

# Hole in the Day

*Government / Politics*

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## 1. Learning Objectives

**Students learn about:**

- The Mighty Chief Hole in the Day
- The Dakota Conflict (Sioux Uprising as termed by the US government)
- The White Earth Indian Removal
- Insights of treaty agreements
- Leadership Style

## 2. Key Concepts

- Who was Chief Hole in the Day? Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig?
- Where did he live?
- When did he lead and what events in MN/US history affected his destiny?
- What was the effect of his leadership?

## 3. Teachers Quick Reference

**Places:**

- Fort Ripley
- Fort Snelling
- White Earth
- Crow Wing
- Gull Lake
- Crow River
- Dakotah Territory

Hole in the Day was from the Pillager Band of Chippewa and his clan was the bear clan.

Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig was his name. Hole in the Day is the interpretation in English.

Clans are systems for defining family.

Hole in the Day faced animosity from other leaders for his grand way of taking over, not being a hereditary chief and his participation in treaties where the Ojibwe lost most of their land in Minnesota.

In one person's life time, Ojibwe people went from controlling all of their territory to holding onto small portions of their land.

Tribal leaders were systematically disempowered by the MN/US government. He assumed his leadership role because, as a leader Hole in the Day was able to push for what he wanted without causing war.

Hole in the Day used diplomatic methods to influence treaties to benefit his people, knowing he had few options and the terms would be hard.

1862- Dakota Conflict (Sioux Uprising as termed by MN/US government) was occurring and effected the direction for treaty negotiations. The US governments withheld rations and annuities which caused tension and led to the conflict.

Hole in the Day understood no war could be won with the US government and many lives would be lost if he resisted in the same manner as the Dakota.

Hole in the day exploited this problem to benefit Ojibwe to negotiating the treaty terms with William Dole and Ashley Morrel instead of going to war.

These two men were trying to arrest Hole in the Day with claims of not representing his people.

Hole in the Day faced off with the US government officials by confronting the terms of past agreements and bringing 100 men to support his directing the terms of the treat at Camp Ripley.

Hole in the day agreed to the removal of the Ojibwe to White Earth under the condition that a sustainable livelihood be provided through housing, sawmill and gristmill. Hole in the Day directed the Ojibwe to not follow the treaty unless the terms for housing and business were met.

Many Ojibwe people did not follow his advise, they moved willingly to White Earth Settlers were flooding into the state claiming land.

Hole in the Day was assassinated presumably for the decision he made for many tribes in negotiating the removal to White Earth.

Hole in the Day was assassinated while traveling back from Washing DC between the Gull and Crow Wing rivers.

Some believe he was assassinated by Leech Lake Band Members. The final finding said the assassination was committed by someone other than a Chippewa.

His plan would have worked if his people would have held out for the terms of the treaty.

## 4. Content Review

- What events led to Hole in the Day assuming his leadership role?
- Which tribe did Hole in the Day belong?
- What was his Indian name? Clan?
- Who did he alienate? Why?
- How did Native land holding change in just one lifetime?
- What is systemic disempowerment?
- What caused to the tension that led to the Dakota Conflict of 1862?
- How did this conflict effect Hole in the Day?
- How did the events of 1862 reflect upon the leadership of Hole in the Day?
- Who was involved in the treaty negotiations at Camp Ripley?
- What did this treaty outline for his people?
- What his his solution to sustain the future of his people?
- Why did Hole in the Day agree to the treaty terms?
- How did Hole in the Day accomplish negotiating treaty terms at Fort Ripley?
- Explain the rational for the manner of treaty negotiations at Fort Ripley?
- What was his direction for his people regarding the terms of the treaty? Why?
- How did this assassination affect the people he was leading?
- Why did Hole in the Day's plan fail?
- Where did the assignation of of Hole in the Day take place?
- Who assassinated him?

## 5. Discussion Questions

- What is meant by hereditary chief?
- Why did Hole in the Day engage the leadership style he used?
- Whose perspective is "Red Man Revenge"? What is meant by that term?
- What might the result have been if the plan set forth by Hole in the Day was followed? Why wasn't his plan followed? What might have been the fear?
- If American Society was a ladder in the 19th century, what rung did the Native American occupy? Today? Explain. What if the MN/US government occupied that rung?
- How were the decisions of Hole in the Day in the best interest of his people?

## References

<http://collections.mnhs.org/MNHistoryMagazine/articles/50/v50i05p193-203.pdf>,  
Chief Hole in the Day and the 1862 Disturbance a Reappraisal