

The Heart of the Badlands

Rising from a floor of cracked earth, jagged spires and eroded buttes stand like sentinels against the shifting sky. These formations, carved by millions of years of deposition and erosion, reveal a layered history written in stone—ancient seas, floodplains, and volcanic ash compressed into fragile walls of clay and shale.

For the Lakota, this land is part of the greater *Mako Sica*—“land bad”—a place of stark beauty, spiritual presence, and survival. Though inhospitable to settlers, the Badlands offered the Lakota both protection and connection, its rugged contours serving as backdrop for stories, ceremony, and endurance.