

NAME: _____

TRACKING THE BUFFALO
Stories from a Buffalo Hide Painting



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

You Be the Historian Student Worksheet

Answer these questions as you explore the buffalo hide painting to learn more about the Plains Indians and the buffalo.

MEN ON HORSEBACK

How many men do you see and what are they doing? _____

How many buffalo do you see in this section of the hide painting (look at both sides of the hide)?

The buffalo with a knife next to it represents buffalo that have been killed. How many do you see? _____

What do you think the Indians did with the buffalo they killed? Use the evidence from other sources to answer this question. _____

How are the Indians at the top different from the others? Compare notes with the Smithsonian historian to find out. _____

Where are the buffalo bleeding? Why? Compare notes with the Smithsonian historian to find out. _____

What does this image say about the relationship between the Plains Indians and the buffalo?

BUFFALO SKULL

Look at the photograph clue. What is the man holding and how is he holding it? _____

Where did Indians use parts of the buffalo? _____

How did the Indians of the Plains show respect for the buffalo? Summarize the historian's response: _____

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MAN WITH A RIFLE

What are these men doing? _____

How many buffalo do you see in this section of the hide painting? _____

How many men are there and how many buffalo have been killed? _____

Compare this with the number killed by the Indians at the top of the hide; is it higher or lower?

What do you think these people did with the buffalo they killed? Use the pictures at the bottom of the page to help you answer the question. _____

What part of the buffalo is bleeding most? _____ Why? Compare your notes with the Smithsonian historian to find out. _____

How many buffalo could one hunter kill in one day? Compare your notes with the Smithsonian historian to find out. _____

TRAIN

How many people do you see? _____

Who do you think these people are? _____

How did they travel to the northern Plains? What kinds of transportation do you see in this picture? _____

How did they use the land differently from the Indians? Look at the pictures at the bottom of the page to help you answer the question. _____

What animals do you see in this part of the painting? How many are there? _____

How did the arrival of settlers change life on the northern Plains? Compare your notes with the Smithsonian historian to help answer the question. _____