

Origin of the Sioux Indians

In 1640, near the head of the Mississippi River, the Sioux Indians were discovered by the French. The Sioux Indians are a large and powerful tribe. Nadowessioux is the name given to them by the Algonquiens. Thus the tribe is called the Sioux. The Great Sioux nation is composed of three sub-divisions: the Lakota, the Dakota or Santee, and the Nakota or Yankton. The Lakota consist of seven bands which are the Oglala, the Sicangu, the Hunkpapa, the Miniconjous, the Sihasapa, and the Itazipacola. The Dakota or Santee consist of four bands: the Mdeakantonwon, the Wahpeton, the Wahpekute, and the Sisseton. The three bands that make up the Nakota or Yankton are the Yankton, the Upper Yankton, and the Lower Yankton.

Although the Sioux are known to be great warriors, they are very family-oriented. They consider their Wakanisha (children) to be the key unit to their lives, and of the utmost importance. Monogamy, which means having only one husband or wife at any given time, was common among the Sioux Indians. However, the men were allowed to have more than one wife. The husband's role was to provide and protect his family. The wife ruled the family life and cared for the children and the tepee. When a marriage took place, the man was expected to move into his new wife's home.

The Sioux Indians are very spiritual. They performed many religious ceremonies such as the Sun Dance. The people would inflict pain upon themselves for twelve days to help reassert themselves as warriors. They also communicate with the spirits through their music.

Buffalo played a big part in the lives of the Sioux. They were a great source of tools and food. The Sioux would use the tail for whips, the horns for toys, cups, and spoons, and the hide for clothing and tepees. These are only a few of the many uses of buffalo. The Sioux would hunt buffalo by riding on horseback and shooting them with their bow and arrows. They would also wear wolf hides on their backs and perform a sneak attack.

The Sioux lived in tepees. This form of shelter was very sensible because they could take the tepees with them when they traveled. The tepees were very portable and could be packed up in three minutes. While the men were out hunting, the women would put up the tepees. To make a tepee, they would tie long poles together and spread the bottom of the poles into a circle. Then they would use buffalo hide to cover the poles.

Horses changed the lives of the Sioux Indians. Before horses, the people would have to walk and carry all of their things. With horses, they could drag their belongings behind them. Horses also helped make hunting buffalo easier. It was

safer, and they could kill more buffalo at a time. The more horses a family had, the richer they were thought to be.

The Sioux are a very large tribe consisting of about 20,000 people in seven tribes. They were a peaceful tribe, but they could be fierce warriors if they had to be. They were very resourceful and used every part of the buffalo. They were also very family oriented and spiritual. In conclusion, the Sioux were and still are a very interesting tribe.

Works Cited

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