

Guided Notes (Teacher)

They used great, wooly **bison** skins to keep warm through winter. They ate bison meat and found uses for almost every part of the animal.

There were songs and dances honoring bison, or sung to prepare bison **hunters**. Songs and dances still heard and seen at powwows today.

And it's hard to imagine anyone taking to horses faster than these **American Indian** people. They became expert riders who could travel greater distances to hunt bison.

But the people others called **Sioux** thought of themselves as thirteen groups, connected by families and marriage. Some names these groups had for themselves were Wahpetons, Sissetons, Yanktons, Oglalas, Brules, Hunkpapas, Minneconjous...among others.

Changing seasons meant movement, too. As winter approached, the villages were set up in **valleys** sheltered from cruel north winds.

American Indians who relied on bison had no choice except to live close to United States **government** agencies - places where they could get other kinds of meat, clothing fabric and everything else bison once supplied.

In 1876 the Army suffered one of its most famous defeats ever. It was the year gold seekers were pouring into the **Black Hills**, a land Crazy Horse and Red Cloud believed holy, a place the government once promised it would keep off-limits to settlers.

The lands set aside were **reservations**. Today we might ask, what did government leaders of the time think they were doing?

The old traditions are celebrated on reservations like nowhere else, by people who live here, and by visitors from around the world. The people of the bison are forever part of **South Dakota**.

Now bison are seen all across the state, in the park, on **ranches**, and on reservations. Reservation leaders know bison will always be part of spiritual life for some people here.