

INTER-TRIBAL BUFFALO COUNCIL: TAKING INFORMED ACTION:

DIRECTIONS: To answer the following questions, read text & examine photos at

<http://nmai.si.edu/nk360/plains-belonging/itbc.cshtml>



1. The Inter-tribal Buffalo Council is a leader in buffalo revitalization. Why is it important for Native Nations of the Northern Great Plains to restore buffalo? (answers will vary) From Mission quote - so they can preserve their historical, cultural, traditional and spiritual relationship for future generations
2. What are the potential challenges of building a coalition of fifty-eight different Native Nations? (answers will vary) It is a lot of people, so there will be different opinions about what to do. They will have to travel far across the US to meetings.
3. How would you describe the manner in which Native Americans utilized buffalo? (answers will vary) They got food, shelter, and tools from buffalo, as well as a feeling of freedom and living in harmony with nature. They felt a strong connection to the animal they depended on, and honored it through songs, dance & prayers.
4. What did settlers gain from the buffalo? (answers will vary) Very little. They actually tried to get rid of the Indians by killing off the buffalo. They mostly killed the buffalo just to sell its hide (which were used as machine belts in factories, etc.).
5. How does the settler's use of buffalo compare with the ways in which Native Nations rely on the buffalo? [NOTE additional info: many white hunters only used the tongue or hide, and left the rest of the buffalo to rot - wasting the animal's life.] (answers will vary) They slaughtered the buffalo to near extinction. They shot it from train windows, as though the supply would never end.
6. How would you describe the values reflected in these images? (Native American dancers vs. mounted trophy of white buffalo head) (answers will vary) The native dancers are honoring the buffalo with a ceremony. The Native Americans had stories and ceremonies that showed their respect for the buffalo, on whom they depended. In contrast, the mounted buffalo "trophy" is just a way for some hunter to brag and show off. It does not respect or honor the white buffalo, which the Indians considered to be sacred.
7. How would you describe the mood of this photograph? [NOTE: Range technician is kneeling near buffalo in working chute where buffalo are caught & given vaccine shots, etc. and then released to pasture] (answers will vary) The mood is positive. This man is working to help the buffalo. The buffalo is being held in a humane way to receive health care.
8. What inferences can you make about the relationship between range technicians and the buffalo they are reintroducing into the herd? (answers will vary) The range technicians care about the buffalo

