

Native Americans



Intro to Indians

- ☞ When European explorers arrived in America in 1492 they found around 2 million INDIGENOUS people living there.
- ☞ The Europeans mistakenly called them Indians, thinking they had landed in the Indies in the Far East of Asia.



These 'Indians' belonged to at least **300** different tribes and spoke over 2,000 different languages.

Famous examples of these **INDIGENOUS** tribes are

- ❧ **the Cheyenne**
- ❧ **the Blackfoot**
- ❧ **the Comanche**
- ❧ **the Sioux**

Each tribe spoke a separate language, and their houses, clothes and entertainment differed. However, they all followed a similar life based on hunting and farming.

Where did the Native Americans come from?



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They moved down south through the country. The Inuit stayed North and the Pueblos to the South.

You also had tribes called the Plains Indians and the Woodland Tribes.



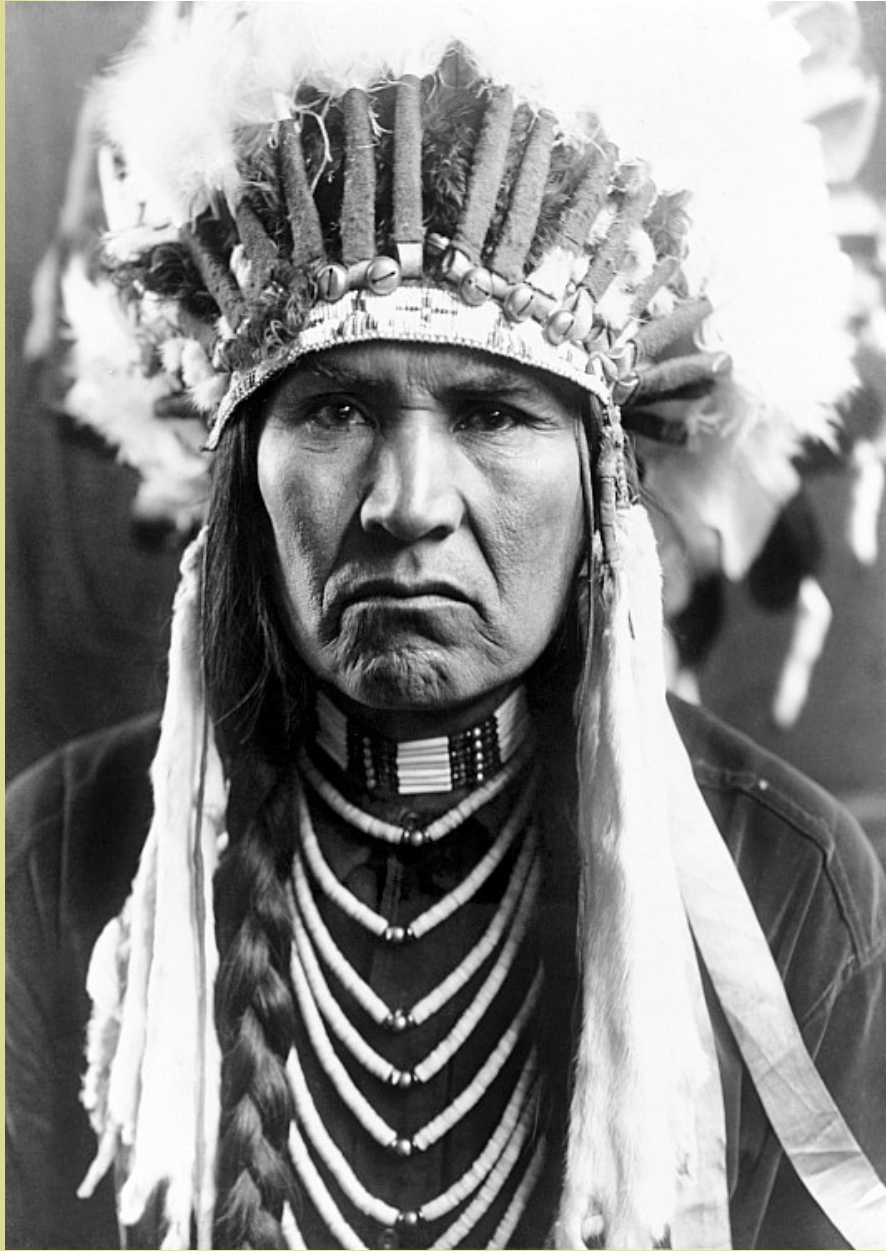
**Animal Skins
treated with
liver and
brains**

**Jewellery
was made
from bones
and animal
teeth.**



**Decorated
with beads
and dyes**

**Leather was
chewed to
make it soft**



Towns



Cahokia



Houses



Wigwams were covered with tree bark

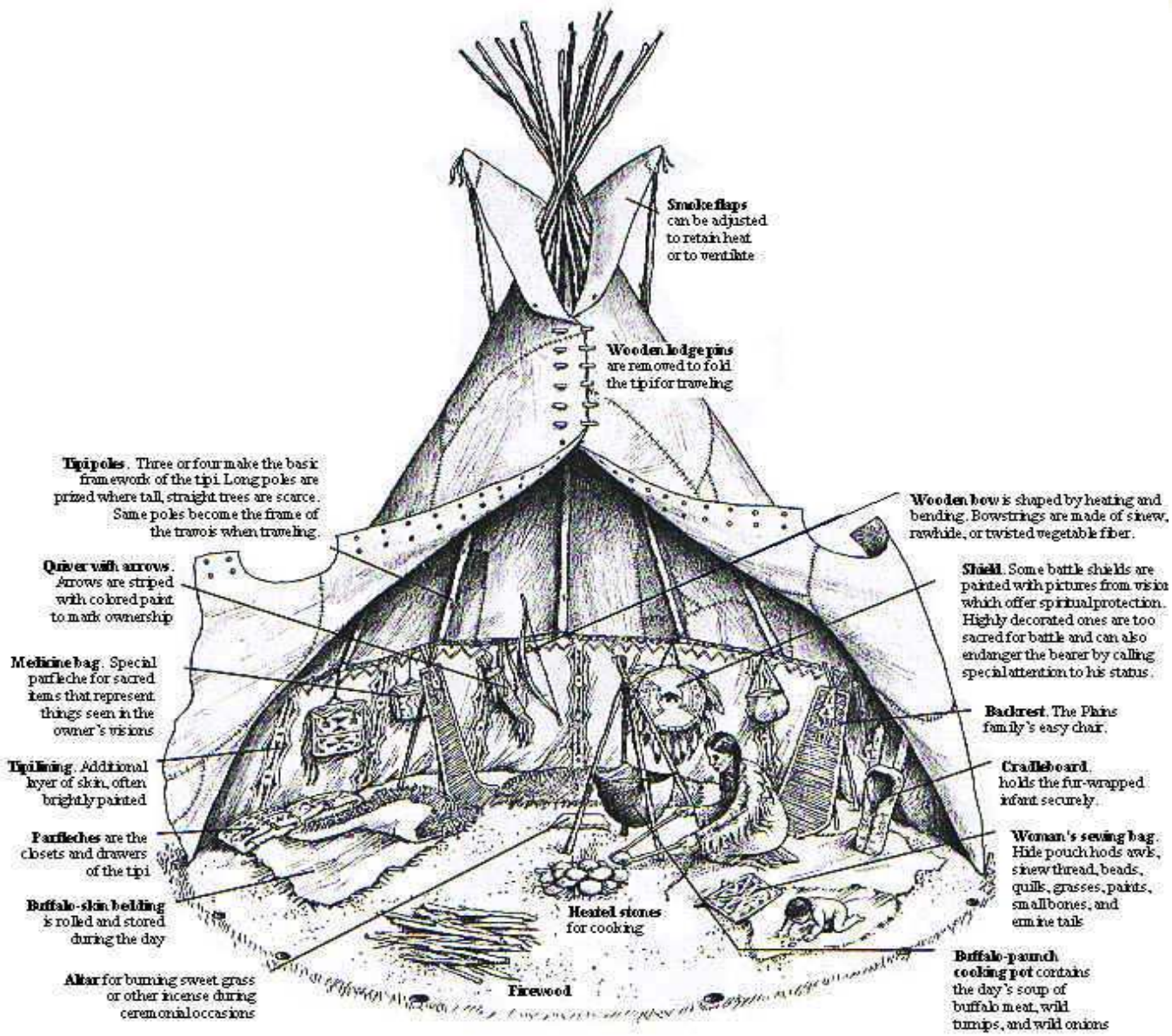


Tepees



Tepees were covered with animal skins.

They could be taken down and put up easily. This suited some of the tribes nomadic lifestyle



Smoke flaps can be adjusted to retain heat or to ventilate

Wooden lodge pins are removed to fold the tip for traveling

Tipipoles. Three or four make the basic framework of the tipi. Long poles are prized where tall, straight trees are scarce. Some poles become the frame of the travois when traveling.

Wooden bow is shaped by heating and bending. Bowstrings are made of sinew, rawhide, or twisted vegetable fiber.

Quiver with arrows. Arrows are striped with colored paint to mark ownership

Shield. Some battle shields are painted with pictures from vision which offer spiritual protection. Highly decorated ones are too sacred for battle and can also endanger the bearer by calling special attention to his status.

Medicine bag. Special parches for sacred items that represent things seen in the owner's visions

Bedrest. The Phins family's easy chair.

Tipilining. Additional layer of skin, often brightly painted

Cradleboard. holds the fur-wrapped infant securely.

Parches are the closets and drawers of the tipi

Woman's sewing bag. Hide pouch holds awk, sinew thread, beads, quills, grasses, paints, small bones, and arm the talk

Buffalo-skin bedding is rolled and stored during the day

Heated stones for cooking

Buffalo-paunch cooking pot contains the day's soup of buffalo meat, wild tumps, and wild onions

Altar for burning sweet grass or other incense during ceremonial occasions

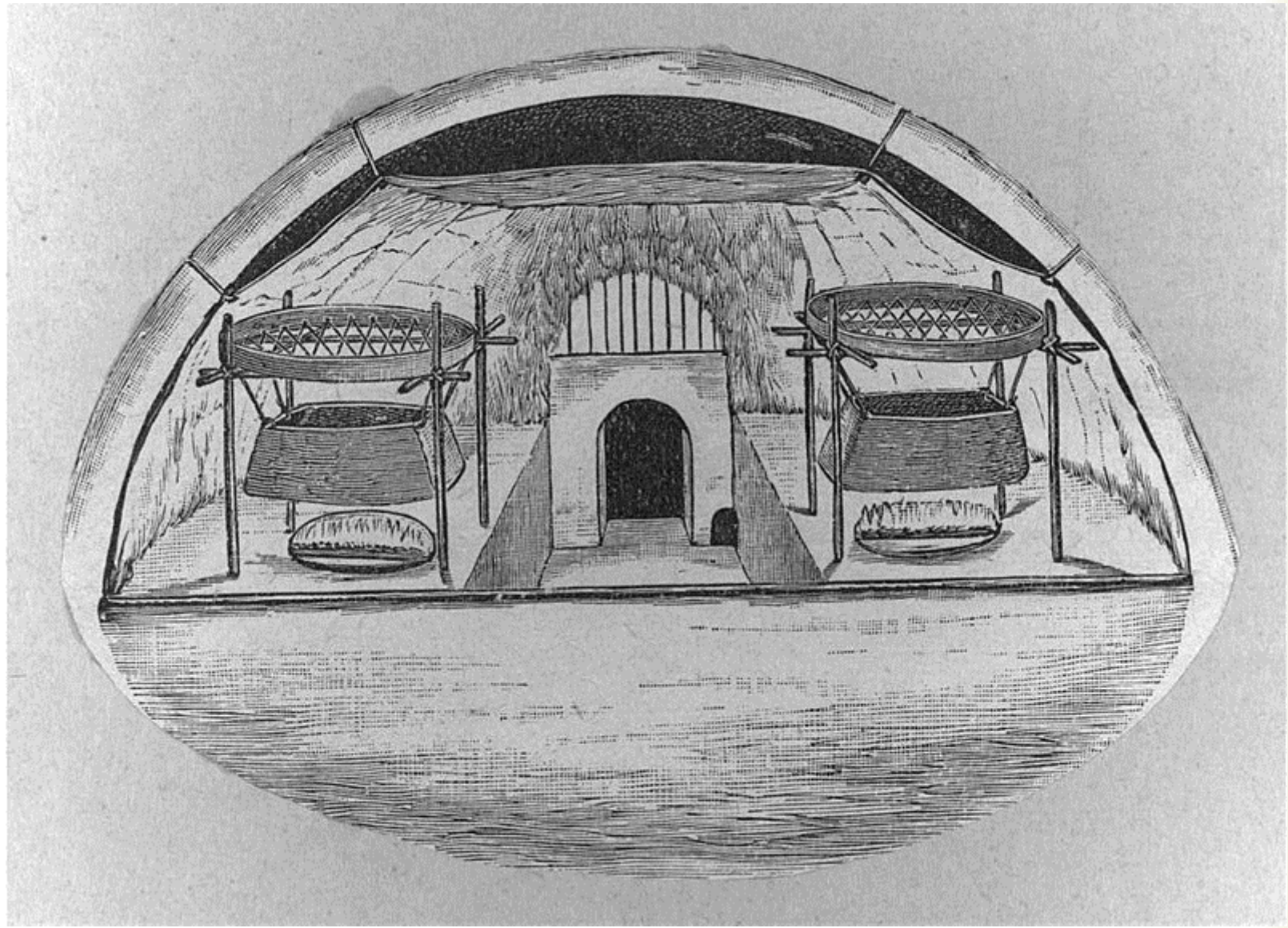
Firewood

Igloos



Igloos are good houses for the polar region, where the earth is frozen, the snow cover is deep, and there are few trees.

Snow is a good insulator, and dense blocks of ice offer good protection against the arctic winds.



Buffalo

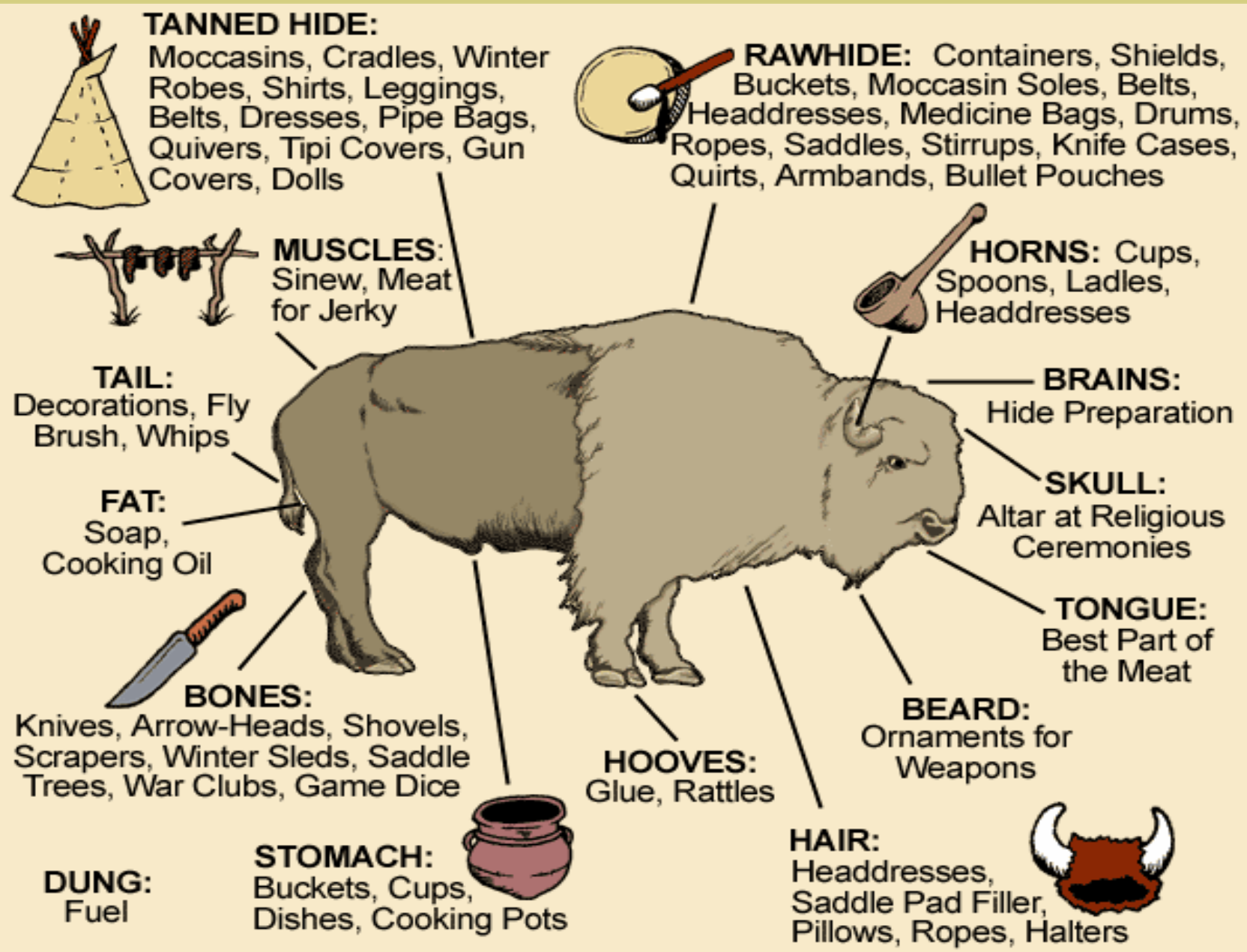
Many of the Plains Indians originally came from the Woodlands. In the Woodlands, Indian life was based on hunting the buffalo and simple farming.

Most of the Plains was unsuitable for farming as Indians didn't have the tools to use on the difficult Plains soils.

By surrounding a herd of buffalo, Indians could kill all of them in about 15 minutes. It was noisy and dangerous as the confused animals ran around in a circle of panic.

Once the animals had been killed, the women came in to skin and butcher them where they lay. The women carried their meat and skins home, where they put them to a great variety of uses.





What the Buffalo was used for

Decline of the Buffalo



The settlers slaughtered the buffalo.

Of the 60 million buffalo that were on the great plains at the time of their arrival, only 5,500 were left by the turn of the 20th century.

Without the buffalo to hunt many tribes starved

The Decline of the Buffalo

Warfare



- ☞ Bravery was extremely important. Every male Indian wanted the opportunity to prove their bravery. Each Native American tribe expected loyalty and great bravery from its members.
- ☞ Plains Indians were often keen to fight wars as it gave them a chance to win glory. Sometimes a war might start just because of one person seeking revenge

- ❧ The most common cause of war was the desire for horses. Capturing horses from an enemy camp was a highly valued act of bravery. Sometimes tribes fought over control of hunting grounds or because of an insult.
- ❧ A great deal of time was spent by warriors preparing themselves and their horses. Religious rituals took place and spiritual advice was given by the medicine man.

