

## How were the Lakota Sioux organised?

Never led by any individual, although at one time Sitting Bull and Red Cloud had enormous influence

Consists of many \_\_\_\_\_

Tribes, e.g. Oglala, Hunkpapa  
Led by chiefs of bands, such as Crazy Horse, advised by leading councillors from bands

Consists of many \_\_\_\_\_

Each...

Is led by a  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Is advised by a  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Is influenced by a  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Chiefs were not elected, nor did they inherit power. They became chiefs for a number of reasons – because of their wisdom, their spiritual power or ‘medicine’, and their skills as hunters and warriors. They might not remain a chief for life. Only great chiefs like Red Cloud or Sitting Bull were able to persuade the warriors of many bands and even different nations to follow them.

- Took Important decisions
- Advice of medicine men and elders taken into consideration
- Usually, everyone had to agree before the council could end
- Smoked ceremonial pipe during council as Indians believed the smoke would inform the spirit world and help them make good decisions
- When different bands met up the council of the nation would meet too
- This would take important collective decisions like to go to war
- The bands were not bound to agree with the councils’ decisions
- Resulted in some bands being at war whilst others were at peace

All of the men of a band belonged to a warrior society, such as the Kit Foxes of the Sioux or the Dog Soldiers of the Cheyenne. They were responsible for supervising hunting and travelling, and for protecting the village from attack. Their opinions were always important when decisions had to be taken.