

Buffalo

by Gay Luke

Grade level K- 1

Time required

1 to 2 sixty-minute classes/
periods

Materials/Technology

Buffalo of the Flatheads

(see references)

Large construction paper,
white and brown

Markers and/or crayons

Hole punch

Yarn,

Parfleche containers or
parfleche pictures

Summary

Through discussion, a story, and an art project, students will learn about the significance of the buffalo in the lives of Native Americans.

Objectives

The student will:

- 1) Complete a journal entry for the uses of the buffalo by the “Salish with Flathead” and Pend d'Oreille Indians
- 2) Understand that people depended on the buffalo for their survival.

Montana Math standard addressed

- 1) Students demonstrate knowledge of characteristics, structures and functions of living things, the process and diversity of life, and how living organisms interact with each other and their environment.
- 2) Students understand how scientific knowledge and technological developments impact society.
- 3) Students understand historical developments in science and technology

Assessment

Evaluate students on completed illustrations of buffalo uses and completed parfleches.

Procedure

Day 1

- 1) Talk to the class about how people use parts of animals for food, shelter, and clothing.
- 2) Read *Buffalo of the Flatheads* to the class, discussing how bison were used to supply people with many items, including food, tipis, and clothing.
- 3) Fold the white paper in half diagonally and horizontally. The paper is next divided into four sections. Write "Buffalo" in one space - children will draw a picture of a buffalo. Write “Food” in the next space - children will draw a kind of food they made. Write “Clothing” in the next space - children will draw an item of clothing made from buffalo. In the last space write “Shelter” - students will draw a tipi in this space.

Day 2

Explain to students that the term Flathead was used to refer to Salish and Pend d'Oreille people. There are no "Flathead" Indians.

Students will make a parfleche that is sometimes called an Indian suitcase. Parfleche containers were used for storing and carrying different items such as medicines, tools, food, and clothing.

A Parfleche is made out of rawhide. Students should either view a real parfleche or at least pictures of one to see what the authentic item looks like (The Tribal Education Department has a child size parfleche that students could handle-also the museum at Ninepeipe has a great parfleche section).

Please refer to the parfleche pattern on the following page. Usually only the top flaps of the parfleche were decorated. Have students decorate their parfleche. Cut pieces of yarn to tie the parfleche.

Further information

For further information about these activities, contact Gay Luke, via electronic mail at Qesgluke@ronan.net. For further information about the buffalo and Salish culture, contact the Salish Culture Committee in St. Ignatius, Montana.

References

Salish Culture Committee of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. Buffalo of the Flatheads. Polson, MT: Gull Printing.

Example: (see next sheet)

