

A Hero Carved in Stone

Boom! An explosion blasts through the Black Hills of South Dakota. Dirt and rocks fill the air. When the dust clears, workers check on their progress. They're carving a giant figure out of a mountain. It's a **memorial** honoring an American Indian hero known as Crazy Horse.

Crazy Horse was a famous chief of the Lakota Sioux (soo), one of the many tribes of the Sioux Nation. The Crazy Horse Memorial is a way to remember how he fought for his people.

A Great Warrior

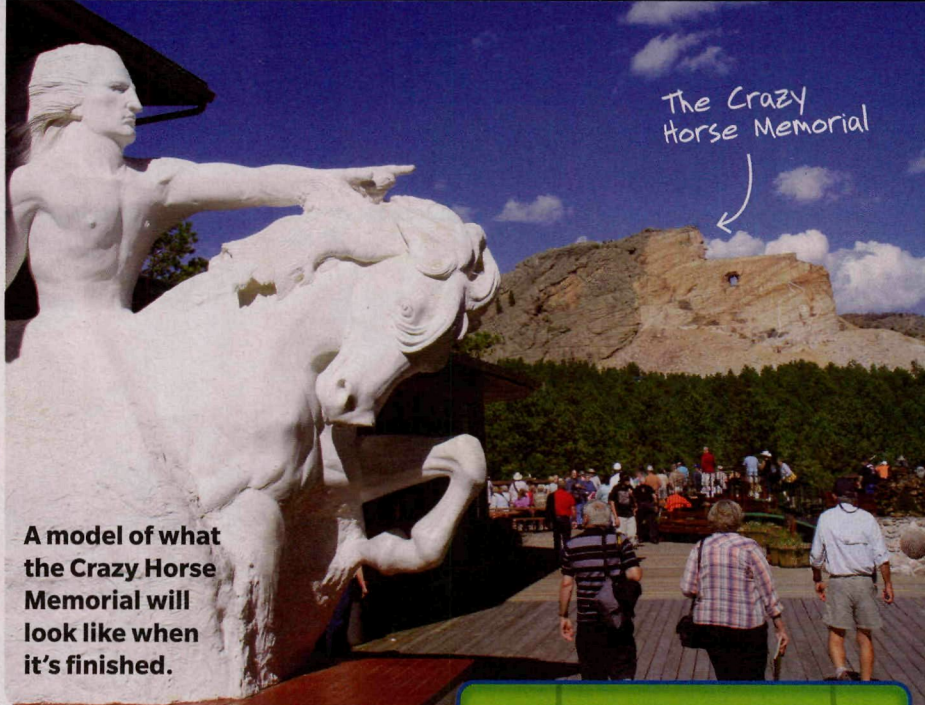
Born around 1842, Crazy Horse grew up during a time of big change for American Indians, also called Native Americans. His tribe had lived across much of the Great Plains for thousands of years. But in the 1800s,

Words to Know

memorial: something built to help people remember a person or an event

forts: buildings where soldiers live

reservations: land set aside by the U.S. government for American Indians to live on



A model of what the Crazy Horse Memorial will look like when it's finished.

the U.S. government began setting up **forts** in the area. Then settlers moved onto the land.

The Lakota Sioux and other tribes fought to get the land back many times. Crazy Horse led them in battle. But in 1877, the American Indians were finally defeated. They were forced to live on **reservations**. Crazy Horse was one of the last chiefs to surrender. He remains a symbol of American Indian courage.

Remembering a Leader

In the 1930s, American Indian leaders decided to honor Crazy Horse with a mountain carving. The project began in 1948. But it has been hard work. So far, only the chief's 87-foot-tall face has been



carved. The completed memorial will show him on horseback.

When the memorial is finished, it will be bigger than Mount Rushmore—the nearby mountain carving of four U.S. Presidents' faces.

Cleve Janis is a Lakota Sioux Indian who works at the Crazy Horse Memorial. He looks forward to the day when the memorial is done.

“Our people have experienced nearly 400 years of . . . hardship,” says Janis. “Having one of our heroes honored on a mountain is well worth the wait.”

Copyright of Scholastic News -- Edition 3 is the property of Scholastic Inc. and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.