
VOCABULARY

1944 Flood Control Act

Approved the general comprehensive plan for the conservation, control, and use of water resources in the entire Missouri River Basin. This act seriously impacted the Hidatsa, Mandan, and Arikara by flooding 156,000 acres of their homelands requiring the relocation of 89% of the population. The whole socio-economic infrastructure of the Three Affiliated Tribes was destroyed.

Aquatic

Relating to water or living in the water.

Awatixa

Also known as the Amatihis, one of the three previously distinct but linguistically allied groups of the Hidatsa.

Awaxawi

Also known as the Amahamis, one of the three previously distinct but linguistically allied groups of the Hidatsa.

[*Bird Woman in Hidatsa*] (Tsa-caw-guh-wee-yuh)

Traveled with Lewis and Clark.

Boarding School

Residential schools established with the purpose of educating and assimilating Indian children into the dominant society.

Buckskin

Buckskin is the soft, pliable, porous preserved hide of an animal, usually buffalo, deer, moose or elk.

Cache

An underground storage pit used to hide and store food.

Chief

Among the Hidatsa, a leader of the people by consensus.

Clans

A matrilineal group of families who regulate social and ceremonial behaviors and activities.

Clanship

Rules of relationships and behavior in the clan system.

Confluence

Intersection of two rivers.

Consumption

To use; to eat.

Dentalium

Elongated tooth shell from the west coast used in trade and were used as money, jewelry, decorations for clothing. Dentalium shells are still used today by many tribes.

Enzyme

A protein that accelerates the rate of chemical reactions.

Epidemic

Diseases that occur at a constant but relatively high rate such as a plague

Floes

A large flat body of ice.

General Allotment Act of 1887

Authorized the President of the United States to survey Native American tribal land and divide the area into allotments for the individual Native American. It was enacted February 8, 1887.

Gourds

A type of squash dried and used to make rattles.

Hidatsas proper

With the Awatixa and Awaxawi, formed the tribe today known as the Hidatsa.

Linguistic

Having to do with language.

Mauls

Massive two-handed hammer often used in battle.

Nomadic

Moving from place to place

Obsidian

Obsidian is natural glass that was originally molten magma associated with a volcano.

Okipa

Annual ceremony of the Mandan tribe involving the reenactment of their origins to ensure the well-being of the people.

Origins

The point at which something begins its course or existence.

Pendleton

Woolen blanket with Indian designs produced by the Pendleton company. Blankets are used for donations and honorings.

Permanent

Intended to last for a long time.

Porous

Possessing or full of pores.

Projectile points

Arrowheads, spearheads usually made of flint by the Hidatsa, Mandan, and Arikara.

Reflection

Thoughtful consideration.

Re-enactment

To perform something similar to way something is done.

Shuck

To peel the husks from the corn.

Sinew

Is a fibrous tissue which runs next to the spine and down the legs of four-footed animals.

Smallpox

A highly contagious viral disease unique to humans. Smallpox was responsible for an estimated 300–500 million deaths in the 20th century.

Socialize

To interact with other individuals.

Societies

A social circle or a group of social circles having a clearly marked purpose. Among the Hidatsa, Mandan, and Arikara, societies are generally responsible for perpetuating certain traditions.

Subsistence

The means of living; obtaining food and shelter necessary to support life; everything that is done to “make a living”.

Trauma

Emotional or psychological injury resulting from stress.

Utilitarian

Useful in the home.