

NIITSITAPI: THE BLACKFOOT PEOPLE



Quick Facts:

- The Blackfoot Confederacy (The Blackfoot Nation) is made up of three Indigenous nations: The Kainai (the Blood), Piikani (the Peigan), and Siksika (the Blackfoot).
- All Blackfoot nations share the same official language, Algonquian, but have their own dialect.
- The arrival of Europeans in the 1800s greatly changed Blackfoot way of life.
- Prior to the arrival of Europeans, the Blackfoot led a nomadic lifestyle.
- The traditional territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy has been described as roughly the southern half of Alberta and Saskatchewan, and the northern portion of Montana.
- Spirituality is incredibly important to the Blackfoot way of life. This includes a strong belief in the power and wisdom of nature, and the ability to communicate with spirits of ancestors.

Table of Contents:

Pg. 1 ...	Quick Facts
Pg. 2 ...	Pre-Presentation Activity # 1 – Language
Pg. 3 ...	(Pre-Presentation Activity) Storytime: [REDACTED]
Pg. 4 ...	(Pre-Presentation Activity) Blackfoot Words & Definitions
Pg. 5 ...	Pre-Presentation Activity #2 – Physical Education: [REDACTED]
Pg. 6 ...	Post-Presentation Activity #1 – [REDACTED]
Pg. 7 ...	Buffalo Illustration for Students
Pg. 8 ...	[REDACTED]
Pg. 9 ...	Post-Presentation Activity #2 – [REDACTED]
Pg. 10 ...	Blank Teepee
Pg. 11 & 12 ...	Traditional Teepee Designs

Pre-Presentation Activity #1 – Language

Synopsis: Students explore the importance of language and storytelling as it relates to Blackfoot culture.

Introduction: The Blackfoot language came to the people through oral tradition. This means it was passed down by speaking, and not writing (as we are more familiar with the English language). Because of this, many words can be spelled different ways and their meaning can often be understood in a variety of ways. What is most important to remember is that the Blackfoot language tells the culture and history of the people. One word can tell you a great deal about how the Blackfoot people think about the world around them. These words can also be a lot of fun to pronounce! (We will practice the proper pronunciation of many Blackfoot words during our presentation).

Storytelling too is very important to the Blackfoot people. This was a way to pass knowledge down from generation to generation. Stories often taught children lessons (like how to share, how to act with kindness, and so on), explained the world around them, and told the story and history of the people.

In this activity we are going to do some storytelling and explore what we can learn about the Blackfoot language.

Activity:

- Read the Blackfoot story included below out loud to the class. This is a more elaborate version of 'Napi & the Rock' and tells the story of how Big Rock ended up where it sits just east of Okotoks. Students may have heard a shorter/ slightly different version of this story in Okotoks Museum presentations.

- Discuss:

-
-
-

Discussion Questions

-
-
-
-
-
-
-

Detailed Activity Instructions