

Comanche timeline

1680-1700

- Split off from Shoshone Indians in Wyoming
- Came into contact with the horse around this time

1818, 1848-49 outbreak of cholera and smallpox which decimated Indian herds

1864—First Battle of Adobe Walls

Kit Carson led a group of cavalry to the Adobe Walls area, but was forced to retreat when several thousand Comanche attacked his unit

1867--Treaty of Medicine Lodge

Meeting between US federal representatives and many Plains Indians leaders

- Provided reservations of some 4,000 square miles to these tribes, although they had to give up some 60,000 square miles of their own land
- $\frac{3}{4}$ of the adult population (by treaty stipulation) was required to approve of this treaty, although such assent was never gotten

1874—Second Battle of Adobe Walls

White Eagle lead a Comanche force in the Texas Panhandle, angry that white hunters were continuing to kill the buffalo that they needed to survive, attacked a village that had sprung up at Adobe Walls to house and serve the bison hunters. It led to the Red River Wars

1874-75 Red River War—brought about to force the Kiowa, Comanche, and other Indians onto reservations

1875—Quanah Parker led the last free band of Comanche Indians, who surrendered and were moved to Fort Sill. This marks the end of the Red River War

1892—Jerome Agreement—treaty negotiated between Comanche, Kiowa, and Apache Indians, reducing the reservation to roughly 600-700 square miles of land.

One of the reasons why they didn't is that it was difficult for large numbers of people, each of whom owned horses, to graze/feed their horses at the same place—the southern Plains (Texas, _____) are very desert regions, without much vegetation

By mid-1800s, they were supplying horses to American settlers and traders, as well as migrants on their way out west.

Comanches developed a reputation as stealers of horses

Comanches' own preferred name is Numunuu, meaning "human being" or "the People".

Though there are various accounts of the origin of the name Comanche, it is generally agreed^{[1][2]} to have come by way of Spanish from the old Ute term *[ki. 'man.ʃi] (modern Southern Ute [ki. 'ma: .ʃi]), "enemy, foreigner, Comanche"

Language—is it related to Shoshone? How much?
What is similar to Shoshone culture? Use of Tipis?

Buffalo—central to Comanche culture

Towards the end of the Indian Wars, slaughtering the buffalo herds was one of the ways of ending Comanche raids and forcing them to live on reservations

They used everything about the buffalo, sinew, bones, skin (for saddles, tipi coverings, clothing)

Under the first of the three Medicine Lodge treaties, the Kiowa and Comanche were compelled to give up more than 60,000 square miles (160,000 km²) of traditional tribal territories in exchange for a 3 million acre (12,000 km²) in the southwest corner of Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma), most of it lying between the North Fork of the Red River and the North Canadian River.^{[1][6][14]} The tribes would also be provided houses, barns, and schools worth \$30,000, which the tribes did not actually want.^[14] Through a second treaty, the Plains or Kiowa-Apache were incorporated into the first treaty;^[15] this treaty was signed by all the Kiowa and Comanche signatories of the first treaty, along with several Plains Apache chiefs.^[2] The treaties with the Kiowa, Comanche, and Plains Apache tribes were concluded on October 21, 1867.^[6]

The alleged Treaty was immediately controversial and contested by both the members and leadership of most of the involved tribes. Because the tribes involved were all democratic societies, acceptance of the treaty was contingent upon ratification of 3/4 of the adult members of each of the tribes. This condition was part of the treaty itself. This ratification was never obtained, and thus the treaty was never made valid or legal. This conflict continued for years until the [Kiowa Chief Lone Wolf](#) sued the US Secretary of the Interior on behalf of the entirety of the Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache tribes, all of whom were defrauded by the government. The case, [LONE WOLF v. HITCHCOCK, 187 U.S. 553](#), was decided by the US Supreme Court in 1903. In the decision the Court conceded that the tribes had never agreed to the treaty, but concluded that it did not matter because American Indians did not merit protection of the Bill of Rights, claiming that they were "wards of the nation... Dependent [on the United States] for their daily food". With this same legal status as the institutionalized such as the criminally insane and mentally retarded, they did not have the same rights as full persons of other races who were considered able to make some decisions for themselves. This legal precedent has never been overturned and still influences the position of the United States government towards all aboriginal American tribes.