



# Native American Interviews



A nomadic lifestyle

## Task

- Working in pairs you are to devise an interview regarding the beliefs of Native Americans’.
- One member of the pair has to be an interviewer who is researching the beliefs of Native Americans’ for a forthcoming article.
- The other member of the pair is a leading expert on Native Americans. Your interview will be recorded for a radio program.



Boot Moccasins Worn by women of the Southern Plains.

## Important points

- To answer the questions you will need to review your work from the previous two lessons on **Beliefs** and **Family Life**. The pictures on this sheet should help to get you started. They are clues!
- **Both** members of the pair are expected to **write up** the answers in your exercise books taking care with presentation.



Grizzly bear claw necklace. Worn by very brave men in some tribes.

## Questions You Have To Answer In The Interview



- The title is “**Native American Interviews.**”
- Below each question are some suggestions as to how you might answer them. You **must avoid using inappropriate language.**

### A. Who did the Sioux Indian people worship?

#### A possible start

The Sioux Indians worshipped the ‘Great Spirit’.



#### Points to Include

- What did the Sioux Indians call the Great Spirit?
- What was the Great Spirit’s relationship with nature? (You need to give some examples)
- You need to comment on the effect of good and bad spirits on tribes. There is a picture clue to help.
- Any relevant additional information





Buffalo Robe. Men's and Women's Robe were about the same size but they were decorated differently. Women had geometric designs whereas men had pictures of people and animals as their design.

## B. What was the role of the Medicine Man in a Sioux Tribe?

### A possible start

The Sioux and other Indians believed that some people in the tribe were especially good at dealing with the spirits.

### Points to Include

- What was the Medicine Man expected to do for his tribe?
- How did Medicine Men explain thunderstorms?
- How did Medicine Men fall into a trance to speak to the spirits?
- Any other relevant information.

## C. What was the purpose of ceremonies such as the Sun Dance and the Bull Dance?

### A possible start

The Sioux performed many dances and rituals for the spirits.

### Points to Include

- Describe the Sun Dance?
- Explain why the Sioux Indians did the Sun Dance?
- Why did the Plains Indians do the Bull Dance? (You need to **expand this answer** and include information on why the buffalo was so important to the Plains Indians.

#### Bull Dance

The Bull dance was part of the O-Kee-pa ceremony to make sure the buffalo hunt went well. The Plains Indians believed that buffalo had great physical strength.



Tipi



Tell Me



Trade



Tobacco

## D. Describe what Sioux family life was like?

### A possible start

Sioux Indians usually married between the ages of 12 and 15.

### Points to Include

- How would a new couple meet and get to know each other?
- What was the most common form of marriage?
- What was polygamy and did Sioux Indians support it?

### Extension Task

- Using the pictures on this sheet decide what a male or female Sioux Indian might have been wearing? (Pay attention to **gender**) Your fashion report is to be included in your interview.
- Indians used sign language to communicate with **other tribes** who spoke different languages. Using the sign language pictures on the left prepare to talk to me in Indian sign language. You can use spoken words to fill any gaps. I will try to translate!