

Buffalo Hunt
By Russel Freedman

Summary: A nonfiction book detailing the evolution of the buffalo hunt from a tribal survival practice to the practice that nearly eradicated an entire animal species. Illustrated with public domain art works from the period.

Vocabulary:

gigantic	council	astonished	lumbering	encampment
occupation	immense	communal	incredible	possessions
ceremony	shaman	distinct	stampede	imitate
fatigued	authority	regulations	ornamented	assemble
lurking	relied	succession	ravine	morsels
pemmican	translucent	sufficient	ample	leisure
enormous	furnish	excursion	traditional	construction
slaughter	conquered	ration		

Before Reading Activities:

1. Gather as a group to discuss and brainstorm any prior class knowledge of the North American buffalo.
2. Distribute student glossaries and preview new terms as a group.
3. Read off random definitions and call on individual students to select the correct word from a list on the board. Have children turn their glossaries over and only peek if necessary.
4. Assign partner reading of the story.

After Reading Activities:

1. Assign reading journal entries where students describe the part of the book they feel made the strongest impression.
2. Assign vocabulary and comprehension puzzles throughout the week as appropriate.
3. Create a three-dimensional art display in your classroom by having each student cover an empty cardboard beverage flat with brown wrapping or butcher paper. Using charcoal or pastels, have students create, title, date and sign their own works of art honoring the buffalo. The charcoal and brown paper combo will add a feel of history to the projects.
4. Assign individual newspaper editorials about buffalo hunting to be written as if it were still the 1800's. Have 1/3 of the class write their editorials from the perspective of the