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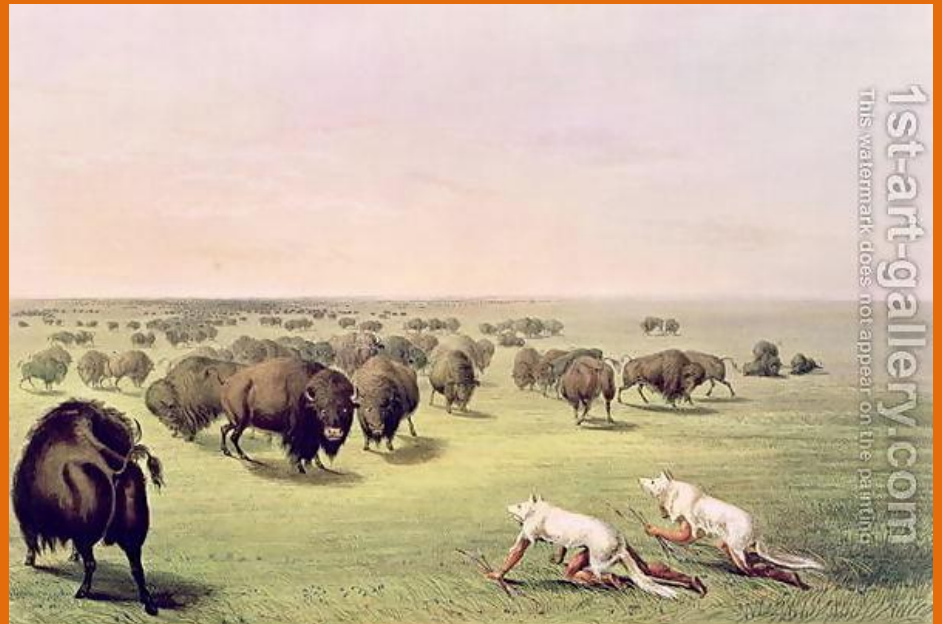
Lesson 2-3 Notes: The Plains



Presented by Ms. Walsh

Life on the Plains

- Besides water, buffalo were the Plains' most important natural resource, and millions of buffalo used to roam the Plains.
- The Plains people hunted buffalo by disguising themselves in animal skins, scaring the buffalo, and chasing them over the side of a cliff.
- The Plains people used all parts of the buffalo:
 - Meat for food
 - Skin for clothing and shelter
 - Bones for tools and utensils
 - Stomachs for water jugs
 - Hair for cord
 - Hooves for glue



Farmers and Hunters

- The Plains peoples' way of life depended on where they lived.
- Some tribes lived on the *Central Plains* such as the Iowa, Missouri, and the Sioux.
 - These groups were hunters, gatherers, and farmers.
 - They gathered plants, hunted deer, elk, and buffalo, and lived in the fertile valleys of the Missouri and Platte Rivers.
 - They lived in villages made up of round earthen houses called lodges.
 - The lodges were covered with sod, a layer of soil held together by the roots of grasses.



A Nomadic Society

- Some groups, such as the Cheyenne, lived on the western *Great Plains*.
- Just like people today, some Native Americans realized natural resources can be **scarce** at times, or in short supply.
- The Cheyenne, and other groups such as the Kiowa and the Crow, moved around on the plains following herds of buffalo.
- They did not rely on farming as a major source of food because of the dry, hard soil.
- Because they moved frequently, these groups lived in shelters that were easy to move, such as the **tepee**, a cone-shaped tent.
- The people used the wooden sticks from the tepees to make a carrier called a **travois**.



Plains Cultures

- Plains people had different customs and kinds of government.
- **Council** – A group of leaders that form to make decisions.
- Although they had different ways of governing, the Plains groups shared certain traditions and religious beliefs, such as how they were created.
- Corn was very important to the Plains farmers, and every year they would hold ceremonies to celebrate and give thanks for the corn harvest.
- A **ceremony** is a celebration to honor a cultural or religious event.

