

The Sioux

Our next group of American Indians will take us into the Great Plains region of North America. They are the **Sioux**. In our study of the Great Plains region, we learned that this area is very dry with flat grasslands and very few trees. How would the Sioux adapt to such a region?

The Sioux were a nomadic group, which means they did not setup permanent homes. They moved from place to place following the buffalo. Their homes were called teepees, which were made out of buffalo hide. The teepee was designed for their lifestyle since it was lightweight and easy to put together and take apart.

The buffalo played an important part of Sioux life. They used every part of the buffalo nothing was wasted. They made clothing, blankets, and moccasins from the skin. They made water jugs out of the stomachs, made rope from the hair, and made tools and needles from the bones. Of course the buffalo was their main source of food as well.

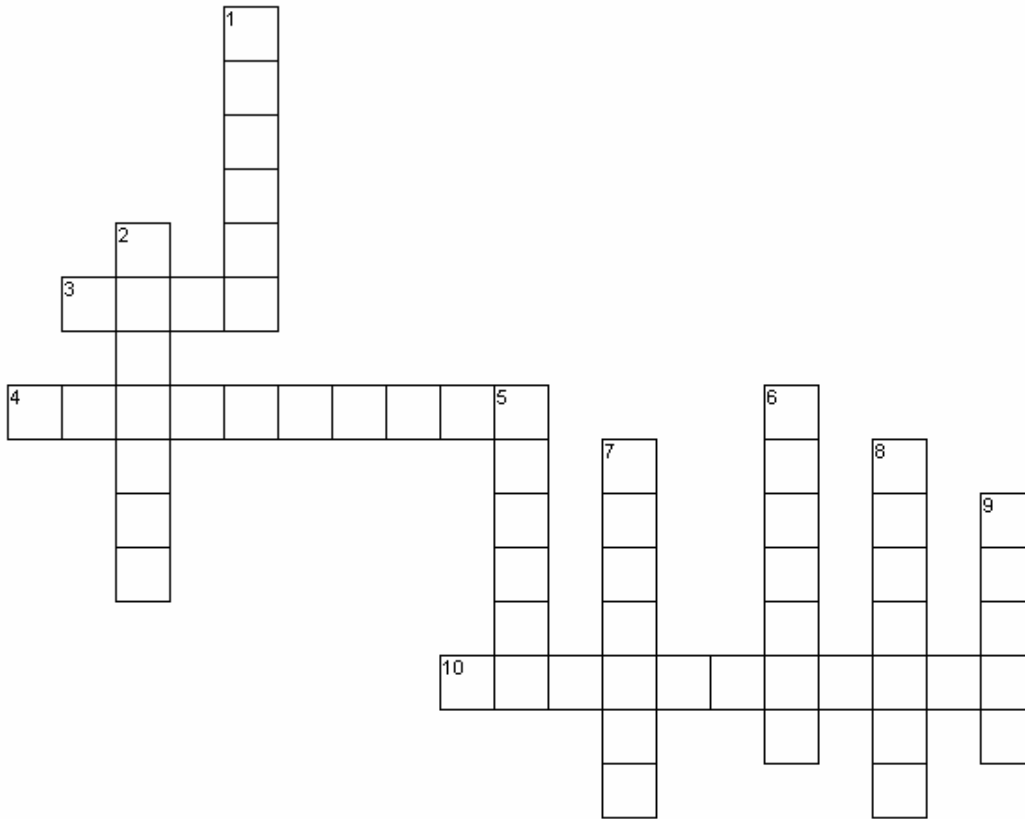
In the Sioux culture it was the men and boys that went out on the buffalo hunts in the summer and fall. The women and girls stayed behind preparing for what the men brought home. They were responsible for skinning the buffalo and preparing its many uses.

Hunting buffalo was not an easy task. The men would often disguise themselves as an animal or would get the buffalo to stampede over a cliff. Then they would have to haul the dead buffalo (weighing up to a ton) back to their camps. In the 1500s, the Spanish introduced the horse to the Plains Indians, which made the buffalo hunt much easier. The Sioux could ride close to a herd of buffalo and use their bow and arrows to kill the animals. The horse also made it much easier to move from place to place.

Like the other groups we have been discussing, the Sioux used the natural resources available to them in the Great Plains to survive. They hunted buffalo for food, clothing, and shelter. They also used the plants and other natural fibers in their area to insure their survival.



Directions: Use the Sioux story and the following clues to complete the Cross Word Puzzle below.



Across

3. This was made from the buffalo's hair
4. The Great Plains is characterized by dry flat _____ with very few trees
10. What region of North America would you find the Sioux?

Down

1. Type of home that the Sioux lived in. It was easy to put up and take down.
2. The Sioux were _____, which means they did not set up permanent homes
5. Buffalo hunts usually took place during the _____ and fall
6. The Sioux depended on this animal for most of their daily needs
7. This part of the buffalo was used to make water jugs
8. Who introduced the horse to the Plains Indians in the 1500s?
9. This animal made it easier for the Sioux to hunt and to move from place to place