building Cheyenne, Wyoming. Pioneer Printing and Stationery. 1991. Print.

This book explained the history of the Wind River Mountains, before and after the reservation existed. The Shoshone tribe was a nomadic people, and they went on repeated journeys throughout areas such as Utah, Montana, Wyoming, and Nevada. For many years, they were free to move around liberally, and then the U.S. settlers entered their territory. They forced the Native Americans onto reservations. Chief Washakie searched for possible agreements and compromises. In the end, he asked for the Wind River Valley and mountain country. Amidst much conflict, Chief Washakie was one of the only people who was able to find a compromise.

Keith, Marshall C. *An Indian Odyssey*. Caldwell, Idaho: The Caxton Printers. 1935.

This book, subtitled “The Story of Chief Washakie, *The Upright Aborigine*” went into detail of what the history of Washakie’s life entails. It explained how he would have lived with the different tribes, cultures, and religions all interlocking into his life. It also gave some information of how the Shoshone tribe reacted to the settlers invading their land, and how they eventually formed peace.

Monte, H. D. Del H. *Life of Chief Washakie and Shoshone Indians*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Deseret News, 1964.

The information pamphlet *Life of Chief Washakie and Shoshone Indians* goes into great detail about the struggles Washakie faced with being a chieftain. Some of these struggles were with the U.S government and his own tribal members.

Monte, Sandra Del, and Harold Del Monte. *Chief Washakie: The Peaceful Warrior*. Jimbo Media, 1995.

This DVD was very informative. It told us of just how great of a chief, teacher, and peacemaker Washakie really was. For nearly his entire life he was devoted to helping his tribe and people. He saw that to fight would only bring death and tribulations. So, he chose to create compromises and friends.

Nicholoff, Kyle. O'Gara, Geoffrey. *Washakie: Last Chief of the Shoshone*. Wyoming PBS, Wyoming Public Television, 2003.

This documentary is composed of stories from Chief Washakie's life. It teaches of all the tribulations the Shoshone tribe had to suffer when the settlers began moving into the western section of the United States and taking over the land and resources.

Northern Plains Reservation Aid. "Wyoming: Wind River Reservation." *Reservations*. American Indian Relief Council.

This website gave our group the basics of the Wind River Reservation. It built our knowledge of its current conditions and how the people are working towards improvement. When the Reservation first began, the people had to change their nomadic lives and learn a new way to survive. For many years they struggled in finding their place in society, and now they are working to better it.

Querevalú, Alexandro. "The Last of the Mohicans" Jones, Trevor. Edelman, Randy. 22 Sept, 2015.

Although Alexandro Querevalú did not write the original soundtracks to "The Last of the Mohicans," he was able to recompose some of the songs to better correspond with his Native American culture. His music accurately represent its ethnic background and his efforts to keep his culture alive. This music was instrumental in adding authenticity and emotion into our documentary.

Riis, Joe. "Stunning Footage: Epic Animal Migrations in Yellowstone" *National Geographic*. George B. Storer Foundation. 7 April. 2016.

This video shows clips of the Yellowstone region, which includes areas of the Wind River Mountains. During the Treaty of Fort Bridger of 1863, Chief Washakie chose for this land, specifically the Wind River country, mountains, and valley, to be the land for his reservation. This video also shows the hunting grounds and animals that live in this region. One such animal is the bison, which plays a vast role in Native American culture.

Schmidt, Jon. Anderson, Paul. "Waterfall" *A Walk in the Woods*. Piano Guys, 1 Jan, 1993.

Originally created by Jon Schmidt and produced through the Piano Guys, the song "Waterfall" was able to add expression and emotion to our documentary through sounds instead of words. It conveys feelings of hope, love, and persistence, all of which translate well to Chief Washakie's life. The legacy Washakie left for his people, the Shoshones, is everlasting. He continually strove to be hopeful, loving, and persistent, with his own people and with others, in the effort of retaining his people's land and freedom.

Smith, Amy. Jackson, Annie. "Wyoming, Where I Belong" *Wyoming PBS*. Mar 2018.

This video showed the Wyoming landscape. The Shoshone Tribe was centered in Wyoming. Their culture and history has been shaped throughout the years because of Wyoming. Chief Washakie also chose for their reservation, the Wind River Reservation, to be formed in the Wind River Valley and Mountain country.

Staff. "Chief Washakie: Great Leader of the Shoshone people." *My Yellowstone Park*, 21 June 2011

This site helped our group understand the many conflicts that Chief Washakie had with the United States government and settlers. It also told us about how the Shoshone tribe's reservation has decreased in size over time.

Stamm, Henry E., IV. *People of the Wind River: The Eastern Shoshones, 1825-1900*. Norman: "Chief Washakie of the Shoshone" 1999. University of Oklahoma Press, 12 Nov, 2017.

This source assisted our group in gaining an understanding of Chief Washakie. The highlights of this great chieftain's life were taken and broadened so the readers are able to gain an understanding of just how important and significant the events in his life were in leading up to the man he became.

The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Washakie." 08 Dec, 2016. Encyclopaedia Britannica inc. Web. 12 Nov, 2017.

This web page had much information concerning Washakie's dealings with the white settlers and the multiple treaties he either signed and was a part of. His life was incredible as he strove to create peace and ensure the safety of his people, the Shoshones.

Urbanek, Mae. *Chief Washakie of the Shoshones*. Boulder, Colorado: Johnson Publishing, 1971.

This book taught our group of the Shoshone culture and people. It also gave us an in depth description of Chief Washakie's life along with many dates and facts. This information dealt with his lifeline and supplied us with many quotes by both Washakie, and his companions.

Walsh, Dave. "The Great Chief Washakie" *Wonders of Wyoming*. Townsquare Media. 23 Mar, 2012. Web. 18 Oct, 2017.

This website helped our group learn more about the life of Chief Washakie. It added to our knowledge of his accomplishments and dealings with both other Native American tribes and the United States government.

Washakie, John. "A Grandson's Knowledge." Personal Interview. 21 Dec, 2017.

John Washakie is the great grandson of Chief Washakie. Along with the knowledge passed down from his ancestors, he has compiled over 500 documents relating to the Eastern Shoshone people and Chief Washakie. He was able to give us much of his knowledge and has taught many of the oncoming generation of the importance of knowing one's heritage.

Welker, Glenn. *Chief Washakie*. 12 Oct, 2013.

This book gave some details on Chief Washakie's life. It first explained why so little of his early years is known. He was first mentioned in 1840 by American Fur Trapper, Osborne Russell. Later on, people grew to know him and discovered more about his past. From the date 1851 on September 17, when he led the Shoshone Tribe to the Treaty of Fort Laramie, through his death on February 20, 1900 the United States government viewed him as leader

of the Eastern Shoshone. He had power and his name was known by many chiefs. Through his actions, he managed to save hundreds of Native Americans along with U.S. settlers and pioneers. He tried to form friends and create compromises. At times he realized war and battle was needed, but as he grew, he saw that conflict was rarely an answer.

Williams, Ralph Vaughan. "Flying over the Forest of Dean." *Flying with Music*. 18 July. 2017.

This video includes some beautiful shots of what the American forests looked like from above. We included some of these shots in our documentary to express the vastness and beauty of American land. Prior to European explorers, the Native Americans were the sole possessors of this land. Each tribe loved and cherished their land, just as Chief Washakie loved and cherished the Wind River Reservation. It is this struggle for land that ignited conflicts between the Natives Americans and white settlers. Eventually, Chief Washakie's love for his land inspired compromise.

"Wind Song" *Native American Flute*. Aug 16, 2012.

This video had music that originated from Native American Music. It was very beautiful and added much to our documentary as we were able to better incorporate some of Chief Washakie's culture and lifestyle.