TOPIC 8 – Working on Reservations

Topic Overview
Topic 8 highlights working on a reservation and includes primary sources that will help you understand how reservation life affected the economic practices of the American Indian tribes in North Dakota.

Topic Objectives
• As a result of the study of Topic 8, you will be able to
  o Analyze and interpret primary documents.
  o Demonstrate an understanding of the changes in tribal economic activities necessitated by their relocation to reservations.
  o Identify and describe the roles of women in the economic structure of tribal cultures.

ND Content Standards
• 8.1.2
• 8.2.10
• 8.2.11
• 8.3.4
• 8.5.3
• 8.6.2

Common Core Standards
• RH 2
• RH 3
• RH 5
• WHST 2
• WHST 4
• WHST 9

Topic Activities
• Learning from Historical Documents
• Organizing Data
• Debate/Discussion
Learning from Historical Documents

American Indian tribes and nations each developed their own styles, designs, and techniques of beadwork, influenced by tradition, society, art, religion, economic conditions, environment, and influences from other cultures.

Before the Europeans came, American Indians carved their beads out of shells, turquoise, wood, bone, teeth, coral, stones, and horns. Non-Indian traders and settlers introduced glass beads to the American Indians, and glass caught on quickly as another medium to use for beadwork. Various beading styles and designs are still on traditional clothing, moccasins, containers, and jewelry, as well as in ceremonial art.

Carefully observe the beadwork in the historic photographs below and answer the questions.

- **1952-5317** – Young girl wearing a beaded leather dress
- **1952-0440** – Beadwork display
- **Beadwork School Program 1955** – School children study beadwork in a museum

1. What symbols and designs do you notice?

2. What do you think may have influenced the designs and symbols used in the beadwork?

3. If time permits, do additional research to find the different beadwork designs and styles for the tribal nations headquartered in North Dakota (i.e., Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa; Three Affiliated Tribes – Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation; Spirit Lake Nation; and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe).
Organizing Data

Trading, hunting, beadwork, and farming all contributed to the economic life of the Plains Indians. These changed significantly after the Indians were forced to move to reservations. Write a brief explanation of the following economic activities prior to the reservation era and after the move to reservation. In the space provided below each economic trait, explain how this move affected the lives of the Indians.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-Reservation Era</th>
<th>Reservation Era</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trading</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beadwork</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farming</td>
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Debate/Discussion

Write brief discussion points on the roles of women in the economic structure of tribal cultures. Then, compare your discussion points with those of a classmate. Together, come up with a concluding statement.

Roles of Women in the Economic Structure of Tribal

- Farming
- Beadwork
- Other

Concluding statement: