

Indians are the first inhabitants of the Americas.

They live in perfect harmony with nature,
exploiting the landscape in careful ways,
consuming native animals and plants thoughtfully.

Thus, Indians take from the environment only what they need
for survival, never waste, ask the killed animal for pardon,
then use all its parts and wipe away all the traces
of their stay before leaving a place...

Moreover, they weigh decisions about their actions
with regard to their consequences for the survival
and well-being of the future generations.

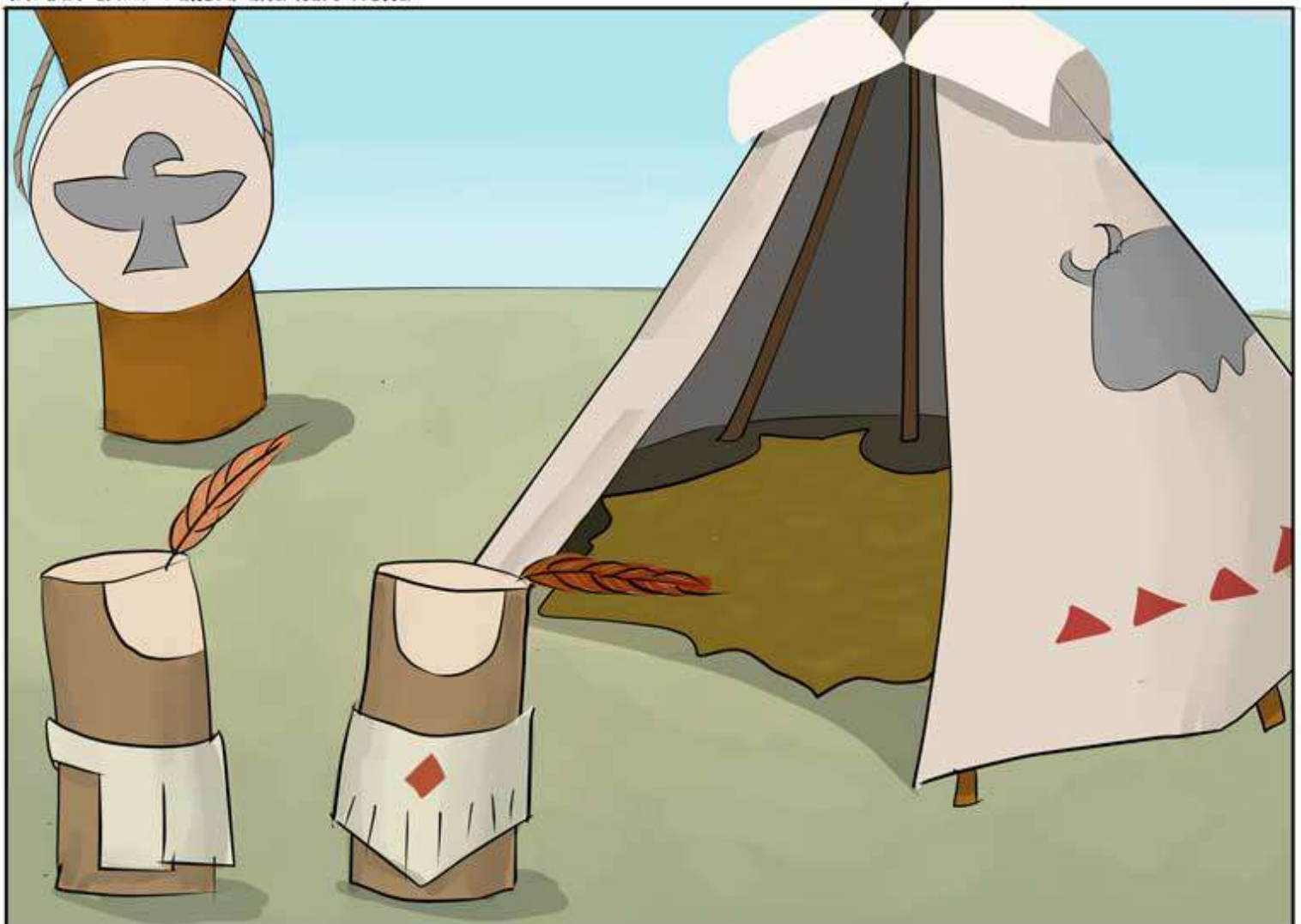
INDIAN CAMP Dakota and Kai's World



The buffalo was their most important resource. Besides food, they used all parts of the buffalo for basic needs: buffalo hide for clothing and shelter, bladder for water containers, the horns were carved into bowls and spoons, sinew for ropes and lashing, the bones were made into tools.

A teepee is the Indian's home. It provided shelter, warmth, protection. It is made of buffalo hide fastened around very long wooden poles, designed in a cone shape. They would often decorate the outside of a teepee with paintings of animals, stars and other Indian symbols. Teepees are warm in the winter and cool in the summer. The Indians sleep on buffalo skins on the floor. Indians lived in groups and moved from place to place in search for food. They followed the herds of buffalo. To do this, they built temporary shelters, the teepees, which could be easily moved. An entire Indian village could have their teepees packed up and ready in an hour.

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No matter where the Indian tribe lives, there is a lot of work to be done to survive. Roles within the tribe are distributed and the work is shared out.

Women set up the teepees, gather fruits and nuts, farm (where the ground is appropriate), tan the hides, dry the meat or the corn in the sun. Women also raise the children, weave clothing and shoes, wash, make baskets to carry food, bring water and cook in the fire. Men are responsible for hunting and fishing and the creation of weapons and are alert to protect their community from possible enemies.

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Music accompanies the Indians through everyday life, singing to the rhythm of rattles, drums, and flutes. Many ceremonies are held to help them get enough food according to their beliefs, obtaining spiritual power necessary for survival. They think that the buffalo dance helps them hunt buffalos or they organize rain dances for enough rain to water their crops.

Totem poles carved from large trees are sculptures representing history and legends of the tribes. Common figures found on them include the eagle (representing peace and friendship), the killer whale (a symbol of strength), the thunderbird, the bear, the wolf and the frog.

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Dakota & Kai are two young Indians. Following the tradition of their ancestors, they develop techniques necessary for their well-being and survival.

Boys grow up to be tough and brave, training hard on fighting skills and horse riding. Horses improved hunting! As soon as they become good enough with their skills and they win the approval of the rest of the tribe, they go on their first hunt. Dakota loves archery and has created his own bow.

Kai is learning her role in the tribe along with her mother and grandmother. Yet, Kai is excited about fishing in the river. She joins in the jobs by the river and finds the chance to take her handmade canoe and her ornate spear to go fishing.

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Imagine a life with nothing manufactured, with yourself being forced to build everything you need out of natural resources, exploiting rivers, lakes and forests for food without significantly altering the landscape. Never would the Indian man overexploit buffalo herds, cut too many trees or use fire inappropriately, because he truly understands what it means to live off the land.

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