



EDX.ASU1 The American West, c1835-c1895: The Plains Indians' Way of Life

EDEXCEL 1HI0 · Calculators not allowed · about 65 minutes

Total Marks

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Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Answer ALL questions. Write in full sentences for Questions 15, 16 and 17. You are advised to spend about 65 minutes on this pack.

- 1** Give the name of the animal that provided the Plains Indians with most of their food, shelter materials and clothing.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

- 2** State one part of the buffalo the Plains Indians used, and what they used it for.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

- 3** Name three Plains Indian nations who followed a nomadic way of life on the Great Plains before c1835.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

- 4** State one way in which the horse changed how Plains Indian nations hunted buffalo.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

- 5 Name the portable dwelling used by Plains Indian nations, made from buffalo hide stretched over a frame of wooden poles.

(Total for Question 5 is 1 mark)

- 6 State one way in which the tipi suited the Plains Indians' nomadic way of life.

(Total for Question 6 is 2 marks)

- 7 Give the term for the annual religious ceremony held in summer by many Plains nations, including the Lakota, as a time of communal renewal and thanksgiving.

(Total for Question 7 is 1 mark)

- 8 Name the range of hills, in present-day South Dakota, that were sacred to the Lakota.

(Total for Question 8 is 1 mark)

- 9 State one role typically carried out by women within a Plains Indian band.

(Total for Question 9 is 2 marks)

- 10 State one role typically carried out by men within a Plains Indian band.

(Total for Question 10 is 2 marks)

- 11** Name the origin of the horses that, from around the seventeenth century, gradually spread across the Great Plains and transformed the Plains Indians' way of life.

(Total for Question 11 is 1 mark)

- 12** State one way in which important decisions were typically made within a Plains Indian band.

(Total for Question 12 is 2 marks)

- 13** Explain two ways in which the Plains Indians' nomadic way of life was closely adapted to the environment of the Great Plains.

(Total for Question 13 is 4 marks)

- 14** Describe two ways in which the roles of men and women within a Plains Indian band depended on each other for the band's survival.

(Total for Question 14 is 4 marks)

- 15** Explain two consequences of the Plains Indians' way of life depending so closely on the buffalo herds.

(Total for Question 15 is 8 marks)

- 16** Write a narrative account analysing how the horse changed the Plains Indians' way of life between its spread onto the Great Plains (from the early eighteenth century) and the 1830s.

You may use the following information in your answer:

- the spread of horses northward from Spanish territory in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries
- the effect of the horse on how Plains Indian nations hunted buffalo

You should also use information of your own.

(Total for Question 16 is 8 marks)

17 Explain two of the following:

- (a) the importance of the buffalo for the Plains Indians' way of life
- (b) the importance of the horse for how Plains Indian nations hunted and fought
- (c) the importance of religious belief and ceremony, such as the Sun Dance, for Plains Indian society

You must answer on TWO parts.

(Total for Question 17 is 16 marks)

Mark scheme · EDX.ASU1 The American West, c1835-c1895: The Plains Indians' Way of Life

Question 1

- **B1** the buffalo (bison)
- **Answer: The buffalo (bison)**

Question 2

- **B1** identifies a part of the buffalo used, e.g. the hide
- **B1** supporting detail, e.g. hides were used to make the covering for a tipi and for clothing and robes
- **Answer: E.g. the hide, used to make tipi coverings and clothing.**

Question 3

- **B1** Lakota (Sioux)
- **B1** Cheyenne
- **B1** Arapaho (accept also Comanche, Crow, Pawnee or Blackfoot)
- **Answer: E.g. the Lakota, the Cheyenne and the Arapaho.**

Question 4

- **B1** identifies a change, e.g. hunting became far quicker and more productive
- **B1** supporting detail, e.g. mounted hunters could chase and kill buffalo directly, rather than relying on slower methods such as driving small numbers of animals into an enclosure or over a cliff
- **Answer: The horse let hunters chase and kill buffalo directly on horseback, making hunts far quicker and more productive.**

Question 5

- **B1** the tipi
- **Answer: The tipi**

Question 6

- **B1** identifies a feature, e.g. it could be taken down and put up quickly
- **B1** supporting detail, e.g. the hide covering and pole frame could be carried on a travois when a band moved camp to follow the buffalo herds
- **Answer: It could be dismantled and carried quickly, suiting a band that had to move camp often to follow the herds.**

Question 7

- **B1** the Sun Dance
- **Answer: The Sun Dance**

Question 8

- **B1** the Black Hills (Lakota: Paha Sapa)
- **Answer: The Black Hills**

Question 9

- **B1** identifies a role, e.g. women owned and built the tipis
- **B1** supporting detail, e.g. women also processed buffalo hides into leather and made the band's clothing
- **Answer: Women owned and built the tipis, and processed hides and made clothing.**

Question 10

- **B1** identifies a role, e.g. men hunted the buffalo
- **B1** supporting detail, e.g. men also defended the band and took part in raiding parties against rival nations
- **Answer: Men hunted buffalo and defended the band, including in raiding parties.**

Question 11

- **B1** Spanish colonisers/settlers in the Americas (e.g. in New Mexico)
- **Answer: Spanish colonisers in the Americas**

Question 12

- **B1** identifies a method, e.g. through a council of leaders or elders
- **B1** supporting detail, e.g. a chief usually led through influence and the band's consent rather than by giving absolute orders
- **Answer: Through a council of leaders/elders, with chiefs leading by influence and consent.**

Question 13

- **B2** nomadic movement, following the seasonal migration of the buffalo herds, meant bands were rarely in one place for long, matching the unpredictable, spread-out grazing pattern of herds across a vast, largely treeless and semi-arid grassland
- **B2** the tipi, made from buffalo hide over a light wooden frame, could be raised and taken down quickly and carried by a travois, suiting a way of life that depended on frequent, rapid movement across open country with few natural shelters
- **Answer: Nomadic movement matched the unpredictable spread of the buffalo herds across open grassland, and the portable tipi suited a way of life built around frequent, rapid movement.**

Question 14

- **B2** men's hunting supplied the meat, hide and other materials the whole band needed, but hides could not become useable tipi coverings, clothing or robes until women had processed and worked them
- **B2** women owned, built and dismantled the tipis that sheltered the band and carried its belongings when moving camp, while men's hunting skill and, when necessary, fighting ability protected the band and secured the resources it depended on, so each role was essential to the band functioning as a whole
- **Answer: Men's hunting supplied raw materials that women's hide-working turned into usable goods, and women's construction/transport of the tipi depended on the security and provisioning men's hunting and defence provided.**

Question 15

- **Level 1** (1-2): Identifies one or two general consequences of the Plains Indians' dependence on the buffalo, with little or no supporting detail or explanation.
- **Level 2** (3-4): Identifies and begins to explain one consequence, supported by accurate detail.
- **Level 3** (5-6): Explains two consequences of the Plains Indians' dependence on the buffalo, each supported by accurate and relevant detail.
- **Level 4** (7-8): Explains two consequences in a well-developed, logically structured way, supported throughout by precise and accurate detail, showing how the consequences connect.
- **Indicative content:**
 - Because so much of daily life (food, shelter materials, clothing and tools) depended on the buffalo, Plains bands organised their whole year around the herds' seasonal migration, moving camp repeatedly rather than settling permanently in one place.
 - Reliance on the buffalo meant that skills such as tracking, hunting on horseback and processing a carcass quickly and efficiently were highly valued within Plains Indian society, and a hunter's skill could shape his standing within a band.
 - Because the buffalo could not be stored indefinitely and herds moved unpredictably, bands needed close cooperation and shared decision-making, usually through a council, to organise large hunts and to decide when and where to move camp.
 - The 'waste nothing' use of the buffalo (food, hide, bone, sinew, horn, dung for fuel) meant Plains Indian material culture, from tools to tents to clothing, was built almost entirely around a single animal, giving nations across a wide area broadly similar technology and a similar way of life.

Question 16

- **Level 1** (1-2): Simple, generalised statements, with little organisation or sense of change over time.
- **Level 2** (3-4): Some accurate knowledge is deployed, with limited organisation into a sequence; the account may be more a list of events than a developed narrative.
- **Level 3** (5-6): The account is organised and mostly coherent, and shows some analysis of how the situation changed, with accurate supporting detail.
- **Level 4** (7-8): The answer demonstrates a coherent, well-organised narrative that analyses connections between events across the period, showing clearly how the situation changed, fully supported by precise and accurate detail.
- **Indicative content:**
 - From the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, horses brought to the Americas by Spanish colonisers spread, through trade, raiding and escape, gradually northward across the Plains, reaching most Plains nations by the early-to-mid eighteenth century.
 - Before the horse, hunting buffalo on foot was slow and difficult, often relying on driving small numbers of animals into an enclosure or over a cliff; the horse let hunters chase and kill buffalo far more efficiently on horseback.
 - Because hunting became more productive, bands could support more people and travel and trade across greater distances, and the horse itself became a measure of wealth and status within a band.
 - The horse also transformed warfare and raiding between neighbouring Plains nations, since mounted warriors could travel further and fight more effectively, making competition over hunting grounds and horses a more significant feature of relations between nations.
 - By the 1830s a fully developed, horse-based nomadic culture was well established across the Great Plains, so the way of life encountered by early white travellers and traders was itself the outcome of nearly two centuries of change since the horse first arrived.

Question 17

- **Level 1** (1-4): For each part answered: identifies a general point of importance, with little or no supporting detail or explanation.
- **Level 2** (5-8): For each part answered: begins to explain importance, supported by some accurate detail.
- **Level 3** (9-12): For each part answered: explains importance clearly, supported by accurate and relevant detail, with some analysis of consequences.
- **Level 4** (13-16): For each part answered: explains importance in a well-developed, analytical way, fully supported by precise and accurate detail, showing clearly why the event or development mattered for the outcome named.
- **Indicative content:**
 - (a) The buffalo was important because it supplied most of what a Plains Indian band needed to survive: meat for food, hide for tipis, clothing and robes, and bone, horn and sinew for tools, weapons and thread, so that the movement of buffalo herds directly shaped where and how bands lived.
 - (b) The horse was important because it made buffalo hunting far quicker and more reliable than hunting on foot, allowed bands to travel greater distances between hunting grounds, and gave mounted warriors a significant advantage in raiding and defending territory, transforming both the economy and the warfare of Plains nations after its adoption.
 - (c) Religious belief and ceremony were important because they gave Plains Indian society shared meaning and cohesion beyond the practical business of hunting and moving camp: ceremonies such as the Sun Dance renewed a band's sense of community, and beliefs about sacred places, such as the Black Hills for the Lakota, shaped which territory a nation considered essential to protect.
 - A strong answer on any two parts explains a clear link between the feature named and the wider way of life it shaped, using specific detail (a named nation, ceremony or sacred place) rather than general description.