

TOPIC 4 – SMALLPOX EPIDEMICS

Topic Overview

Topic 1 highlights the smallpox epidemics that struck North Dakota. It includes primary sources that will help you understand the magnitude of loss suffered by Indians in North Dakota as a result of smallpox epidemics.

Topic Objectives

- As a result of the study of Topic 1, you will be able to
 - Analyze and interpret primary documents.
 - Describe effects of the smallpox epidemics.

ND Content Standards

- 8.1.2
- 8.2.1

Common Core Standards

- RH 2
- RH 6
- WHST 1
- WHST 2
- WHST 9

Topic Activities

- Debate/Discussion



Debate/Discussion

To access a photo/document/map, refer to the topic reading assignment or use the SEARCH feature to enter its name or number.

The People of the Northern Plains had no immunity against smallpox, which had come from the Europeans and had killed millions of people over the course of thousands of years. Because the smallpox virus spread quickly in spaces where people congregated, epidemics broke out in Indian communities, resulting in thousands of deaths.

From your readings of the text, the journal entries, and the documents and images, write down major talking points (e.g., stages of the disease, vaccines, consequences of smallpox to the Indians, etc.) Discuss these in more detail with a classmate, a small group, or the entire class. Write a concluding paragraph on what you learned about the smallpox epidemics of 1781, 1837, 1851, and 1856.

Talking Points to Discuss

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

From my readings and discussion of the smallpox epidemics of 1781, 1837, 1851, and 1856, I learned . . .

