

Write "A Century of Dishonor - Helen Hunt Jackson" at the top of your blank sheet of paper as well as your name, the date, and the unit book number

A Century of Dishonor - Helen Hunt Jackson

{After living in the West for 20 years, Helen Hunt Jackson became interested in the government's treatment of Native Americans. After completing extensive research, she wrote A Century of Dishonor in 1881, and sent a copy to every member of Congress. An excerpt follows.}

(1) The summer proved one of unusual heat. Extreme heat, chills and fever, and "a reduced and insufficient ration," all combined, resulted in an amount of sickness heart-rending to read of. "It is no exaggerated estimate," says the agent, "to place the number of sick people on the reservation at two thousand. Many deaths occurred which might have been obviated had there been a proper supply of anti-malarial remedies at hand. Hundreds applying for treatment have been refused medicine."

(2) Early in the autumn, after this terrible summer, a band of some three hundred of these Northern Cheyenne took the desperate step of running off and attempting to make their way back to Dakota. They were pursued, fought desperately, but were finally overpowered, and surrendered. They surrendered, however, only on the condition that they should be taken to Dakota. They were unanimous in declaring that they would rather die than go back to the Indian Territory. This was nothing more, in fact, than saying that they would rather die by bullets than of chills and fever and starvation.

From a description of the treatment of the Cheyenne in A Century of Dishonor by Helen Hunt Jackson

Directions: Answer the following questions on a blank sheet of paper by using the excerpt above

- 1) What caused the Cheyenne to be extremely sick?
- 2) What was the estimate of sick people on the reservations?
- 3) What does Jackson suggest could have been used to avoid the great number of deaths?
- 4) How many Cheyenne attempted to flee back to Dakota?
- 5) What happened to the ones that ran off?
- 6) What did they say they would rather do than go back to the Indian reservation? Why?