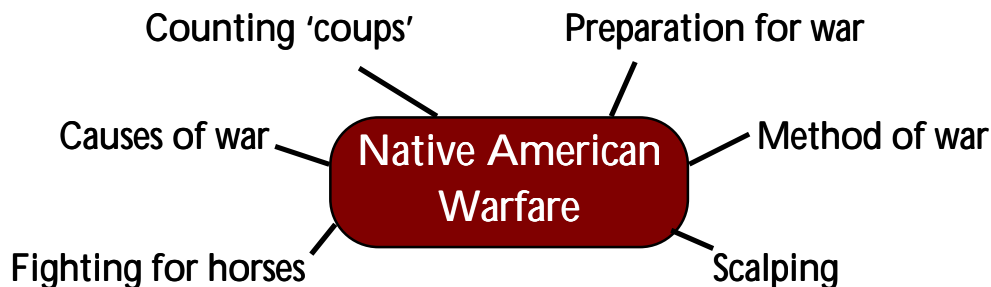


NATIVE AMERICAN Warfare



This worksheet will help you investigate the following aspects:



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.



The greatest sign of bravery during battle was to touch an enemy with either bare hands or a special long stick called a coup stick. Acts of bravery like this were more important than actually killing someone!



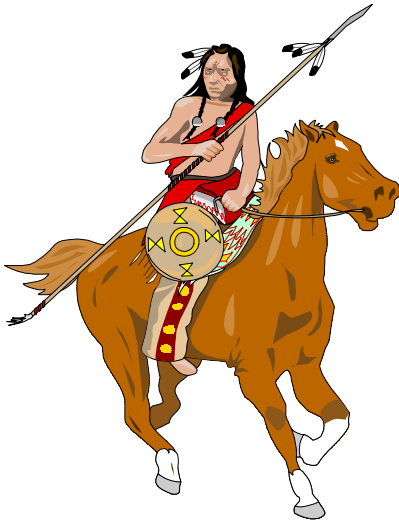
A Sioux warrior carrying his 'coup' stick. 'Coup' actually means 'war count'.

A point-scoring system was run for hitting an enemy with a 'coup' stick.

A warrior would gain few points for killing a man from a distance with his bow and arrow, but would gain maximum points for getting close enough to tap him with his coup stick!

All the coups were carefully counted and each Native American would display them for all to see. This would either be by feathers on their war bonnets or notches on their coup stick.





Causes of War

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.

Fighting for Horses

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.

Preparation for war

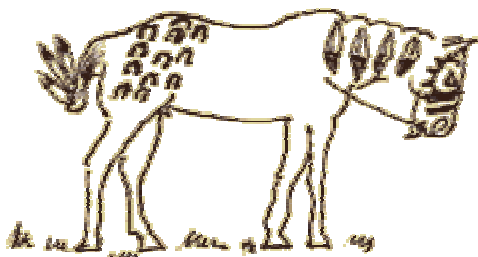
A great deal of time was spent by warriors preparing themselves and their horses. Religious rituals took place and spiritual advice was given by the medicine man.

Method of war

The preferred form of battle was a sudden surprise raid. This allowed plenty of opportunity for bravery and cunning, but lowered the chances of being killed. On average 20-30 men would go on such raids and few were killed. Women very rarely took part in a raid. If their own camp was under attack they would be extremely quick to defend themselves though!



The medicine man



Various tribal markings on the horse indicate the number of horse raids, coup counted, and horses captured by the rider.

Scalping

Death of the battlefield sometimes led to scalping. Without a 'scalp' [the skin and hair from the top of a head] the Sioux Indians believed you could not enter the eternal after-life.

The Sioux removed the scalp of their dead enemies so they would have fewer enemies in the after-life. To European settlers this appeared to prove that the Native Americans were savages. For the Sioux, a scalp was a prized trophy and a cause for great celebration.

TASK 1: Using your own words as much as possible, summarise the information you have been given about Native American Warfare - make sure you include every section.

TASK 2: Create 15 quiz questions about Native American Warfare from the information provided. Make sure you include the answers.