

Great Plains Indians



of North America

Native Americans: Great Plains

Most of the tribes living in the Great Plains shared many cultural commonalities with other tribes. Examples are: the use of tepees, hunting buffalo, and using horses (after Spanish arrival in the 1500s).



Native Americans: Great Plains

Some major native tribes of the Great Plains include:

Arapaho	Mandan
Arikara	Omaha
Assiniboine	Osage
Blackfoot	Otoe
Comanche	Pawnee
Cheyenne	Ojibwe
Crow	Cree
Gros Ventre	Ponca
Hidatsa	Quapaw
Ioway	Sarcee
Kaw	Sioux
Kiowa	Stoney
Kitsai	Tonkawa
Missouria	Wichita



Native Americans: Great Plains

Hidatsa



Comanche



Sioux



Blackfoot



Cheyenne



Pawnee

Mandan



Arapaho

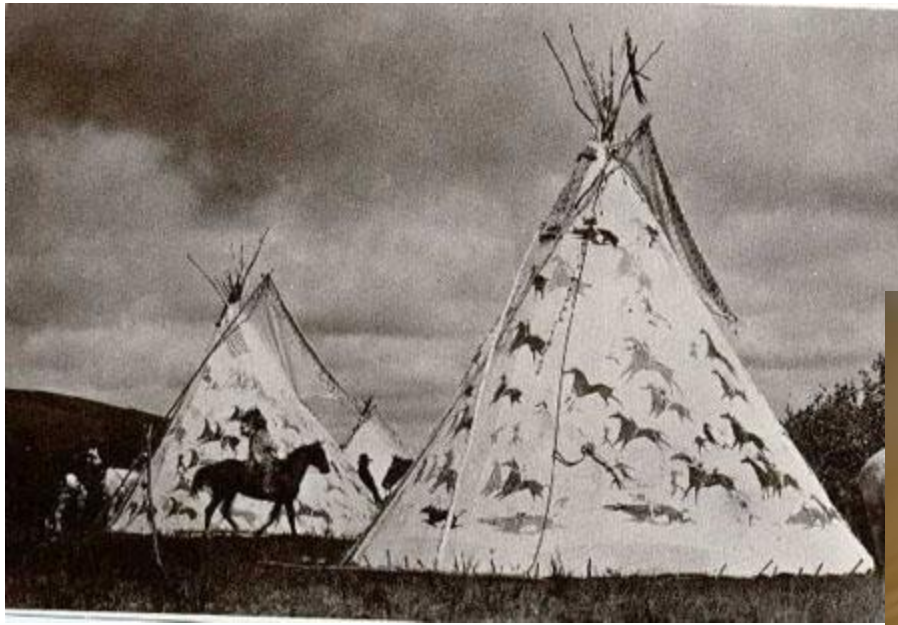
Crow



What did the **Great Plains Indians** live in?

- The tepee is a portable house, great for the nomadic life of a Plains Indian.
- It is made up of 3-4 poles and up to 12 buffalo skins sewn together.
- The opening of the tepee always faced the morning sun
- It took about one hour for women to assemble the family's tepee.





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BMG6yXgkTPY> (2:57 – end)

How did the Plains Indians travel?



- **The Plains Indians traveled by horse.**
 - The Plains Indians traded or stole them from the Spanish settlers.
- The horses helped with hunting, trading among tribes and fighting wars.
- **Warriors would paint their horses to show their history of battles.**

Native Americans: Great Plains

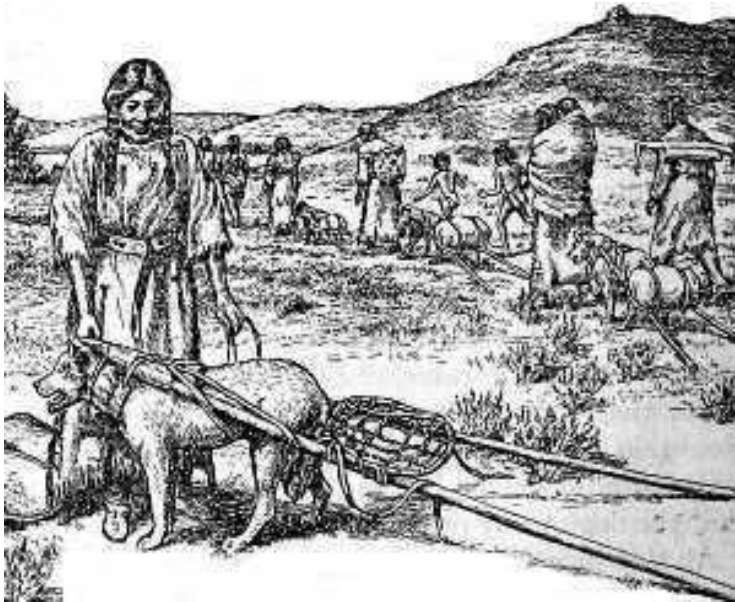


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J-xp90gANgl> (:00 – 4:00)

Everyday Life - Plains Indian Men



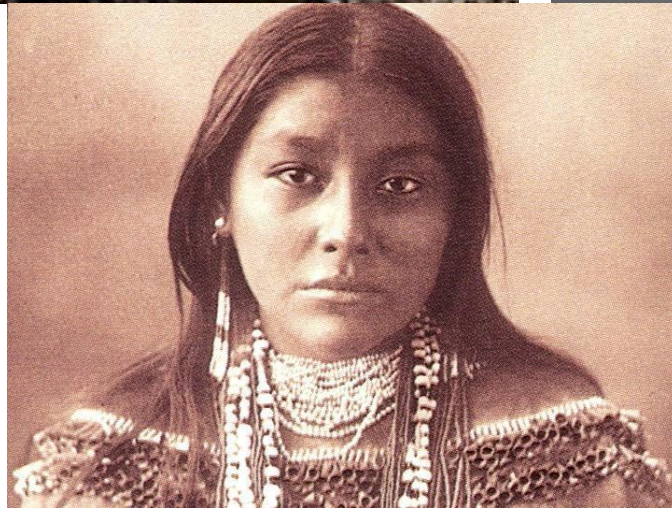
- The best hunters had the highest rank in the Plains Indian tribe.
- Men hunted deer, rabbit and elk.
- A man was also judged by how many horses he was able to obtain, and if he shared them.
- Dogs would pull their catch back to camp.



Everyday Life – Plains Indian Women

- ✘ The Plains women excelled at sewing and quillwork.
- ✘ These quills were sewn into clothing and used for artwork on tipis.
- ✘ Women chores were fetching water, sweeping, tending the fields, cooking and sewing.
- ✘ They mostly picked berries and nuts
- ✘ Women were seen as inferior, not to speak unless spoken to





Everyday Life – Plains Indian Children

- Babies were taught at a very young age not to cry because it might scare off the food.
- At four years old, the girls would start helping their mothers with her chores
- The boys would listen to war stories and practice using their bow and arrows.
- Like the Algonquians, at the age of 13 boys went on Vision Quests
- Boys played a game like stick ball (hockey)
- Boys and girls never played together; they knew they had separate roles in life.

Plains Indian Fashion

- ✘ Summer = deerskin and winter = buffalo.
- ✘ Every Indian wore a belt to hang tools, knives or cups off of, since there were no pockets.
- ✘ Each tribe made different moccasins - they were made from deerskin, quills, and beads.
- ✘ **Hairpipes**, long thin beads made from bones, **were woven into the hair and kept their hair for life.**
- ✘ If a man was a great warrior, he would wear a war piece made of eagle feathers.
The greater the warrior, the more feathers.





These shirts are made from several human scalps...you don't want to be a Plains Indian's enemy!

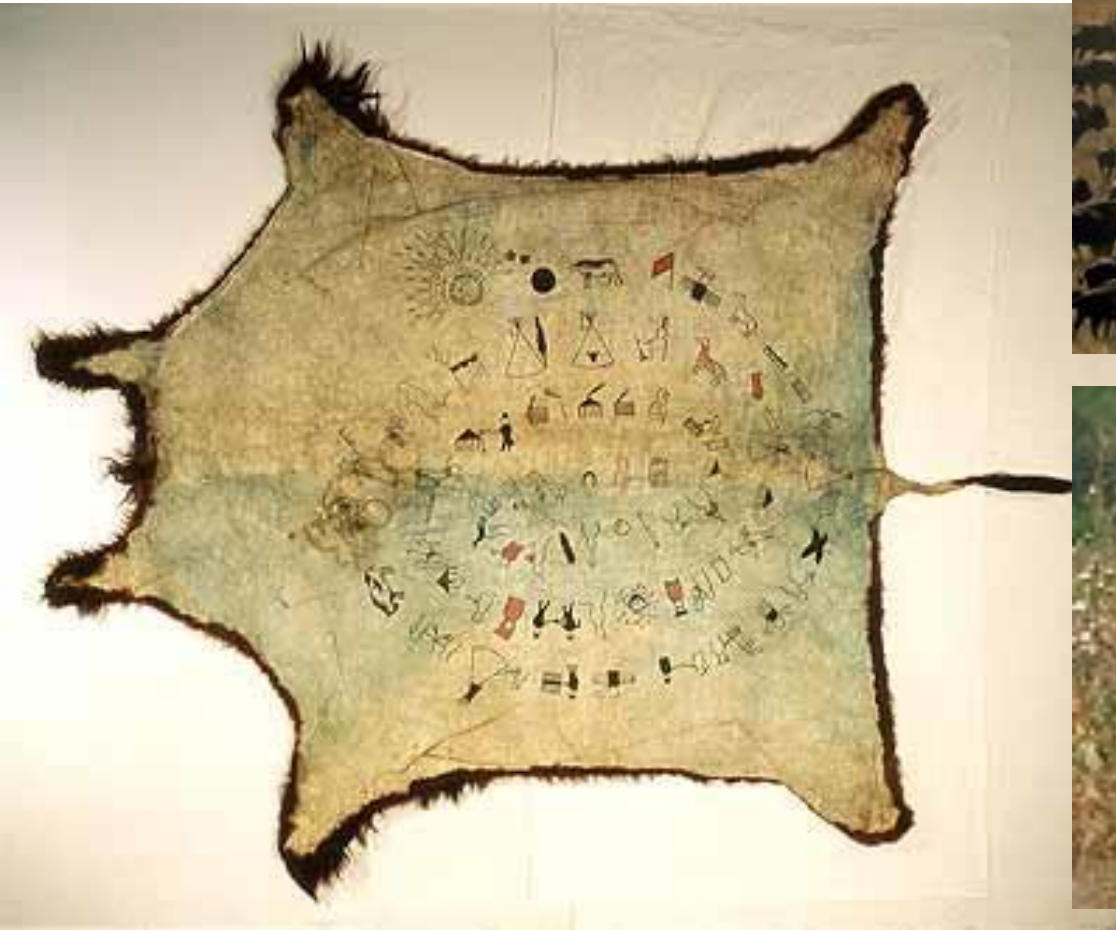


The Buffalo



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iW10cp223So>

- Before each hunt they performed a buffalo dance.
- On foot it took a whole tribe to catch a buffalo; buffalo are very dangerous.
- The buffalo heart was left on the plains as an offering to the gods.
- Men and women would record their lives on buffalo hides using pictographs.



HIDE (without hair)
tipi covers, clothing
parfleches (saddle bags)
shields, containers, rattles

HIDE (with hair)
warm winter clothing
floor covering, moccasins,
blankets

HAIR
stuffing for balls
and baby cradles;
paint brushes,
ropes, shields,
saddles

FAT
mixed with powdered meat
to make pemmican

HORNS headdress, container,
club, cups, spoons

RIBS
arrow shafts
runners for sleds

MEAT
boiled
roasted
dried

BRAINS
for preparing the hides

TAIL
fly swatter

BLADDER
waterproof
bag

STOMACH
food
cooking pot
water container

SKULL
used for religious
ceremonies

BONES
for tools like
scrapers, knives,
awls for sewing
for hoes

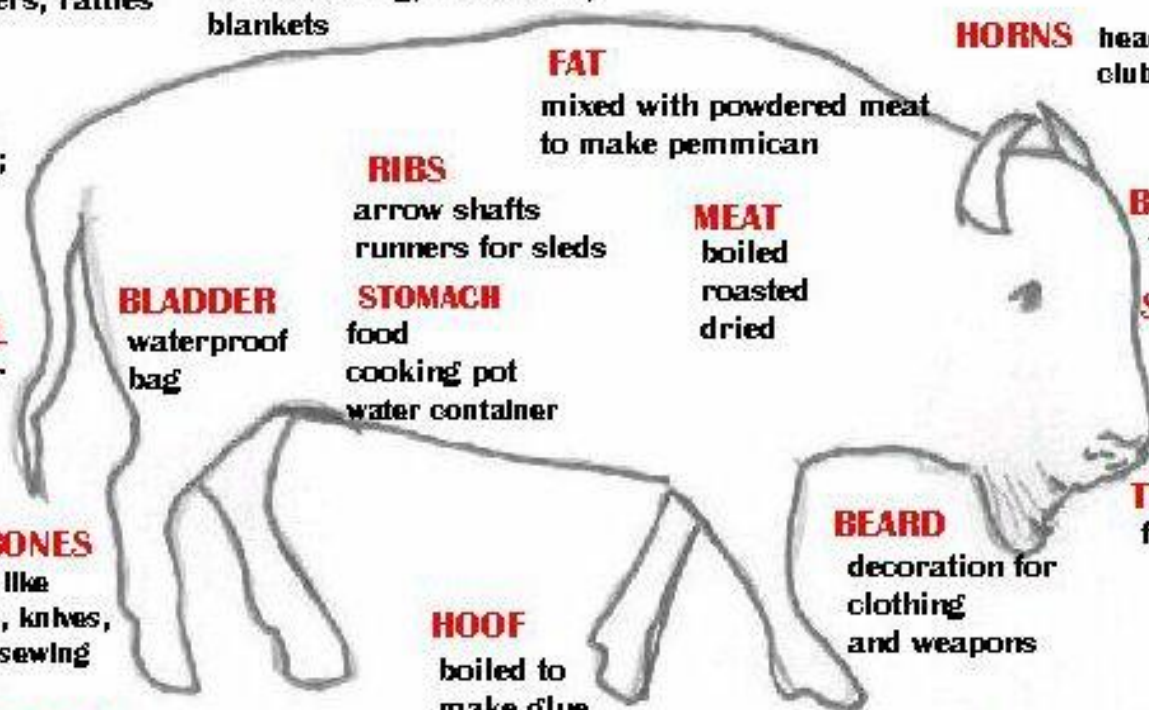
BEARD
decoration for
clothing
and weapons

TEETH
for necklaces

HOOF
boiled to
make glue

SINEWS (muscles)
laces, thread, bowstrings

DUNG (manure)
fuel for the campfire
smoke signals



Native Americans: Great Plains



Of all the natives of North America, **the tribes of the Great Plains were against white settlers living on their lands.**

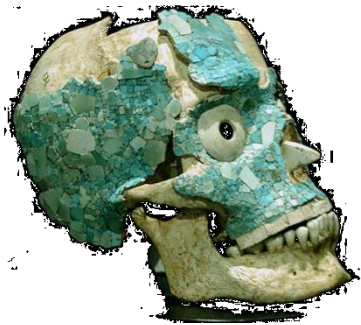
They also fought the bloodiest battles against U.S. soldiers in the 1800s.



The Sioux Indians, in particular, **were known for having the most conflicts with white settlers and American armies.**

Guess *the* Artifact

The Indians of the Great Plains



Guess *the* Artifact

This series will focus on artifacts from Native American tribes of the **Great Plains** cultural region, such as:

- Sioux
- Cheyenne
- Comanche
- Blackfoot



Great Plains

Guess *the* Artifact

Great Plains

Hint: it's hollow

Answer: buffalo horn carrier



Blackfoot

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Great Plains

Guess *the* Artifact

Great Plains

Hint: made of a buffalo

Answer: a bag made from buffalo bladder

Sioux



Great Plains

Guess *the* Artifact

Great Plains

Hint: go inside...look up

Answer: The inside of a buffalo-hide teepee



Sioux

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Guess *the* Artifact

Hint: made to inflict damage

Answer: Sioux warclub



Great Plains

Guess *the* Artifact

Great Plains

Hint: made from buffalo hide

Answer: stitched container



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Guess *the* Artifact

Hint: oooh baby

Answer: woman's cradleboard (carried on back)



Cheyenne



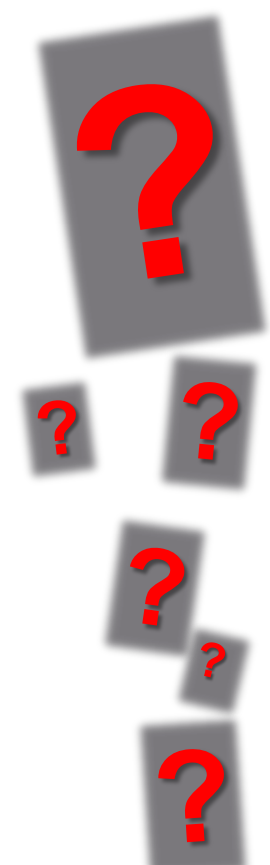
Guess *the* Artifact

Hint: for the chief

Answer: chief's feathered headdress



Cheyenne



Guess *the* Artifact

Hint: what does this bag hold?

Answer: Sioux pipe bag

Sioux



Guess *the* Artifact

Hint: classic weapon

Answer: bow & arrows in quiver



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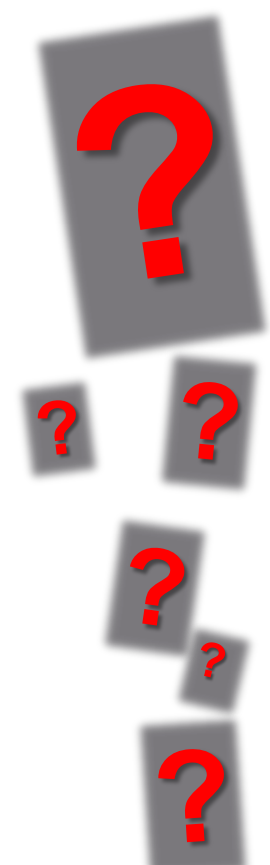
Guess *the* Artifact

Hint: hungry?

Answer: bowl and grinder



Cheyenne



Guess *the* Artifact

Hint: do you hear that beat?

Answer: drum and stick



no



Great Plains

Guess *the* Artifact

Great Plains

Hint: pass it around

Answer: Arapaho peace pipe

Arapaho



Great Plains

Guess *the* Artifact

Great Plains

Hint: are you too hot?

Answer: Eagle wing fan



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Guess *the* Artifact

Hint: for the baby

Answer: Arapaho Cradle



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Guess *the* Artifact

Hint: For a horse

Answer: horse quirt (whip)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eDkqIrb5i1c>