

Montana Small Schools Alliance
HONORING MONTANA'S FIRST PEOPLES

UNIT: Animal "How To" Books

AUTHOR: Traci Manseau

SCHOOL AND COUNTY: Deerfield Colony School in Fergus County

GRADE LEVEL: K-4

INDIAN RESERVATION REFERENCED: Fort Belknap

LESSON DESCRIPTION: Students will research and discuss how the Americans Indians used animals for food, clothing, and shelter.

This lesson would take approximately 3-4 days. This depends on how elaborate the students want to be in making their "How To" books.

CONTENT STANDARDS ADDRESSED:

Art Standard 5: Students create, perform/exhibit, and respond to the arts. Benchmark 1.

Science Standard 3: Students demonstrate knowledge of characteristics, structures and function of living things, the process and diversity of life, and how living organisms interact with each other and their environment. Benchmark 1.

Speaking and Listening Standard 3: Students apply a range of skills and strategies to speaking and listening. Benchmark 1.

Writing Standard 6: Students use the inquiry process, problem-solving strategies, and resources to synthesize and communicate information. Benchmark 4.

ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT MONTANA INDIANS:

Essential Understanding 3: The ideologies of Native traditional beliefs and spirituality persist into modern day life as tribal cultures, traditions and languages are still practiced by many American Indian people and are incorporated into how tribes govern and manage their affairs.

Additionally, each tribe has its own oral history beginning with their origins that are as valid as written histories. These histories pre-date the "discovery" of North America.

Editor's Note:

These are a series of eleven short instructional units that integrate various subject area content standards and the Montana American Indian Essential Understanding 3. The different units can be used at different times throughout the year so that students will have several opportunities to learn to Honor Montana's First Peoples of the Fort Belknap and Flathead Reservations. It is suggested that the teacher use the Fort Belknap lessons first.

Before beginning these units, teachers should view the official website of the Fort Belknap Nations (www.fortbelknapnations.nsn.gov) and read the home pages of the histories of the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Peoples. Also, teachers could review and use the three DVD's provided to all Montana school districts by the Indian Education for All Program at OPI. The three are *Long Ago in Montana*, *Talking without Words*, and *Tribes in Montana*. In addition, the author has provided some specific resources for these units.

BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE:

Students will have prior knowledge as to what types of animals were hunted and used by the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes.

OBJECTIVES:

Students will discuss and learn how all the parts of animals were used by the American Indians. Students will make a "How To" booklet on the many different uses of the buffalo. (See attached sheets.) Students will design and create an American Indian shield.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES:

Students will research what different animals were in the area of the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes. Students will discuss the many different ways and purposes each animal was used by the Indians. Students will choose one animal to research and write a "How To" booklet about the ways the animals can be used. Students will give a speech to the class about how each animal part was used.

Students will plan and design an American Indian shield. We will be using cardboard and yarn. Students will cut the cardboard into a circle and draw American Indian designs on the shield. Students will decorate the shield with markers and yarn.

ASSESSMENT:

The final assessments will be the "How To" booklet, the presentation to the class, and the design and creation of their shield.

BONES

KNIVES
ARROWHEADS
SHOVELS
SPLINTS
WINTER SHEDS
ARROW STRAIGHTNERS
SADDLE TREES
WAR CLUBS
SCRAPPERS
QUIRTS
AWLS
PAINT BRUSHES
DICE GAMES

WHOLE ANIMAL

SYMBOLS
RELIGION

BUFFALO CHIPS

FUEL
CEREMONIAL SMOKE
SIGNALS

4-CHAMBERED STOMACH

MEDICINES FOR
FROST BITE AND SKIN
DISEASES
LINER FOR CARRYING
WATER
COOKING VESSEL

MUSCLES

SINEW
BOWS
THREAD
ARROWS
CINCES
GLUE

SKULL

CEREMONIES
SUN DANCE
PRAYER
USE BRAINS FOR
TANNING OR EATING



TONGUE

EATEN AS DELICACY

BEARD

ORNAMENTATION
PAINT BRUSHES

BLADDER

SINEW POUCHES
QUILL POUCHES
SMALL MEDICINE BAGS

PAUNCH

LINING USED FOR:
BUCKETS
CUPS
BASINS
DISHES

The Great Seal of the Fort Belknap Reservation



**Created by
George "Sonny"
Shields**

The emblem of the Fort Belknap Reservation's Seal, as illustrated by the traditional shield symbolizes the shield's protection of the two tribes, the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine. The shield illustrates the protection for the two tribes from the past, present and future, the loss of tribal culture, tribal identity and tribal land base. Individual and tribal interests and future development will also prosper and grow under the shield's protection.

The circular shape of the shield symbolizes life itself, as perceived by the Indian belief, of the constant cycle of life. Each living thing dependent on each other for life. The killing of the buffalo enables the Indian to live and grow and when his mortal remains return to the Earth, it serves as food for the grasses of the prairie which in turn feeds the buffalo, thus ensuring the constant cycle of life.

The four directions and the four seasons are symbolized in the use of the four colors: Red-Summer, Yellow-Fall, White-Winter, and Green-Spring.

Symbolizing the existence of two tribes, the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine on the reservation, who function as a whole, is the buffalo skull. The colors divide it, yet the skull remains as one. The skull has a jagged line from horn to horn representing the Milk River, a major tributary of the Missouri.

Snake Butte is illustrated above the skull. This butte is a well known landmark for Indian tribes throughout the North. The spring located on the north central part of the butte, is one of the few natural fresh water springs in the area.

Snake Butte is also the place to seek out visions. Many tried but very few succeeded in acquiring sacred power at this place.

The two arrowheads facing each other emphasize the strong traditional ties with the past.

Seven feathers hang from the shield. When the seal was originated, each feather was for every two of the twelve council members representing the reservations three districts and the center feather representing the Tribal Chairman.

Copyright 2003 © Fort Belknap Indian Community,
Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes. All Rights Reserved.