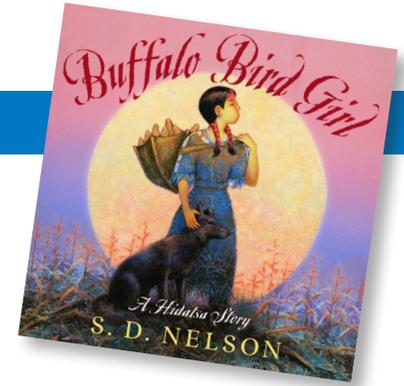


Buffalo Bird Girl A HIDATSA STORY



A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Themes: American Indian Culture, Ecology, Resourcefulness, Traditions, Family

Book Brief: Born in 1839, Buffalo Bird Girl, *Waheenee*, was a member of the Hidatsa tribe of the Great Plains. Read on to learn all about her life, including where she lived, her family life, her daily chores, her

friends, and the dangers she faced.

Author and Illustrator:
S.D. Nelson

TIME TO READ!



Before reading, build background: What do you think the book will be about based on the title and cover illustration? What can you tell about the girl based on this picture? What questions do you have?

While reading, compare and contrast: What are some similarities and differences between the Hidatsa tribe and other American Indian tribes you've read about during this time? What are some

similarities and differences between Waheenee's life and your own?

After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ What would be the advantages of living in an earth mound lodge?
- ◆ What might be some disadvantages?
- ◆ Why was singing to the crops important?
- ◆ Why were the responsibilities different for boys and girls in the tribe?
- ◆ How did the arrival of Europeans change the daily life of the Hidatsa?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

CORN ON THE COB

Ingredients: corn, toppings of your choice

Corn was a major crop for the Hidatsa tribe. What is your favorite way to eat corn? When you eat corn on the cob, do you eat it right off the cob or cut off the kernels? Do you put butter, salt, pepper, lime juice, cheese, or anything else on top of your cob? Enjoy a cob of corn cooked your favorite way and think about Waheenee's story. How many ways can you think of that corn is used in food?

A VIEW FROM ABOVE

Materials: paper, black colored pencil

S.D. Nelson used a black colored pencil for some of his illustrations. Using the drawings on p. 39 of the

book as inspiration, can you draw a "bird's-eye" view of your school, home, or neighborhood? Think about what features you would be able to see from above and only draw those.

GROW A GREETING

Materials: paper, seeds, glue, markers or colored pencils

"Dosha" is a friendly greeting in the Hidatsa language. Make a homemade card out of recycled material. Use seeds to decorate by gluing them onto the card. Write a friendly greeting in either Hidatsa, another language, or English. Send the card to a special someone along with instructions for them to plant and water the card when they have finished. Soon your card may give more than just a smile!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

The Star People: A Lakota Story (2014)
Quiet Hero: The Ira Hayes Story (2009)
Gift Horse: A Lakota Story (1999)



Reading Is Fundamental