Script

Fist Slide:

Crowfoot, was a Siksika chief and diplomat who negotiated with the federal government on behalf of the Blackfoot Confederacy. He was a key link between Aboriginal peoples on the western Plains and colonial forces of the North-West Mounted Police, and was key negotiator and supporter of Treaty 7.

**Early Life (script1)**

Crowfoot was born in Kainai, grew up with a tribe called the Siksika aka the Blackfoot, because his father was killed and his mother remarried to a Siksika man. As a child he was given the name Shot Close. Names among First Nations were considered living things, to be passed on to those who proved worthy of them. After his father was killed, Shot Close was adopted by the Blackfoot, who gave him the name Bear Ghost.

**War and chiefdom (Script 2)**

He earned his most prestigious name Isapo-muxika from an act of bravery during an attack on a Crow camp. He went to war and was wounded many times, earning his reputation as a warrior and a leader. As he grows old, Crowfoot became a peace loving Chief who hated war and tried to negotiate things peacefully. Crowfoot was a perceptive and farseeing diplomat.

**Script 3 (continued)**

He established good relations with fur traders and peace with the Cree, because even though he is an experienced hunter who went to war many times, he is worried more about his people and wanted what is good for them, so he made peace with most Plain Tribes and had gained wealth through raising horses and negotiating trades with other tribes.

**Script 4**

In 1874, Crowfoot welcomed the North-West Mounted Police (NWMP) into his territory, as his people were threatened by the influence of illegal American whisky traders. The unpoliced West had been destructive, as traders exchanged alcohol and breech-loading rifles for bison robes and other products. In 1876, the chief Sitting Bull of Lakota proposed an alliance with Crowfoot. In return for fighting alongside the Lakota against the United States, the Lakota proposed war against the NWMP. Though Crowfoot made clear his alliance was with the police.

**Script 5**

The NWMP saw Crowfoot as Head chief even though he wasn’t so, the Government negotiators primarily spoke to only Crowfoot in the matters on the Treaty of treaty 7. Which we will talk about later. Crowfoot Diplomacy led to friendship with the NWMP Assistant Commissioner James Macleod, who won the confidence of the Blackfoot chiefs, guaranteed safety for his people.

**Script 6**

Crowfoot had a keen intelligence and even while buffalo were still plentiful he foresaw a bleak future that all the buffalo will soon disappear. A few days before September 12, 1877, commissioner David Laird offered to help show the First Nations how to raise cattle and grain and to give them financial assistance. In return he expected that the First Nations would relinquish their claim to most of their land.

**Script 7**

Some chiefs were for the government's terms and others against. As the discussion heated up, all eyes turned to one chief, Crowfoot**.** Although the commissioners thought mistakenly that Crowfoot was chief of all the Blackfoot, he knew that he could not take a decision without the agreement of the other chiefs. Red Crow and the others told Crowfoot that they would sign if Crowfoot would On September 21, Crowfoot rose to speak. He thanked the Mounted Police for saving so many of his people from the whiskey traders. "The Police have protected us as the feathers of the bird protect it from the frosts of winter... I am satisfied and I will sign the treaty.” One by one the others followed and on September 22 the chiefs gathered to sign the landmark Treaty Number 7.

**Script 8**

Crowfoot would have a total of 10 wives throughout his life, but never more than 3 or 4 at a time. His first wife was named Cutting Woman and she was favoured over the other wives. Crowfoot had many children with his wives, but only four of them lived to adulthood, one son, who was blind, and three daughters. At one point Crowfoot had a son that showed potential as a warrior and leader but he was killed in his early teenager years in a battle against the Cree. Crowfoot vowed to avenge the death of his son and personally lead a raid against a nearby Cree camp to kill one Cree tribe member. During the raid, the Blackfoot captured a young Cree man, who bore a resemblance to Crowfoot’s dead son. Crowfoot adopted the young man. Which later named Poundmaker.

**Script 9**

Sick during his last decade, he mourned the loss of his many children, of whom only one blind son and three daughters reached maturity. Near death, he is quoted as saying, "What is life? It is the flash of a firefly in the night. It is the breath of a buffalo in the winter time. It is as the little shadow that runs across the grass and loses itself in the sunset." He died on April 25 1890, near Blackfoot Crossing, AB

**Script 10**

I know that Crowfoot made a good impact. Crowfoot became one of the most famous Siksika in both Eastern Canada and the wider world. Crowfoot left behind a legacy that generations in the future will be aware of. Across Canada, there are a variety of different museums and historical sites like Head Smashed In Buffalo Jump, Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park which commemorate both the Blackfoot nation and specifically Chief Crowfoot. There are also special memorials dedicated to just Crowfoot and his accomplishments over the years.

**Script 11**

Thank you for listening and have good day I want to thank everyone for listening.

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