

Today, Reconciliation Park in Mankato, MN is located across the street from the place where 38 Dakota men were hanged at the end of the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862.

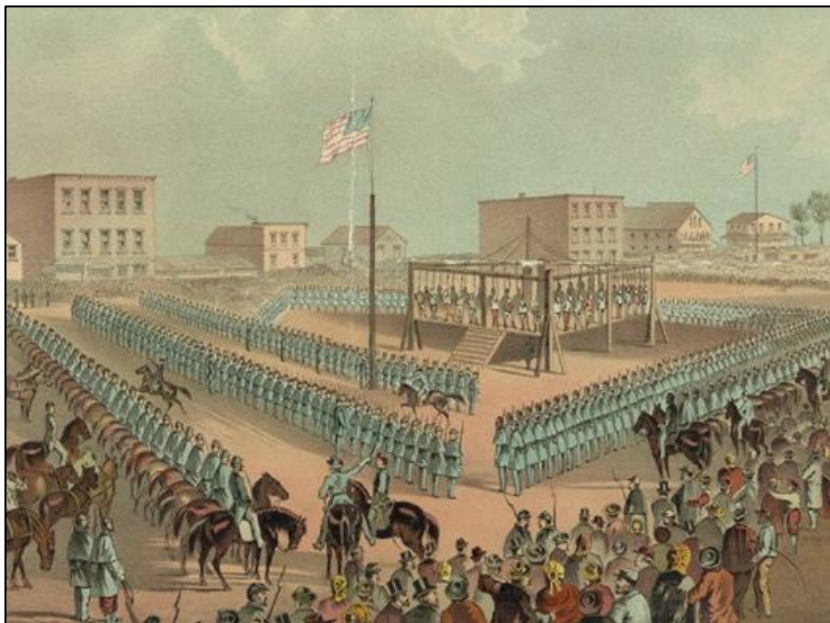


A memorial in the park lists the names of the 38 men who were hanged

A buffalo symbolizes the spiritual survival of the Dakota people and honors the Dakota heritage of this area



"Winter Warrior" dedicated in 1987



Eye-witness account of the hanging some 160 years ago.

Execution of the 38 Dakota at Mankato, MN

December 26, 1862.
Hayes Litho[graph] Company
c. 1863-1875

Minnesota Historical Society
Collections

I can explain how music connects to personal, societal, and cultural contexts

Alone or with a partner, learn more about people, events, decisions of the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862.

A. Read (or listen to) one of these accounts on the Minnesota Historical Society website.

<https://www.usdakotawar.org/mankato-stories-and-reflections>

<https://www.usdakotawar.org/history/aftermath/trials-hanging>

<https://www.usdakotawar.org/timeline>

B. Copy/write one sentence from the account that seems important.

C. Write one thing you know that connects to something you read.

D. Once you've completed A-B-C, stand up and talk to another group about what you both learned and wrote. After 5-7 minutes, move to talk with a second group.



Pretendians is a Native rock band based in Minneapolis. Three of the four band members represent the Oceti Sakowin (7 Council Fires) of the D/Lakhota Nation. Their day jobs? A teacher, two computer specialists and a professionally semi-employed hipster. Many of their songs have societal/political theme and are heavily influenced by punk, folk, and rock. Entertaining and informing.

– facebook.com/pretendians/About

Why did we name our band, Pretendians? Basically it's a statement about cultural appropriation. In that certain people borrow from our Native culture, possibly with the best intentions, but we're not really cool with that. Our traditions are sacred to us, and against impossible odds and attempted genocide, we hold strong. We are not a fragment of the past, a costume, or a hobby. We were here first, we're here now, and we ain't leaving! However, I (AI), personally do not feel we should shame people for being ignorant of our culture. Our history is basically a brief mention afterthought in public school curriculum, and I constantly meet people who are surprised that I'm not just Native, but that we're "still a thing". The best "thing" we can do as Natives is to try to understand where the uninformed come from, and do our best to educate them about who we are. Ignorance isn't a 4 letter word. I believe that it's another word for "teach me". – facebook.com/pretendians (Feb 1, 2020)

Listen to "The 38" by Pretendians: <https://youtu.be/54BmsSSrsMo> (TIME)

Wikcémna yámni sánm šaglóga kín...kiksúya pó.

With feelings consumed by the poison of hate, Ramsey's soldiers killed the 38.

The settlers' own was the settlers' power, while Dakotas died at the whim of a coward.

Seen as useless now by Lincoln's people. How could you honor our treaties if we were never your equal?!

So you keep them in that cellar, to please the masses. Silencing our people, until all time passes.

Corporate products and tools of the trade, put our earth on her last leg.

Our mother was life but now she's a plaque, with generations of victims etched on her back.

Past names of our people now fading fast, to be put in a book to be shelved and passed.

So you keep them in that cellar, to hide the truth. Big city builder, the Dakhotas doom.

So you keep them in that cellar to please the masses. Silencing our people, until all time passes.

Destroy our culture, did you think you could take it?! The cycle of violence kills those who make it.

"Let them eat grass, aren't they a part of nature?" Two steps sideways from a lustful creature.

You're tricky with the games that you make to ensnare us, but the lessons of our 38 arm and prepare us.

To take back what's ours.

Write a detailed response to one of these questions:

- What thoughts or feelings do you have after hearing this song?
- How does the song "The 38" add meaning to the images and readings?
- Can you think of another historical event that is told through popular music?