

Native American Beliefs


Put the above title in your exercise book.
Using your worksheet, copy and complete the information below.
You need to work out what fits into the blank spaces.

① The Mystery of the Great Spirit

As the Plains Indians relied on nature's resources to keep them alive they tried to live _____ . The Sioux Indians believed that _____ were sent by the Great Spirit. If people ' _____ ' they could expect a generous _____ in the afterlife. The Great Spirit was called 'W_____ T_____ ' by the Sioux. They believed everything was controlled by _____ - this literally means 'g_____ '.

② Religion

The Native Americans believed _____ could bring _____ to their tribe. European settlers killed many animals for sport or pleasure. The Sioux Indians thought this was a great insult to the Great Spirit because _____ . The Sioux Indians spent much of their lives trying to _____ help. The Sioux made offerings of _____ to keep the spirits happy.

When you have completed ① and ② do a sketch of a medicine man - use any of the pictures on your worksheet to help you!
Then continue on to ③ 

③ The Medicine Man


According to the Sioux, some people in the tribe were especially _____ spirits. The only person more important than the Medicine Man was _____. The Medicine Man was in charge of all the _____ and was believed to have _____. An older woman could become a Medicine Woman if _____ .

Three examples of what the Medicine Man would be expected to do are:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Medicine Men used _____, _____ and occasionally herbs to fall into a trance.

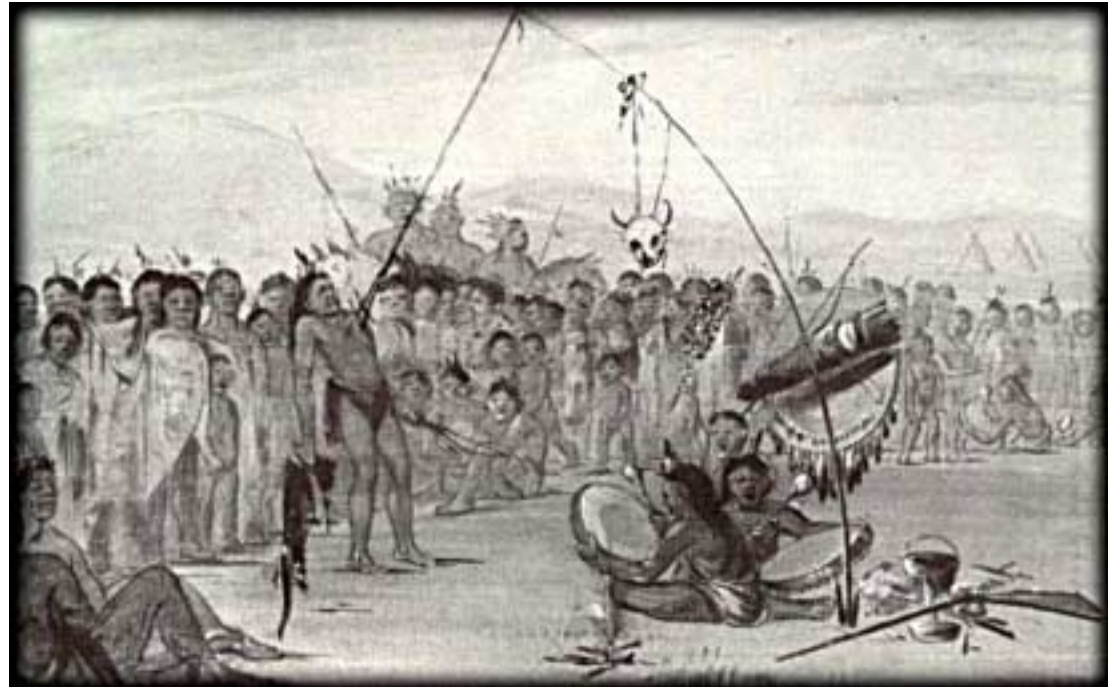
When in a trance, the Medicine Man _____ which were carefully listened to by the tribe.

CONTINUE 

The Medicine Man (continued)

When people fell ill, Medicine Men asked

_____. Most Medicine
Men had _____ using _____
_____. Thus their duties were not all
based on magical power - they had a good
knowledge _____
_____.



④ Ceremonies and the Sun Dance

Sioux Indians performed many _____ for the spirits. 'L_____
_____' was the most sacred ceremony. This is more commonly called the _____.
This involved a _____ for those taking part and was the
highest form of _____ for a Sioux. The ceremony was carried out to make sure
that _____.

**Complete section ④ by describing what happened in the sun
dance - make sure you explain about the individual torture.**

⑤ From what you have made notes on today,
describe what is happening in the painting
above:

- What can you see?
- Which parts of the painting show the same information as your notes?
- What has been missed out in the painting?

Put all your points together to answer the question:

**HOW ACCURATE IS THE SOURCE AS
EVIDENCE OF THE SUN DANCE?**