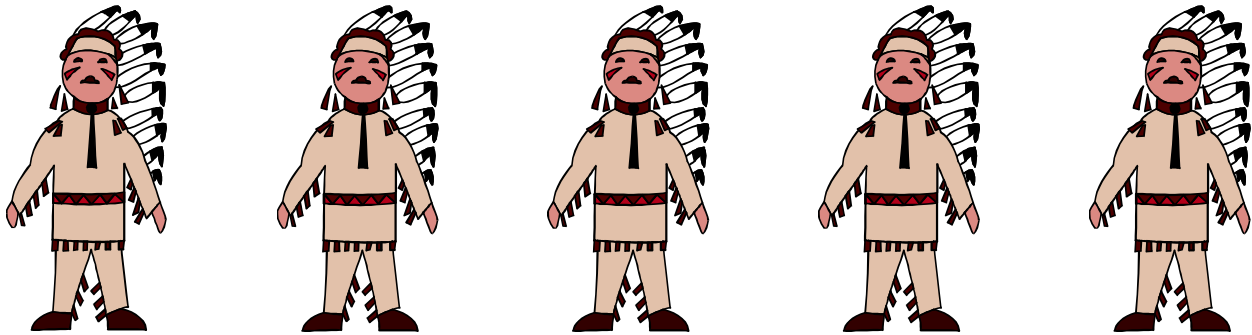


THE NATIVE AMERICANS

BACKGROUND/ACTIVITY

The year is 1845 and you have just spent three months living amongst one of the Native Indian tribes of North America. Tell the story of the traditional way of life of these people through a series of diary entries, a letter or simply a collection of your memories of the time you spent with them. You must approach the task through the eyes of an outsider who was willing to seek to understand these people. Instead of simply describing what you saw and learned try to show how you felt or reacted to what you experienced. It is almost certain that you would begin your stay with some degree of prejudice. You could start your account in the following way:

“My time with the Sioux has been both interesting and rewarding and I have certainly returned home with a much better understanding of a people I once regarded as primitive and savage. One of the first things that surprised me was...”



ADVICE

You should aim to include most of the following themes into your account:

- * homes
- * role of men/women and children
- * how society was organized
- * warfare
- * horses
- * religion and the spirit world
- * medicine and illness
- * ceremonies and dances
- * crime and punishment
- * scalping and counting coup
- * any other issues

By Mr Welsh
www.SchoolHistory.co.uk



This is an example of a paragraph you could write about the buffalo

“The importance of one single animal to these people simply astounds me. The Indians rely on the buffalo for almost everything they need such as... and it is obvious to me that without the buffalo their traditional way of life would disappear for ever.”