



GCSE HISTORY

Paper 1A/A: America, 1840–1895: Expansion and consolidation

Interpretations Booklet

Interpretations **A** and **B** for use in answering Questions 01, 02 and 03

Interpretation A George Bent in a letter to the historian George Hyde, which was sent between 1905 and 1918.

Bent was born in 1843. He had a Cheyenne Indian mother and a white father who ran the local trading post at Sand Creek. In 1864 he was staying with his mother's relatives at Sand Creek.

The Indians at Sand Creek were friendly and under the protection of Fort Lyon. However, Chivington had been planning this attack for weeks. He and his men were to be disbanded and, being in politics, their idea was to win votes by striking one terrible blow at the 'red rebels'. Chivington's troops were the worst sort of frontier whites as they were not disciplined and their officers had no control over them. They were united only by their eagerness to kill Indians.

Interpretation B William Byers in a letter to the New York Tribune, an East coast newspaper, in February 1880.

Byers was the editor of the Rocky Mountain News, a newspaper in the mining town of Denver, Colorado, at the time of the Sand Creek attack in 1864.

The Indians at Sand Creek had moved away from the protection of Fort Lyon and were raiding wagon trains, stealing livestock, robbing mail coaches and killing white people. When that "robbers' den" was cleaned out on that glorious day, the soldiers found scalps of white people, stolen mail, and women and children's clothing. It's not surprising that the soldiers acted as they did when they found evidence of such barbaric behaviour. What Chivington did at Sand Creek saved Colorado.

END OF INTERPRETATIONS

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