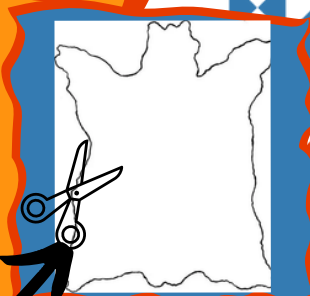


Winter Count Teaching

- 1. VIDEO & DISCUSSION:** To get started, scan the QR code at the bottom of the page to watch the YouTube video. After watching, use the discussion points provided to guide a conversation with your child about the content and reflect on what they learned.
- 2. Activity:** Have your child cut the paper into the shape of a buffalo hide (you can refer to the example). Instead of the traditional instructions, we've adjusted the activity to fit a home setting. Your child will decorate their "hide" by drawing pictures that represent at least three significant moments they've experienced over the past year. These moments should fall into any of the following categories: school, home, community, or friends.
- 3. Optional:** After they finish decorating their hide, your child can share with you what they chose to depict and explain why. Once completed, you can either hang the finished hides around your home or your child can take them to school.



Enjoy this creative and reflective project!

Scan Here:



Discussion Points

- **Introduction to Winter Counts:**

- In what ways did winter counts emphasize the continuity of tribal identity? How did they contribute to the collective memory of the community?
- They emphasized the continuity of tribal identity and provided a chronological record of important events that shaped tribal communities.

- **Purpose and Significance:**

- Discuss the purpose of winter counts
- The purpose of winter counts was to record significant events, such as battles, treaties, epidemics, and migrations, that occurred during each year.

- **Narrative and Storytelling:**

- Discuss the role of winter counts as a form of visual storytelling. How did each mark or symbol on the count contribute to the overall narrative of the tribe's history?
- Winter counts were a form of visual storytelling, where each mark or symbol represented a chapter in the tribe's history.

- **Cultural Traditions:**

- Who typically kept and maintained winter counts? What was this role considered?
- Winter counts were typically kept by designated individuals within the tribe, often a historian or elder responsible for maintaining and updating the count. Passing down winter counts was a sacred responsibility, ensuring the continuity of tribal knowledge and heritage.

- **Legacy and Preservation:**

- What are your thoughts that many winter counts are now preserved in museums and private collections.

- **Personal Reflections:**

- Reflect on the importance of preserving cultural practices and honoring indigenous knowledge systems in contemporary society.
- How can we apply lessons from winter counts to promote cultural awareness and respect today?
- Do you know of any winter count keepers that live around here?