



The
Brinton
Museum

ART SCAVENGER HUNT

Can you find?

150th Anniversary - Treaty of Fort Laramie features important rare photographs by the nineteenth century American photographer **Alexander Gardner** who is celebrated for his emotionally moving photographs of Indian Delegations and Civil War soldiers and his photographic portraits of Abraham Lincoln. In 1868, Gardner was commissioned by the federal government to photograph the peace talks between a federally appointed commission and chiefs of the Plains Indian tribes at Fort Laramie in Wyoming. The **Fort Laramie Peace Treaty was signed on April 29**. Additional signatures by the Oglala band of Sioux by the chiefs and headmen were subscribed and duly authorized on **May 25**.

Alexander Gardner's photographs taken at Fort Laramie and the surrounding Indian territories are called albumens. An albumen photograph refers to a photographic process that requires using a glass plate negative coated with a chemical emulsion that is then in contact with a paper coated with albumen (egg whites) and salt and silver nitrate. It was the first known method of producing a photographic print. It could take up to two hours to make one print.

Can you find Alexander Gardner's superb photograph of three Plains Indians standing together in an open field? Their names are **Fire Thunder, Man Afraid of His Horses, and Pipe**. Summarize briefly what you think these names might mean or perhaps why these names were given to them?

- I found this photograph _____.
- **Fire Thunder** might mean: _____

- **Man Afraid of His Horses** means: _____

- **Pipe** might mean: _____

Can you find four portrait images (not taken by Alexander Gardner) of four U.S. Generals who were at the peace talks at Fort Laramie in 1868? List their names here:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Explain the purpose or objective of the 1868 Fort Laramie Peace Treaty:

- _____

Can you find a photograph of a white man sitting down, several Plains Indians standing and two Plains Indians seated on the ground? The Indians are wearing heavy, warm blankets wrapped around their shoulders. One is not facing the photographer. Can you guess what might be the reason why this Indian is not looking at the camera?

- _____

Can you find two photographs by the photographer John C. H. Grabill taken in 1889 depicting gold prospectors and tin miners? Explain the effect the discovery of gold in 1874 in the Black Hills of South Dakota had on the 1868 Fort Laramie Peace Treaty?

- _____

List three things about Gardner's photographs that are completely different from photography today?

- _____
- _____
- _____

List at least three reasons why photography is important now, just as it was in Gardner's time:

- _____
- _____
- _____

Answers to the Art Scavenger Hunt questions:



We do not always know the story about why a particular name was given to an Indian person but we do know why Man Afraid of His Horses was given his name, the meaning of his name is described in various publications.

Fire Thunder: Fire was a necessity for keeping warm in winter and cooking food, thunder is a powerful element found in nature, perhaps this name describes someone with a strong spiritual life force or who possesses powerful medicine.

Man Afraid of His Horses: He was an Oglala Chief. His name roughly translates: “the man of whose horse we are afraid”, meaning the bearer of the name was so feared in battle that the mere sight of his horse inspired fear.

Pipe: A sacred pipe was often used in greeting people or opening councils, such as those of the Fort Laramie peace talks, it could be that the name Pipe refers to this action, ‘the one who talks with people’.

The four generals are: William Tecumseh Sherman, Christopher Columbus Augur, Alfred Howe Terry, and William Selby Harney

The purpose of the 1868 Fort Laramie Peace Treaty was to end the conflicts between white settlers and the Plains Indians allowing the influx of pioneers and settlers to cross through the western territories without harm.



Palladay, Fast Bear, Spotted Tail, White Eyes, Swift Bear, Whirlwind Soldier, Big Marielan, Swift Bear’s Boys, Big (name illegible) and daughter, The M (name illegible)’s wife, 1868

One theory is the tall Indian, Big Marielan, was not in favor of the terms of the peace treaty and turned his face away from the camera demonstrating his disagreement. Another theory is that some Indian peoples believed a photograph was a kind of magic capable of stealing their soul and disrespected the spiritual world. Later, American Indians began to cherish photographs as links to their ancestors.



Gold Fever, Prospectors



Celebrated Spearfish Tin Mine, Bear Gulch

The Black Hills of Dakota are sacred to the Sioux Indians. The discovery of gold in the Black Hills by General George Armstrong Custer in 1874 brought thousands of miners and prospectors as well as more white settlers into Indian territories and ultimately resulted in the confiscation of the reservation lands that had been promised to the Sioux in the 1868 Fort Laramie Peace Treaty. The loss of the Black Hills by the Sioux eventually led to Custer’s demise at the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876. The Sioux have never regained ownership of the Black Hills although they deny its loss. Conflicts between the whites and Indians escalated. In December 1890, the Wounded Knee Massacre took place at Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota where hundreds of Lakota men, women and children were killed.

Alexander Gardner’s photographs are very different from photographic processes today in several ways. Two obvious ways are: 1) It took at least 2 hours and could up to 3 hours to make one photographic image; 2) Contact

prints were made from large glass plate negatives. The size of the finished print is also the size of the glass negative.

Photography is important because it **documents people, places and time**, it is a record of the past and a means to **preserve the present**. It is why we take photographs of family and friends at celebrations such as weddings, birthday parties and graduations. Photographs are a visual **record of historic events, and places**. Photographs **connect us to the past** and tell us about our history. Photography is a **portable magic**, a way to tell us about things **old and new**, about buildings and structures, landscapes, wildlife, plants, and about different peoples around the world, about the planets and the stars. Examples: historic albums, photos of presidents, photo images in National Geographic Magazine, NASA space exploration *and more!*

Assessment:

Advanced	Proficient	Basic	Below Basic
Demonstrates an excellent comprehension of the purpose and goals behind the treaty and why a federally appointed commission was in Fort Laramie for peace talks, as well as a good understanding of why the treaty unraveled with the discovery of gold in the Black Hills in 1874	Can summarize in good detail why the U.S. Government wanted peace talks with the Indians, resulting in a peace treaty and what affect the discovery of gold in the Black Hills had in undoing the agreement(s) of the treaty	Can give at least three facts about why there was a peace commission at Fort Laramie that resulted in a peace treaty signed in 1868, and that the discovery of gold meant the loss of the Black Hills lands by the Sioux peoples	Demonstrates awareness about two or less facts associated with the peace treaty of 1868 and that gold was discovered in the Black Hills
Can articulate with clarity who Alexander Gardner was and why his portfolio of rare photographs of 1868 are important historically	Can explain in good detail why Alexander Gardner was selected to be the photographer to photograph the peace talks at Fort Laramie	Can identify that Alexander Gardner was at Fort Laramie for the purpose of documenting the peace talks and that his photographs are important	Can identify that Alexander Gardner is a photographer and that he took photographs of Indians at Fort Laramie
Demonstrates an excellent understanding of photography as a means by which to record or document people, places and time, as well as its invaluable usefulness as a visual record of the past and present	Understands how photography serves as a visual record of historic events and why we consider photography to be "portable magic"	Can identify or give at least three examples of why photography is important as a medium to document or record places and people	Understands that photography is a means by which to remember places or people