



Battle of Little Big Horn

When it was rumored that a number of tribes were gathering near the Little Bighorn River, General Custer and Major Reno's troops were sent to attack them. He found a large village of Lakota and Cheyenne in the valley basin near the river. Custer wanted to be cautious and take a look around before taking any action, in order to gather as much information as possible, since he didn't know the size of the tribes' forces. But the people in the village discovered Custer and his soldiers, and they were forced to attack.

They had hoped to encounter no more than a few hundred Native American warriors, but it turned out that there were thousands. Major Reno's men were soon overwhelmed. They ran away and managed to escape. However, none of Custer's soldiers survived. Because no eye-witnesses lived to tell the tale, historians assume that the U.S. soldiers were simply overwhelmed by the larger Native American forces, who drove him and about 50 of his men up onto a small hill near the village. Here, Custer took his "last stand," refusing to surrender. Custer and all of his men were killed.

Why did the Native Americans win the Battle of Little Big Horn?
