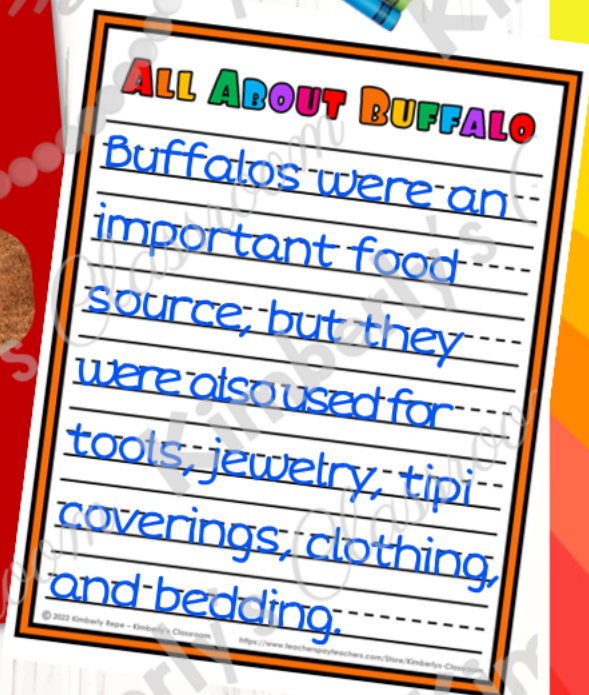


# NATIVE AMERICAN WRITING CRAFTS!



## WHAT IS BUFFALO HIDE ART?

Buffalos played a significant role in Native American culture. Not only were they an important food source, but they were also used for tools, jewelry, tipi coverings, clothing, and bedding.

It was important for Native Americans to use the entire buffalo so that nothing went to waste.

Buffalo hides were valued for their durability and flexibility, making them an ideal canvas for painting scenes and stories.

Native Americans often painted symbols called pictographs. They were made from natural pigments and represented a variety of different objects, places, or activities.

The hides were used to record events, family history, important battles, and even spiritual visions. They served as a means of preserving knowledge across generations.

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## NATIVE AMERICAN SYMBOL MEANINGS

Badger Tracks: Summer

Bear: Strength

Bear Paw: Good Omen

Buffalo Eye: Alertness

Big Mountain: Abundance

Bird: Carefree

Brothers: Loyalty

Buffalo Horns: Success

Butterfly: Renewal

Cactus: Desert

Coyote Tracks: Trickster

Deer Tracks: Safety

Drying Rack: Plenty of Meat

Eagle: Freedom

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## BUFFALO ART CRAFT DIRECTIONS

**Description:**  
This craft is a modern take on traditional Native American buffalo hide art using pictographs.

### Materials:

- buffalo hide worksheets (included)
- large brown paper bags (optional)
- brown craft paper (optional)
- crayons, markers, or paint (& paint brushes)
- scissors
- glue
- brainstorming sheets (included), (optional)
- writing projects (included), (optional)

### Note:

- There are multiple ways to create this craft:
1. Choose: a worksheet (included), paper bag, or brown craft paper.
  2. Choose: to tear paper into buffalo hide shape or cut using a stencil (buffalo or hide shapes included) as your guide.
  3. Choose: to draw, paint, or cut and paste pictographs.
  4. Choose: to create the craft by itself or add a writing component (several options included).

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## DIRECTIONS

Use an idea of... Using you can choose 1), create a represent you

pictographs use the guide or is.

the use out

you ect (if ing

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**Cultural information, symbol guide, vocabulary definitions, and craft directions included!**



Use templates for cutouts or simply decorate one of the worksheets with pictographs!



**Students can choose from 25 different pictographs! Color, draw, or cut and paste!**



**Differentiated to build confidence!**

## WRITING & RESEARCH IDEAS

1. What is buffalo hide art and why is it an important part of Native American culture?
2. Compare and contrast buffalo hide art between different Native American tribes.
3. Discuss the tools and materials Native American artists used to create designs on buffalo hide.
4. Describe some common symbols found in buffalo hide art and explain how they were used.
5. What role did buffalo play in the lives of Native American tribes?
6. How did the arrival of European settlers and changes in the buffalo population affect Native American buffalo hide art?
7. Can you think of ways we can show respect for Native American culture and traditions?

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## NARRATIVE BRAINSTORM

Title:

Setting:

Characters:

5 Senses:

See:

Hear:

Smell:

Touch:

Taste:

Beginning:

Middle:

End:

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## INFORMATIVE BRAINSTORM

Topic:

Fact:

Detail:

Fact:

Detail:

Fact:

Detail:

Conclusion:

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## PERSONAL NARRATIVE BRAINSTORM

Title:

Where were you?

Who was there?

When did it happen?

What happened?

How did you feel?

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## PERSUASIVE BRAINSTORM

Opinion:

Reason 1:

Evidence / Details:

Reason 2:

Evidence / Details:

Reason 3:

Evidence / Details:

Conclusion:

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**Writing and research ideas included! Use brainstorming maps as a guide for writing projects!**

# Pictograph Symbols (BW): Page 1

|                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Badger Track: Summer</b><br>    | <b>Bear: Strength</b><br>         |
| <b>Bear Paw: Good Omen</b><br>     | <b>Buffalo Eye: Alertness</b><br> |
| <b>Big Mountain: Abundance</b><br> | <b>Bird: Carefree</b><br>         |
| <b>Brothers: Loyalty</b><br>       | <b>Buffalo Horns: Success</b><br> |

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## Buffalo Hide Template 1



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First, I chose the

Next, I chose the

Then, I chose the

I also chose the

Finally, I chose the

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## MY BUFFALO HIDE ART STORY

Lined area for writing the art story.

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Color or  
B&W

Looking for more Native American resources? Save **BIG** with this growing bundle!

# DIFFERENTIATED ACTIVITIES NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE BUNDLE!

First, I chose the  
thunderbird

Next, I chose the  
bear

Then, I chose the  
beaver

I also chose the  
fox

Finally, I chose the  
owl

Name: **Dakota**

It is a: **bear**

This symbol means: **Bears are a symbol of courage and power.**

Dab the correct punctuation. **Look, a bear**

How many do you see? **4**

Repeat - Kimberly's Classroom