



# Chief Joseph, “I Will Fight No More Forever”

In 1877, Chief Joseph and other Nez Percé fled their home territory to avoid being forced to move to a reservation. After a journey of 1,000 miles, army troops finally caught up with them. An exhausted Chief Joseph sent his surrender to General Oliver Howard.

◀ Chief Joseph became chief after his father died.

### Reading and Vocabulary Support

① Looking Glass was a Nez Percé warrior. Too-hul-hul-suit and the “old men” were elders.

② With the old Nez Percé men dead, who does Joseph say are making the decisions?

③ Chief Joseph here refers to his brother, Ollicut.

④ Who else, besides his own family, might the chief be referring to here?

⑤ What is the meaning of the phrase “From where the sun now stands”?

“I am tired of fighting. Our chiefs are killed; Looking Glass is dead. Too-hul-hul-suit is dead. The old men are all dead. ① It is the young men, now, who say yes or no. ② He who led on the young men is dead. ③ 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 ④ and see how many of them I can find; maybe I shall find them among the dead. Hear me, my chiefs; my heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now stands, ⑤ I will fight no more forever!”

—Chief Joseph, October 5, 1877

### Analyzing Primary Sources

Cite specific evidence from the document to support your answers.

1. **Analyze Structure** Which sentence actually contains Chief Joseph’s words of surrender?
2. **Analyze Style and Rhetoric** What is the overall emotion that Chief Joseph expressed in this surrender statement?