The Kiowa People - In Their Own Words

Oral History DVD and Activity Packet

DVD Recorded by the Emhoolah Family
Lynne Scholfield, Producer Director, L. S. Productions, LLC
Activity Packet written by Marilyn Lindenbaum
Designed by Julie Rudofsky, InHouse Design

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The Kiowa People - In Their Own Words

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How To Use This Packet

Rationale
The Kiowa People DVD is an oral history of a Kiowa family. The Emhoolahs share their tribal history and culture in an excellent primary source recording. The accompanying packet is designed to work in tandem with the video to increase a student’s knowledge and understanding of Kiowa and Plains Indian culture. The activities incorporate other curriculum areas in addition to Social Studies and support current Colorado Academic Standards and testing practices.

Activities
The packet is written for students so that individual sheets may be photocopied and handed out for independent or group reading and working. Most are designed to be completed in a class period or two. There is one research and report activity – “Do You Know the Way to Santa Fe?” There is also a calendar/timeline piece that could be extended for a long-term classroom project.

A. Watch “The Kiowa People” DVD (8 Minutes)
   • Introduce/discuss primary source materials
   • Consider the content of the video and list facts as part of a traditional KWL chart
   • Read “The Kiowa People - In Their Owns Words” and discuss the background information with your class before doing the activities.

B. Choose the activities that best suit your class and your learning objectives. A few notes:
   Make Mine Extra Dry – the mashed fruit mixture can be pre-boiled to soften and shorten the drying time

What’s in a Story – emphasize good listening skills to get the elements of John Emhoolah’s story in the right order
The group creation of a story may be challenging for some classes. You can simplify the instructions by choosing just one of the story elements for creating an original tale. If there is time, explore some of the other Kiowa stories. Seven Sisters in the Sky is a myth about Devil’s Tower in Wyoming. It is a great example of an explanation of nature through storytelling.

Talking Objects – this is a Venn Diagram of differences and similarities. The writing project that follows is an exercise in comparing our everyday objects to historical ones. The additional objectives are to strengthen understanding adjectives and writing in first person

What Year Is It? – this timeline project can lead to creating a Colorado history timeline with US and World events added in

Ah! Jump the Creek – scoring is a bit tricky for this game. Together as a class, try a few throws of the stick dice and calculate the number of spaces a player can move. This may help clarify the scoring process for independent play

Ideas for Secondary Grades 6 - 12
The environmental damage of Westward Expansion and its impact on Native American life
Broken treaties - their effect on trust and cooperation
Native Americans and the Civil War
The Sand Creek Massacre
Native American Tribes today
The first Europeans to meet the Kiowas were exploring the Black Hills in the early 1700s. They described the handsome tribe as a graceful and proud people. The name “Kiowa” is “Gai’gwu” in the tribal language, and means Principal People.

The Kiowas were hunter-gatherers, moving from place to place, following herds of animals for hunting, camping near streams or rivers, and gathering wild fruits and plants for food and medicine.

By the late 1700s, the Kiowas had been introduced to the horse. Before then, everything was done on foot – moving camp, hunting, and protecting families. The horse changed everything.

“Horses came to North America with the Spanish explorers in the 1500s. Explorers and traders brought them north. The Kiowas were among the first tribes to have horses and they quickly became expert horsemen. By the late 1700s, the Kiowas began moving south onto the Central Plains. Conflicts with other tribes and a search for more horses brought them to southeastern Colorado where they increased their herds by capturing some and trading for others.”

“The horse was a very important part of our culture”
“Buffalo was the main source of our food. In fact, that’s how we made our tipis.”

Everything was made from natural materials. Bison, more simply called buffalo, provided so much. Their hides were sewn together to form tipi covers. Thick furs called robes, made warm blankets and soft beds. Large leg bones were carved into tools like scrapers, and clubs, and small bones were used too.

They call us Plains Indians – from this area, southeast Denver, all the way to Elizabeth, there were thousands of tipis”

Life on the plains was organized around survival. Men’s duties included managing horses, making weapons, hunting, and protecting the tribe. Rawhide shields were decorated with animals or feathers, and provided spiritual war power and inner strength. Women took care of everything at home: gathering and preserving food, preparing meals, making clothing, constructing tipis and moving camp. Children were taught these important skills by their parents and other tribal members. To move camp, belongings were packed into a rawhide suitcase called a parfleche. The parfleches, tipi supplies and other belongings were loaded onto a travois, or sled pulled by the horses. Small children could safely ride along!
“We had buckskin that was beautiful – soft and easy to work with. Our beadwork and what we made – just really nice.”

“**When it came to Bent’s Fort, all the tribes would lay down their arms and they did their trading, not only with Bent’s Fort, but with one another...It was a time of commerce among people**”

William and Charles Bent and their partner, Ceran St. Vrain opened Bent’s Fort in 1833. It was a trading post on the Arkansas River, the border between the U.S. and Mexico. The Santa Fe Trail was close by. Wagons from St. Louis and Santa Fe traveled down the trail keeping the post well stocked with trade goods.

The Louisiana Purchase opened up the west for traders, trappers and settlers. People came west looking for land, gold, furs, and adventure. Fur trappers brought goods to trade with native tribes. For people who were used to living only by nature, these goods were very helpful. Metal tools, weapons, cooking pots, sewing needles, cloth, glass beads, even small mirrors were very valuable. In exchange, the Kiowas had many horses, food, buffalo hides, sturdy clothing, and useful knowledge for survival. For a time, both groups learned from each other, sharing stories, languages and friendship.

The Fort closed in 1849. By that time, many more people were heading west, trampling traditional hunting grounds and killing many buffalo. Newcomers also brought diseases with them, and many native people died or moved away. As more settlers came, there were conflicts. The U.S. government tried to control the situation, either by force or treaties that were never carried out. The Kiowas and other Plains Indians eventually agreed to move onto reservations in Oklahoma. Even then, the U.S. government took back some of the land and sold it to settlers, even though it had been promised to the tribes.
The Kiowas have a long tradition of societies, or groups that have special duties or abilities that help the tribe. The fiercest society went into battle, prepared to die. The bravest action was counting coup, or touching the enemy without harming him. This was done with a special stick made just for that purpose.

The Gourd Society was named for the musical gourd rattles used for special dances. These were performed at the yearly Sun Dance when all societies gathered to sing their sacred songs and pray for healing, protection, and well-being. The source for these songs was very often a dream, a spirit animal or nature. Some were received during time spent in quiet thought.

In 1890, the U.S. government banned the Sun Dance in an effort to force acceptance of U.S. culture. Today, the tradition has returned and the societies once again come together to share their traditional songs and ceremonies every summer.

These groups support tribal activities, honor the military service of their members, and work to preserve Kiowa culture. The Rabbit Society is an educational group that teaches boys and girls the rich history, traditions and important skills of the tribe. This work helps to protect the Kiowa people and culture for the future.

The Kiowa are known as the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma now. According to the 2010 census, there are over 9,000 members of the Kiowa tribe. They follow the tribal constitution and government along with the laws of the United States. Some of these folks live on the reservation, and others live in cities across the U.S. The Kiowa language is still spoken and members participate in pow wows and traditional ceremonies.

Traditional Prayer Sung at the Last Sun Dance 1890

*O Dom-o-ye-alm-k’ hee, Creator of the earth,*  
*Bless my prayer and heal our land,*  
*Increase our food, the buffalo power,*  
*Multiply my people, prolong their lives on earth,*  
*Protect us from troubles and sickness,*  
*That happiness and joy may be ours in life,*  
*That life we live is so uncertain,*  
*Consider my supplications with kindness,*  
*For I talk to you as yet living for my people.*
The second pictograph at the top left corner shows a man with four stars over his head. This recalls the 1833 Leonid meteor shower that was recorded by many, and still usually occurs in the November sky today.

**GOOD TO KNOW**

Sheet of tan construction paper
Lined writing paper
Markers, pencil or pen

**Step 1:** Wet the paper and crunch it together to make it look old-fashioned. Lay flat to dry

**Step 2:** Choose something to draw - something special that has happened to you, your family or your class. Think about using little details to give the viewer clues about the event (Example: lots of flowers show that it is summer)

**Step 3:** Draw the picture in pencil first; then carefully re-draw with markers. Write the date of the event on your drawing (month and year)

**Step 4:** Working with your classmates, form a human timeline of events, beginning with the one that happened the farthest in the past. You may form the calendar in a line or a spiral.

**Step 5:** Create a class timeline, voting each week on the most important event to add.

**WHAT YEAR IS IT?**

**Pictures Tell the Story**

Have you ever seen a calendar made of pictures? The traditional Kiowa calendar marked the two most important events in each year, one in summer and one in winter. Tribal leaders decided what pictographs, or picture symbols to include. The calendar-keeper drew the images on a large hide, usually in a spiral.

The calendar below starts in the upper left-hand corner and continues around and around until it reaches the center. This calendar was kept for the years 1833 to 1892. The black bars show winter events. The small houses inbetween show summer medicine lodges for the Sun Dance. Over time, the style of the pictures became more colorful and detailed. Some later drawings were done in ledger books, or lined paper notebooks.
Do You Know the Way to Santa Fe?

People from many cultures came down the Santa Fe Trail and met at Bent’s Fort: Native Americans, Spanish and Mexican traders and travellers, sellers and storekeepers from St. Louis, fur trappers and mountain men. The courtyard was filled with sounds: blacksmiths shoeing horses and oxen, carpenters repairing wagons, people speaking many languages, asking directions to Santa Fe, playing music and telling stories. People worked at the fort too: blacksmiths, woodworkers, farmers, hunters, traders, clerks, butchers, barn keepers and cooks.

Who Am I?

Step 1: Research Bent’s Fort and choose an imaginary person that might have been there
Step 2: Draw a portrait of your character, and write a description of who you are. Include details that give the class information about the fort, your life and work
Step 3: Write a “Who Am I?” list of 7 clues for your classmates
Step 4: Use costumes and prop to build your character. Allow your classmates to interview you and try to figure out who you are. Give them your clues to help them think about your person
Step 5: Create a class portrait gallery, and invite other classes and parents to visit your “Bent’s Fort”

Gather your Supplies

Drawing paper, lined writing paper
Pencil, markers, colored pencils
Research Materials - Books, Internet, etc
Costume Materials (Hats, scarves, gloves, props)

Good to Know

Bent’s Fort was made of adobe bricks – mud, sand and straw that was packed into molds and baked in the sun. Travelers were happy to see the “Adobe Castle of the Plains” after 60 days on the trail!

The Dimensions of Ben’s Fort
180 feet long, 135 feet wide, walls 15 feet high
Adobe bricks, 18” x 9” x 4”

Just for Fun

Make a scale model of Bent’s Fort using sugar cubes, wooden blocks or legos.
Buffalo meat was the main food source for the Kiowas, but a successful hunt provided more meat than the people could eat while it was fresh. To preserve it, long, thin strips were cut and hung from racks to dry in the air and sun like jerky. Drying food, or dehydration removed the moisture and kept the food from spoiling. Sometimes, the dried meat was mixed with berries and animal fat to make pemmican, a rich food that could be stored to feed families during months when hunting was scarce.

**Good to Know**

Preserving food by dehydration dates all the way back to ancient times. By the 1700s, people were drying all kinds of food and plants for storage:

- Meats
- Fish
- Fruits
- Herbs
- Corn
- Spices
- Root Vegetables
- Tobacco

**Try It Yourself!**

Drying a fruit mixture into fruit “leather” is a delicious way to understand dehydration! In this recipe, the oven replaces the sun and air to dry and preserve the fruit. Notice how concentrated the fruit flavor is without the water.

**Gather Your Supplies**

- 3-4 Cups Fruit (Apples, Berries, Peaches)
- 3 Tbs. honey or other sweetener (or to taste)
- ½ tsp. cinnamon
- 2 Large baking pans with sides
- Silicone mat, plastic wrap or foil to line the pans
- Blender or food processor
- Plastic knife or pizza cutter

**Step 1:** Heat the oven to 150º or its lowest setting. Wash hands

**Step 2:** With your group, wash the fruit, chop and puree in the blender with sweetener and cinnamon until smooth

**Step 3:** Pour two cups fruit onto the lined cookie sheet. Tap the pan lightly on counter to spread fruit evenly

**Step 4:** Bake at a low temperature for 6-10 hours until fruit has become fruit leather

**Step 5:** Remove from oven and cool. Roll up fruit leather and cut in strips with a plastic knife or pizza cutter, or form into small patties or balls

**Remember:** Even easy recipes require adult supervision!
Kiowa Creation Myth

The ancestors of the Kiowa lived underground until Senday the trickster turned them all into ants. He told them to go out onto the Earth’s surface through an opening in a hollow log. Before all of the ants went through, a pregnant woman sat down on the log to rest and got stuck in the opening! No more ants could escape, which explained why the Kiowa tribe was smaller than some others on the plains.

Some Other Kiowa Tales:
- Seven Sisters in the Sky
- White Fox
- The Passing of the Buffalo

These events are all part of the Gourd Society’s story of their sacred songs and dances. Write the numbers 1-10 in the boxes to show their correct order in the story:

1. The wind moved through the trees
2. The red wolf gave the songs and dances to the kiowa people
3. The warrior leaned back against a tree and listened
4. The Gourd Society makes the sound of the Red Wolf at the end of its songs
5. The man caught all the songs, one after another
6. A hunting party was out in the wilderness near Yellowstone
7. The red wolf, A spirit animal, appeared in the trees
8. One warrior stepped aside so he could rest
9. Songs of the Red Wolf are sung today by the Gourd Society
10. The warrior thought “Hey that’s pretty music”

Let’s tell Stories

In small groups, work together to create stories in the Kiowa tradition.

Step 1: Decide with your group what lesson you want your story to teach
Step 2: Choose a beginning that seems like something that can happen everyday
Step 3: Create a magical event that makes the lesson possible
Step 4: Write your story carefully and work with your group to share your tale with the class

Gather your Supplies

Pencils
Writing Paper

Good to Know

Kiowa Creation Myth

The ancestors of the Kiowa lived underground until Senday the trickster turned them all into ants. He told them to go out onto the Earth’s surface through an opening in a hollow log. Before all of the ants went through, a pregnant woman sat down on the log to rest and got stuck in the opening! No more ants could escape, which explained why the Kiowa tribe was smaller than some others on the plains.

Some Other Kiowa Tales:
- Seven Sisters in the Sky
- White Fox
- The Passing of the Buffalo
**Talking Objects!**

**Step 1:** Using these blank boxes, write the words below that describe each object. In the overlapping spaces, write describing words that are shared by two or all three of the items. This will help you to think about the similarities and differences between them:

- Useful
- Spiritual
- Sewn
- Traded
- Creative
- Used Daily
- Soft
- Colorful
- Sturdy
- Resourceful
- Natural
- Protective

**Step 2:** Brainstorm today’s objects that are useful, creative, or any of the describing words at left.

**Step 3:** Choose one and draw it on a piece of paper.

**Step 4:** Write a brief story about the object, speaking in first person as the voice of the object. Describe what you are made from, who made you, and what you are used for.

**Step 5:** Share your drawing and story with the class.

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**Gather your Supplies**

- Drawing paper
- Pencil, pen, markers for drawing
- Lined paper for story-writing

**Good to Know**

The proper name for the animal we call the “buffalo” is actually the American bison!
Plains Supermarket

Let’s Go Shopping!

Step 1: Look at the photos of objects made from parts of the buffalo
Step 2: Write the number of the object next to the matching part of the buffalo

1. Tail
2. Small Bone
3. Leg Bone
4. Horns
5. Leg Tendon
6. Bladder
7. Brains
8. Rawhide
9. Tanned Hides

Step 3: Answer the bonus quiz below

Can you name the objects used to make:

buffalo stew _______ _______ _______

a woman’s dress _______ _______ _______

a parfleche _______ _______ _______

Good to Know

Some animal hides were permanently softened by brain tanning. The brains of the animal were heated with its fat and rubbed into the cleaned hides. These were made into things like tipi covers, clothing and moccasins. Rawhide, or air-dried skins, were stiff – just right for drums, shields and parfleches.
Imagine yourself out on the plains – open land as far as your eyes can see. There are only a few trees lining a small creek. All the rest is prairie grass and blue sky. Think about the Kiowa people moving about the plain with nature as their companion. Everything they know about time, the seasons, and the world is all around them.

**Gather your Supplies**

Fill-in-the-blank poem worksheet  
N. Scott Momaday poetry page  
Pencil and small slips of paper

**Poetry Patchwork**

**Step 1:** With your teacher and class, brainstorm a list of nouns (N) – people, places or things you might see, touch, or feel on the plains (Examples: stars, wind, grass)  
**Step 2:** Brainstorm a second list of adjectives (A) - describing words that explain the look and feel of the prairie (Examples: warm, dusty, open)  
**Step 3:** Choose words from the two lists, and fill in the blanks of “The Delight of Tsoai-Talee” to create your own poem  
**Step 4:** Compare your verse with N. Scott Momaday’s original poem

**The Delight of Tsoai-Talee**

I am a (N)_____________ on the (A) ___________________sky  
I am the (A) ______________ horse that runs in the (N)_____________  
I am the (N) ______________ that rolls, shining, in the (A)_______ water  
I am the (N) ______________ that follows a (N) ______________  
I am an (N) ______________ playing with the wind  
I am a cluster of (A) ___________________ (N) ______________  
I am the (A) ______________ star  
I am the (A) ______________ of dawn  
I am the roaring (N) ______________  
I am the (N) ______________ on the (N) ______________ of the snow

**More Poetry Fun**

With your class, write each word from both lists on a small slip of paper. Fold and place the pieces into two bowls, one for nouns and one for adjectives. Each student should choose 5 papers from each bowl and use the words to write an original poem about life on the plains.

**Good to Know**

N. Scott Momaday is a Native American poet who has strong ties to his Kiowa heritage. He has won awards for his novels and poetry, and often writes about the spirit and connection between his people and the land. By using words, he paints images, or pictures of the natural world and its treasures.
Poems by N. Scott Momaday

The Delight of Tsoai-Talee

I am a feather on the bright sky
I am the blue horse that runs in the plain
I am the fish that rolls, shining, in the water
I am the shadow that follows a child
I am the evening light, the lustre of meadows
I am an eagle playing with the wind
I am a cluster of bright beads
I am the farthest star
I am the cold of the dawn
I am the roaring of the rain
I am the glitter on the crust of the snow
I am the long track of the moon in a lake
I am a flame of four colors
I am a deer standing away in the dusk
I am a field of sumac and pomme blanche
I am an angle of geese in the winter sky
I am the hunger of a young wolf
I am the whole dream of these things
You see, I am alive, I am alive
I stand in good relation to the Gods
I stand in good relation to the earth
I stand in good relation to everything that is beautiful...
You see, I am alive, I am alive

The Earth

Once in his life a man ought to concentrate his mind upon the remembered earth, I believe. He ought to give himself up to a particular landscape in his experience, to look at it from as many angles as he can, to wonder about it, to dwell upon it. He ought to imagine that he touches it with his hands at every season and listens to the sounds that are made upon it. He ought to imagine the creatures there and all the faintest motions of the wind. He ought to recollect the glare of noon and all the colors of the dawn and dusk.

For we are held by more than the force of gravity to the earth. It is the entity from which we are sprung, and that into which we are dissolved in time. The blood of the whole human race is invested in it. We are moored there, rooted as surely, as deeply as are the ancient redwoods and bristlecones.

The Eagle Fan

The eagle is my power,
And my fan is an eagle.
It is strong and beautiful
In my hand. And it is real.
My fingers hold upon it
As if the beaded handle
Were the twist of a bristlecone.
The bones of my hand are fine
And hollow; the fan bears them.
Amy hand veers in the thin air
Of the summits. All morning
It scuds on the cold currents;
All afternoon it circles
To the singing, to the drums.
Plains Indian Puzzler

The Kiowa Indians were excellent hunters and gatherers. They had to be alert, observant, and have an excellent memory. Test your hunting skills with this word search. Here’s a helpful hint: All of the answers are in the background information called “The Kiowa People – In Their Own Words”.

Gather Your Supplies

Word Search Questions & Puzzle
“The Kiowa People – In Their Own Words”
Pencil

Step 1: Using what you have read and learned, answer the questions or fill in the blanks. Refer back to the information sheets if you need to.
Step 2: Complete the word search. Your correct answers will be the 12 words to hunt for in the puzzle.

Word Search Questions

What is the correct name for the animal we call the buffalo? ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
The buffalo’s leg bones were made into tools like the ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
What bone tool was used for sewing? ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
The bravest action of a warrior was counting ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
Blankets were packed in a rawhide suitcase called a ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
What part of the buffalo was used as a canteen? ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
To move camp, belongings were loaded onto a ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
Without much wood for fuel, campfires were built using buffalo ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
Travelers on the Santa Fe Trail traded goods at ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
A buffalo’s leg tendons provided sewing thread called ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
Buffalo hides were sewn together to make the ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ cover.
A parfleche was made out of ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
The Kiowa People — Word Search

Your List of Words

The answers may go forward, backwards, up, down, or on the diagonal. Good luck!
**Bent's Fort Trade Values**

One Buffalo Robe =
- 1 hank (string) of beads
- 30 loads of gun powder
- 1 yard plain cloth or flannel
- 2 gallons of shelled (dried) corn
- 4 pounds of sugar
- 2 pounds of coffee
- 1 small blanket
- 3 metal knives
- 3 dozen metal arrow points
- 3 awls
- 1 butcher knife
- 2 plugs tobacco
- 24 needles and thread
- 7 combs
- 2 yards brass wire
- 1 cloth shirt
- ½ yard blue or scarlet cloth
- 1 working rifle
- 1 iron kettle

Four Buffalo Robes =
- 1 medium blanket
- 2 yards scarlet cloth
- 1 pair common (rough) blankets
- 2 pounds of white beads

Ten Buffalo Robes =
- 1 cloth shirt
- 1 working rifle
- 1 iron kettle
- 1 Horse
Bartering Bingo

When folks traded at Bent’s Fort, they had to do some fast mental math to figure out which items they could get for their trade goods. In Bartering Bingo, you will be asked to do the same!

10  9  5  28  25  4  23  8  14  13  6  19
18  30  1  2  11  16  35  42  40  20  52  12

Gather your Supplies
Blank Bingo card
Pencil or pen
Scrap paper (just in case you need it)

Step 1: There are 24 numbers below for you to copy onto your blank Bingo card. Write one number in each square except the Free Space.

Step 2: Use the Bent’s Fort Trade Values sheet and mental math to answer your teacher’s questions about trades at the Fort. Each answer is the number of buffalo robes (hides) needed to make the trade.

Step 3: Put an X on each of your answers if it appears on your card.

Step 4: Just like regular Bingo, when you have five X’s in a row in any direction, you win!

Good to Know
(and Think About)
Trade goods at Bent’s Fort cost about 9 times more than they would in a store in Missouri. Why?
If ten people wanted a horse and only one was for sale, what would happen to the price? If there were ten horses for sale and only one person was buying, what would happen to the price then?
Let's Make a Deal!

Fur trappers, traders from Santa Fe, Native Americans and merchants met and traded at Bent’s Fort. Of course, the prices changed often, depending on supplies, shortages, and the popularity or necessity of goods. Some customers at the Fort used money to purchase items, but most of the trade was done by bartering, or trading things without the use of cash.

Trading at Bent’s Fort

Step 1: Using the Bent’s Fort Trade Values, answer the word problems below. Some of the questions ask you to create more than one answer. All of them are correct as long as the math adds up!

Step 2: Check your work

1. You’re a trapper headed back to the mountains with 120 loads of gunpowder and shot, 4 lbs of coffee, 1 pair of common blankets, 4 yards of brass wire and a fresh horse. How many robes did you trade for your new goods? ______________________

2. You came to the fort with 15 buffalo hides. What 3 combinations of awls, needles and thread, and scarlet cloth can you take back? ______________________ OR ______________________ OR ______________________

3. Your store in Santa Fe is out of coffee, sugar, and corn. How many horses do you need to trade for 20 lbs of sugar, 10 gallons of corn, and 8 pounds of coffee? ________________

4. The fur company you work for needs 100 buffalo robes to ship to a buyer in New York. You only have 7 horses. What else can you bring to trade for 30 more hides? ______________________ OR ______________________

Gather your Supplies

Let’s Make a Deal worksheet
Bent’s Fort Trade Values
Pencil and paper for your math

5. Bent’s Fort is only a few miles away from your home. You go there often for small amounts of things. Today, you only need 1 gallon of dried corn. What can you trade back for it? ____________ buffalo robe OR ____________ coffee OR ____________ brass wire

6. Horses were sometimes used to pull wagons. You have a small wagon pulled by one horse that weighs 1200 pounds. He can pull 10% or 1/10th of his body weight over a long distance. How many pounds can he pull? ________________ But if you have a team of two horses of the same size, they can pull their body weights put together. How many pounds can they pull? ________________

Good to Know

According to the International Museum of the Horse, one horsepower is the force needed to lift 550 pounds off the ground in one second. The term Horsepower was created by inventor James Watt, who was also the inspiration for the word WATT to describe the power of light bulbs.
Ahl JUMP THE CREEK

Ahl is a Kiowan game where players throw stick dice made of wood (ahl) and move around a game board for the win. It is sometimes called the Awl Game because it was traditionally played by women using their sewing tools, or awls, as playing pieces. The stick dice were made of split twigs that were round on one side, and flat on the other. Their different colors and flat or rounded sides told how many spaces the player moved on each turn.

Ahl is still played today. The board has a path of spaces, with a place for the Ahl Stone in the middle. The curved areas in the board are called knees because the players originally knelt on the edges of a cloth board to play. It also has four sets of parallel lines. The sets at the start and at the top are called the creeks. The lines at the sides are dry branches of the creek and count like any other spaces. If players land by exact count on the top creek during play, they have to return to the start. That is why the game is sometimes called Jump The Creek, which is exactly what the players hope to do.

GATHER YOUR SUPPLIES

One Ahl Game Board
2 buttons or small stones for playing pieces (one for each player or team)
4 tongue depressors or Popsicle sticks for stick dice
Ruler and red, green, and black markers
8 small sticks or objects for score counters (four for each player/team)

Step 1: Make the stick dice. Draw a red line down the center of three of the Popsicle sticks and a green line down the center of the last one. You may add a feather decoration at the ends of all four.
Step 2: Draw three black lines across the middle of the green stick, crossing over the center line. Draw a black star (STAR) on the back. This stick is called the sahe, (green) and is a trump, or leader stick that changes the scoring.
Step 3: Find a small, flat object like a book and place in the center of the board as the Ahl Stone. Each team will begin with its playing piece at the start, and four counters to keep score.

GOOD TO KNOW

Some historians think the Ahl/Awl Game started as a comforting way to think about the unexpected dangers and setbacks of moving from place to place.

PLAYING RULES

• Decide the order of play. If playing in teams, each player will have a turn throwing the dice, and use the single team piece to move.
• One side moves clockwise around the board, and the other moves counter-clockwise.
• Players throw all 4-stick dice onto the Ahl Stone and watch them fall. The sides with lines down the middle are counted as the flat sides.
• The plain sides of the red sticks and the star side of the sahe are counted as the round sides.
• If a player lands on the top creek, the player has “fallen in” and returns to the home place at the start.
• If a player lands on the same space as the other team, the player must return to the start also.
• The player earns a counter each time the playing piece goes all around the board and back to the start.
• The first player to circle the board and receive four counters wins.
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Bartering Bingo

How many buffalo robes are needed to trade for:

- 20 gallons of corn (10)
- 3 awls and 4 yards of scarlet cloth (9)
- 5 iron kettles (5)
- 14 pounds of white beads (28)
- 25 hanks of beads (25)
- 16 pounds sugar (4)
- 2 horses, 90 loads of gunpowder and shot (23)
- 3 awls, 3 yards of blue cloth, 24 needles and thread (8)
- 6 common blankets, 4 pounds of coffee (14)
- 3 butcher knives, 8 gallons of corn, 6 kettles (13)
- 6 pounds of coffee, 4 pounds of sugar, 2 cloth shirts (6)
- 5 horses, 1 yard of flannel, 1 working rifle (52)
- 12 yards brass wire, 1 medium blanket, 6 dozen metal arrow points (12)
- 14 combs, 9 awls, 10 hanks of beads, 2 yards scarlet cloth (19)
- 10 yards of cloth, 96 needles and thread, 2 pounds white beads (18)
- 3 horses (30)
- 2 pounds of sugar, 1 pound of coffee (1)
- 12 needles and thread, 1 yard brass wire, 1 gallon corn, 15 loads of gunpowder and shot (2)
- 10 pounds of coffee, 4 pounds of sugar, 5 kettles (11)
- 3 hanks of beads, 10 yards of cloth, 3 rifles (16)
- 72 metal arrow points, 10 yards of brass wire, 4 common blankets, 2 horses (35)
- 8 medium blankets, 10 iron kettles (42)
- 10 plugs of tobacco, 5 kettles, 3 horses (40)
- 9 metal knives, 7 combs, 6 kettles, 1 horse (20)

Let’s Make a Deal!

1. 22
2. 3 awls, 48 needles & thread, 6 yards cloth or 9 awls, 96 needles & thread, 4 yards scarlet cloth or 6 awls, 24 needles & thread, 1 yard brass wire, 1 gallon corn, 15 loads of gunpowder and shot
3. 24
4. 7 blankets, 2 cloth shirts or 12 yards scarlet cloth, 6 kettles
5. ½ buffalo robe or 1 pound coffee or 1 yard brass wire
6. 120 pounds; 2400 pounds

What’s in a Story?

Order of story events:
- The wind moved through the trees
- The red wolf gave the songs and dances to the Kiowa people
- The warrior leaned back against a tree and listened
- The Gourd Society makes the sound of the Red Wolf at the end of its songs
- The man caught all the songs, one after another
- A hunting party was out in the wilderness near Yellowstone
- The red wolf, a spirit animal, appeared in the trees
- One warrior stepped aside so he could rest
- Songs of the Red Wolf are sung today by the Gourd Society
- The warrior thought “Hey that’s pretty music”

Plains Indian Puzzler Words

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bison</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scraper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Awl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coup</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parfleche</td>
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<td>Bladder</td>
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Plains Indian Supermarket Match-up

1. Rawhide
2. Horns
3. Leg Bone
4. Bladder
5. Tanned Hides
6. Tail
7. Leg Tendon
8. Brains
9. Small Bone

NOTE: Both 5 & 8 use brain tanned hides. Either answer is correct for those two items

- Buffalo Stew = Scraper (for meat), Bladder (to carry water), Horn (spoon for stirring)
- A Woman’s Dress = Scraper (to clean hides), Brains (for tanning), Tanned Hides, Awl (sewing needle), Sinew (thread)
- Parfleche = Scraper (to clean hides), Rawhide, Awl, Tanned Hides (ties), Bladder (water to mix paint), Small bone (painting tool – could use a stick as well)

Bonus Question: What were the paints made out of?
- Earth, crushed rocks of different colors, and plants and flowers
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