

BUFFALO HUNTERS Reading Comprehension

The great herds of buffalo that roamed the plains were essential for all parts of Sioux life and society. For most Sioux villages, "home" was wherever the herds of buffalo roamed.

Before the introduction of the horse, Sioux warriors would hunt the buffalo by dressing up as wolves and tricking them into running off of cliffs and ledges. They would also dress up in buffalo skins and make crying sounds like a baby buffalo. When an adult buffalo went to investigate, the warriors would kill it with spears and arrows.

The Sioux Indians used the entire buffalo following a kill. The buffalo hide was used for making tepees, clothes, moccasins, and robes. The hair was used to make rope, and the horns were used as cups and dishes. Children fashioned sleds out of buffalo ribs, and buffalo fat was used as glue. Most importantly, buffalo meat provided food for the entire village. Much of the buffalo meat that was collected was cooked, dried, and pounded into pemmican (sort of like modern-day beef jerky).

1.) Buffalo hair was used to make _____.

2.) Buffalo ribs were used to make _____.

3.) Buffalo meat was not...

- a.) fried.
- b.) dried.
- c.) pounded.
- d.) cooked.

4.) Which of the following statements is true?

- a.) The Sioux Indians were somewhat dependent on the buffalo.
- b.) The Sioux Indians were not dependent on the buffalo.
- c.) The Sioux Indians were fairly dependent on the buffalo.
- d.) The Sioux Indians were totally dependent on the buffalo.

5.) What likely changed after the Sioux became familiar with the horse?

- a.) Buffalo as the main source of food for the Sioux
- b.) The way in which the buffalo was used for clothing
- c.) How buffalo meat was cooked and prepared
- d.) Hunting techniques

6.) Buffalo hides were not used for...

- a.) tepees
- b.) robes
- c.) moccasins
- d.) cups

7.) A Sioux hunter dressing up as a wolf in an attempt to scare a buffalo is an example of...

- a.) selfishness
- b.) imitation

- c.) worship
- d.) selflessness

8.) The introduction of the horse probably made the Sioux more _____.

- a.) mobile
- b.) efficient at hunting
- c.) effective in battle
- d.) all of the above

9.) Which of the following best describes the hunting techniques of the Sioux before the introduction of the horse?

- a.) resourceful
- b.) selfish
- c.) strange
- d.) ravenous

10.) In which of the following places would you be likely to find a buffalo herd?

- a.) open field
- b.) swamp
- c.) forest
- d.) beach