

Montana Small Schools Alliance
HONORING MONTANA'S FIRST PEOPLES

UNIT: American Indian Designs

AUTHOR: Traci Manseau

SCHOOL AND COUNTY: Deerfield Colony School in Fergus County

GRADE LEVEL: 3-6

INDIAN RESERVATION REFERENCED: Flathead and Fort Belknap

SUBJECT AREAS: Social Studies

LESSON DESCRIPTION: Students will compare the designs of the Salish, Kootenai and Pend d'Orielle tribes with that of the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine tribes.

This lesson will take approximately 3-5 days.

CONTENT STANDARDS ADDRESSED:

Social Studies Standard 4: Students demonstrate an understanding of the effects of time, continuity, and change on historical and future perspectives and relationships. Benchmark 7

Social Studies Standard 6: Students demonstrate an understanding of the impact of human interaction and cultural diversity on societies. Benchmark 4

World Languages Standard 4: Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the perspectives, practices, and products/contributions of cultures studied, and use this knowledge to interact effectively in cultural contexts. Benchmark 3

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 Flathead and Fort Belknap 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 studied the traditions and culture of the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine to be used for comparing. Students will have the prior knowledge of the quilting designs and beadwork of the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine from reading *Shota and the Star Quilt* and from making a star quilt out of construction paper to go with the book. The Assiniboine and the Gros Ventre use a geometric pattern, along with the Kootenai. The Salish and Pend d'Oreille use a traditional floral pattern. Now days, everyone uses all types of patterns.

OBJECTIVES:

Students will research the traditions and culture of the Salish, Kootenai and Pend d'Oreille tribes. Students will use encyclopedias, Internet and any other resources available. Students will compare the culture and traditions of the Assiniboine and Gros Ventre, to that of the Salish, Kootenai and Pend d'Oreille tribes.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES:

Students will begin their research of the Salish, Kootenai and Pend d'Oreille traditions and cultures. Students will begin examining the different styles of quilts and beadwork of the different tribes. Students will make a book for each tribe. The book will contain the tribal name, picture of tribal flag (drawn and colored by student), and different designs in the tribes' quilting and beadwork. The students will create their own design for a quilt and include a drawn picture in their booklet.

ASSESSMENT:

Students will be assessed on the completion and neatness of their books.