TOPIC 3 – BISON HUNTERS

Topic Overview
Topic 3 highlights the importance of bison to the People of the Northern Great Plains. It includes primary sources that will help you understand the procedures and outcomes of bison hunts and recognize how the existence and standard of living of the Indian People depended on the bison.

Topic Objectives
• As a result of the study of Topic 3, you will be able to
  • Analyze and interpret primary documents.
  • Describe methods of bison hunting.
  • Explain the importance of bison to the People of North Dakota.

ND Content Standards
• 8.1.2
• 8.3.4
• 8.5.2
• 8.6.2

Common Core Standards
• RH 2
• RH 7
• WHST 2
• WHST 9

Topic Activities
• Learning from Historical Documents
Learning from Historical Documents

Bison hunting was important to the survival of the Indian People of the Northern Great Plains. They depended upon every part of the bison for their needs. From your readings in Topic 3 and the letter written by Wolf Chief on his first hunt, Document 1 Wolf Chief’s First Hunt, list the methods the Indians used to hunt the bison.

Methods Used to Hunt Bison

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Look closely at the following photographs and their captions. Make a list of details or information that you learned from examining the photographs and reading the captions. Share the information with a partner or small group. Write a concluding statement on why the bison were so important to the Indian People of North Dakota.

- Image 4 1952-6244-01 Regalia
- Image 5 1952-7166 Drying bison hide
- Image 10 Bison Hunt

Why were the bison so important to the survival of the Indian People of North Dakota?