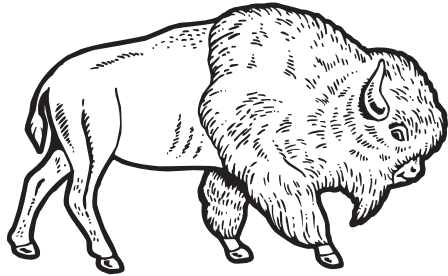


The Buffalo

Buffaloes played an important role in the lives of the Plains tribes. Their meat provided food and their hides were used for clothing and shelter. Bowstrings and sewing equipment were made from buffalo sinew. Bones were crafted into cooking utensils and toys for the children.



Rawhide was made into lacings, moccasin soles, and parfleches. (Parfleches were skin pouches that were used to carry small utensils and dried meat.)

Hunting for buffalo was no easy task. At first the Native Americans hunted on foot and shot the animals with bows and arrows. Sometimes hunters would wear a buffalo or wolf skin to mask their human scent so they could get closer to the buffaloes to shoot them. Scouts were sent out to find the herds. Then the hunters lined up in two columns and waved blankets to force the herd toward the edge of a cliff. Other times, buffalo were driven into a corral where they were shot with arrows or clubbed to death.

When Native Americans acquired horses and guns, hunting buffalo became easier. They developed their skills as riders and marksmen. They also became more wasteful and would kill buffalo for sport following in the ways of the white man.

After you have read the paragraph above, write the answers to the clues below. The letters in the boxes will then spell out another name for the American bison.

1. These were made from sinew. _ _ _ _ _

2. They were sent to find the herd _ _ _

3. Skin pouches used to carry meat. _ _ _ _ _

4. It was worn to hide human scent. _ _ _ _ _

5. These are shot from bows. _ _ _ _ _

6. They were waved to scare buffaloes. _ _ _ _ _

7. Buffaloes were driven here to be shot. _ _ _ _ _

Answer: _____