

Primary Source

Author Chief Joseph**Overview**

In 1877 the Nez Perce fought the government's attempt to move them to a smaller reservation. After a remarkable attempt to escape to Canada, Chief Joseph realized that resistance was hopeless and advised his people to surrender.

Guided Reading

As you read, consider the following questions:

- Why did Chief Joseph vow never to fight again?
- What is he asking his people to do?

I am tired of fighting. Our chiefs are killed. Looking Glass is dead. Toohoolhool-zote is dead. The old men are all dead. It is the young men who say "yes" or "no." He who led the young men is dead.

It is cold, and we have no blankets. The little children are freezing to death. My people, some of them, have run away to the hills, and have no blankets, no food. No one knows where they are—perhaps freezing to death. I want to have time to look for my children, and see how many I can find. Maybe I shall find them among the dead.

Hear me, my chiefs! I am tired. My heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now stands I will fight no more forever.

Source: http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/people/a_c/chiefjoseph.htm (accessed July 29, 2013)